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# Legalisation

From CompanyFormationWiki, the free encyclopedia of company formation · Last updated 28 November 2026

**In short:** Legalisation is the process of certifying a document for use abroad when the destination country does not accept an apostille. The document is usually certified in the issuing country and then by the destination country's embassy or consulate, which takes longer and costs more.

Typical steps are: a notary certifies the document or copy; the issuing country's foreign ministry (or another designated authority) confirms the notary's signature; and the embassy or consulate of the destination country then confirms the foreign ministry's signature. Some countries add a final step at their own foreign ministry after the document arrives.

Between countries that have both joined the Hague Apostille Convention, a single apostille replaces this chain. The UAE, for example, required consular legalisation for many foreign documents before it joined; always check the current rule with the receiving authority.

## See also

- Apostille

## References

1. Get your document legalised . GOV.UK. Accessed November 2026.
2. Status table: Apostille Convention . Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH). Accessed November 2026.

**Source:** https://companyformationwiki.com/legalisation/
**Version:** last updated 28 November 2026. Check the online version for later changes.

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