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Company formation in the Marshall Islands

From CompanyFormationWiki, the free encyclopedia of company formation · Last updated 26 November 2026

Company formation in the Marshall Islands



Flag



Coat of arms

Common form	Resident domestic corporation, or non-resident domestic corporation or LLC
Registry	Registrar of Corporations (Office of the Attorney General); non-resident entities through the Registrar's agent, International Registries
Minimum capital	No statutory minimum
Directors	1 director
Local director	A registered agent in the Marshall Islands
Corporate tax	Gross revenue tax of 3% on local business receipts; non-resident domestic entities are exempt from local tax
VAT / sales tax	None (import duties)
Typical timeline	Within a day for non-resident entities; longer for local businesses
Tax treaties	Domestic rates and treaty list [2]
Currency	US dollar (USD)

In short: To set up a company in the Marshall Islands, most founders form a resident domestic corporation, or non-resident domestic corporation or LLC, registered with the Registrar of Corporations (Office of the Attorney General); non-resident entities through the Registrar's agent, International Registries. Minimum capital: no statutory minimum. Corporate tax: gross revenue tax of 3% on local business receipts; non-resident domestic entities are exempt from local tax. Registration: within a day for non-resident entities; longer for local businesses (as of November 2026).

Short guide. Tax figures come from the sources listed under References; company-law details summarise official guidance and can change. Confirm requirements with the Registrar of Corporations (Office of the Attorney General); non-resident entities through the Registrar's agent, International Registries before filing.

The **Marshall Islands** are a major ship registry, and non-resident corporations and LLCs registered there (often shipowning companies) are exempt from local tax. Businesses trading locally pay a **gross revenue tax** instead of a profit tax.

Business structures

Most founders in the Marshall Islands form a resident domestic corporation, or non-resident domestic corporation or LLC, registered with the Registrar of Corporations (Office of the Attorney General); non-resident entities through the Registrar's agent, International Registries. Other forms are listed below.

- **Resident domestic corporation, or non-resident domestic corporation or LLC** – the usual company form for private businesses

Requirements

Minimum share capital in the Marshall Islands (2026): no statutory minimum. Directors required: 1 director. Local resident director: a registered agent in the Marshall Islands.

- A company name that is available, checked with the registry.
- Share capital: no statutory minimum.
- Directors: 1 director.
- Local residency: a registered agent in the Marshall Islands.
- A registered office address in the Marshall Islands.

- Articles of association; standard templates are often available.

Registration process

Typical time to register a company in the Marshall Islands (2026): within a day for non-resident entities; longer for local businesses. The usual steps are:

1. Choose the company form and check that the name is available.
2. Prepare and sign the articles of association.
3. File the registration with the Registrar of Corporations (Office of the Attorney General); non-resident entities through the Registrar's agent, International Registries.
4. Receive the company's registration number, and pay in the share capital where required.
5. Register for corporate tax and VAT or sales tax with the Division of Revenue and Taxation (Ministry of Finance).

Taxation

The corporate tax rate in the Marshall Islands in 2026 is gross revenue tax of 3% on local business receipts; non-resident domestic entities are exempt from local tax. Standard VAT or sales tax: none (import duties).

Tax	Rate and notes
Corporate income tax	Gross revenue tax of 3% on local business receipts; non-resident domestic entities are exempt from local tax
VAT / indirect tax	None (import duties)
Withholding tax on dividends to non-resident companies	Depends on the payer and recipient; see the Double tax treaties section

Ongoing compliance

Annual compliance in the Marshall Islands: Companies file annual financial statements and tax returns with the Division of Revenue and Taxation (Ministry of Finance), and keep their details up to date with the Registrar of Corporations.

Double tax treaties

The Marshall Islands has no comprehensive double tax treaties in force for most countries; its international tax agreements mainly cover the exchange of information.

Domestic withholding tax on payments to non-resident companies

Domestic withholding rates on dividends, interest and royalties could not be confirmed from a current source for this short guide; confirm them with the Division of Revenue and Taxation.

The reduced rate for each partner country is set by the treaty concerned; confirm it with the tax authority.

Domestic rates from the sources listed under References. Treaty benefits require proof of tax residence and are subject to anti-abuse rules.

Frequently asked questions

How long does it take to register a company in the Marshall Islands?

Typical registration time in the Marshall Islands: within a day for non-resident entities; longer for local businesses (as of November 2026), once all documents are ready. Opening a bank account and tax registrations can take longer.

What is the minimum share capital for a company in the Marshall Islands?

Minimum share capital in the Marshall Islands: no statutory minimum (as of November 2026).

What is the corporate tax rate in the Marshall Islands in 2026?

The corporate tax rate in the Marshall Islands in 2026 is gross revenue tax of 3% on local business receipts; non-resident domestic entities are exempt from local tax. See the Taxation section for reduced rates and other taxes.

Can a foreigner own 100% of a company in the Marshall Islands?

Yes, for most activities, though some sectors restrict foreign ownership or require approval. Local director rule in the Marshall Islands: a registered agent in the Marshall Islands.

Official registries and resources

The official websites of the Registrar of Corporations (Office of the Attorney General); non-resident entities through the Registrar's agent, International Registries and the Division of Revenue and Taxation (Ministry of Finance) have not yet been verified by our editors, so they are not linked here. Use the names above to find them, and beware of unofficial look-alike sites.

Figures as of November 2026. Rates, thresholds and procedures change; confirm with the official registry, the tax authority or a local adviser before filing.

See also

- Comparison of company formation by country
- Company formation in Singapore
- Company formation in Hong Kong
- Company formation in Japan
- Company formation in India
- All countries

References

Entries marked **Official** are the registry, government and tax authority sources for this country; footnote numbers in the infobox point to them.

1. Consumption and income tax reform (technical assistance report, January 2025) . International Monetary Fund. Accessed November 2026.
2. List of countries by tax rates (Marshall Islands) . Wikipedia. Accessed November 2026.

Source: https://companyformationwiki.com/company-formation/marshall-islands/
Version: last updated 26 November 2026. Check the online version for later changes.

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