

At the establishment of a company on Bonaire you will need to decide the organization form of your company. You can choose for a Sole Proprietor (One Man Business) or to incorporate the business. (Incorporation is the registration of a company by notarial act.) Bonaire has one legal body that is the most commonly used for incorporation of companies which is the Limited Liability Company (N.V.) There are also other legal bodies on Bonaire e.g. the Private Limited Liability Company (B.V.), Partnership Firm (V.O.F.), Limited Partnership (Commanditaire vennootschap), Foundation (stichting).

In principal any business on Bonaire must have a business license. Only businesses, which are one man businesses owned by people born in the Netherlands Antilles, do not need a business license. This brochure will give information about the business license, the management license, the zoning plan and other permits and licenses you need to start and to operate your company.

Sole Proprietors

A Sole Proprietor is a business where there is no distinction between the business assets and the personal assets. As owner you will be personally liable for all obligations of the business.

The Business License for a Sole Proprietor

All sole proprietors who are not owned by people born in the Netherlands Antilles need a business license to operate a business on Bonaire. This means that Arubans born after 1986 also need a business license.

Request Procedure

A business license for a one man business can be requested by sending a letter to the Executive Council of the Island of Bonaire. The letter must mention:

1. The name of the business
2. The name of the owner
3. The nature and objectives of the business
4. The investment capital
5. The location of the business

The letter needs to contain two stamps of NAf. 5,- The fee for processing of the licenses is NAf 250,-. Stamps can be bought at the Island Receiver and the fee for processing the license can be paid at the Federal Receiver. Attach a copy of the receipt and the stamps to the letter. The fee for processing the license can also be deposited on the bank account of the Eilandsontvanger van het Eilandgebied Bonaire at the number 301.002.003 of the Maduro & Curiels Bank Bonaire.

Limited Liability Companies

A limited liability company is a corporate body with shareholders, governed by corporate law and its articles of association.

The Incorporation of Limited Liability Companies

The incorporation of limited liability companies is done by the execution of a notarial act. The establisher and/or incorporator do not have to be a citizen of the Netherlands Antilles but one of the directors has to be registered on Bonaire. A limited liability company can have more than one director and needs a business license.

The business License for Limited Liability Companies and Partnerships

A business license for limited liability companies and partnerships can be requested by sending a letter to the Executive Council of the Island of Bonaire. The letter must mention:

1. The name of the business
2. The name of the owner
3. The nature and objectives of the business
4. The investment capital
5. The place of establishment

The letter needs to contain two stamps of NAf. 5,- The fee for processing of the licenses is NAf 250,-. Stamps and the fee for processing the license can be paid and bought at the Collector's office (Ontvangerskantoor). Attach a copy of the receipt and the stamps to the letter. The fee for processing the license can also be deposited on the bank account of the Eilandsontvanger van het Eilandgebied Bonaire at the number 301.002.003 of the Maduro & Curiels Bank Bonaire.

Notary

Entrepreneurs that are going to incorporate their company can also let the notary's office handle the request procedure for the business and management license including the payment of fees. Incorporation of a business can be done at any notary's office in the Netherlands Antilles. But the notarial act has to state that the establishment will be done on Bonaire.

Branches

Partnerships or limited liability companies which are already incorporated on the Netherlands Antilles and want to open a branch do not have to incorporate the branch. They only have to request a business license. All limited liability companies and partnerships e.g. N.V., B.V., Ca., SPA., Ltd, SRL, Inc., incorporated in foreign countries must first incorporate the business on the Netherlands Antilles and then request a business license on Bonaire.

Granting Procedure for a Business License

At the granting of the business license the Executive Council of the Island of Bonaire is authorized to connect conditions concerning the nature and the place of the business as also

concerning the creditworthiness of the applicant and the financing of the business. A business license can be refused in the interest of the public order, peace and general interest of Bonaire.

The changing of Data of a Business license

When changes occur in a business e.g. the name or location of a business changes etc. you must request the Executive Council of the Island of Bonaire to make changes in your license. Changes can be requested by sending a letter to the Executive Council of the Island of Bonaire. The letter must contain two stamps of NAf. 5,- to be bought at the Island Receiver. Attach the stamps to the letter. You must also pay NAf. 50,- dues at the Federal Receiver. Attach a copy of the receipt to the letter.

The Zoning Plan

To know where you may establish your company on Bonaire you will have to contact DROB. They have a Zoning plan stating the location where companies may establish.

Management License

All individuals born outside the Netherlands Antilles need a management license in order to start and to operate a business on Bonaire. The Management license can be requested by letter addressed to the Executive Council of the Island of Bonaire. A Management License is not necessary for an E.Z. (one man business).

The letter must mention:

1. The name of the business
2. The name, place and date of birth of the applicant
3. The nationality of the applicant
4. The nature and objective of the business

The letter needs to contain two stamps of NAf. 5,- to be bought at the Island Receiver. The fee for processing the licenses is NAf 100,- needs to be paid at the Federal Receiver. Attach a copy of the receipt and the stamps to the letter.

The fee for processing the license can also be deposited on the bank account of the Eilandsontvanger van het Eilandgebied Bonaire at the number 301.002.003 of the Maduro & Curiels Bank Bonaire.

Other Licenses and Permits

Businesses that are going to sell drinks or food and/or rent accommodation also need to request for a beverage and Horeca license. Those that do not have a Dutch Nationality must also have a residence and work permit. For more information about these licenses and permits brochures are available at DEZA.

Registration of Businesses

After the business and management licenses have been granted, businesses must be registered at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry. A fee is asked for inscription.

Office Consulting Hours

Every Thursday between 09:00 and 11:00 am DEZA has office consulting hours. In the consulting hours all questions can be asked about the business, management, beverage and horeca licenses. The employees of DEZA can also help you with your request letter.

Addresses

DROB

Kaya Amsterdam 23, Tel: 7175330 ext. 517

Notary's office

Kaya Isla Riba 2, Tel: 7178540

The Executive Council of the Island of Bonaire

Plaza Reina Wilhelmina 1, Tel: 7175330

Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Kaya Grandi 53, Tel: 7175595

**Department of Economic and
Labour Affairs**

Kaya Amsterdam #21

Telephone: 717-5330 ext. 521 Fax: 717-7309

Email: info@bonaireconomy.org



Business License

**The establishment of your company
on Bonaire**

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