Retail Incorporation Guide



Introduction

Congratulations on choosing ADGM. We have written this guide, to support you through each stage of the application, and provide you with insight on what is required in simple terms, and hopefully ease the application process for you.

You can use this guide if you are registering a new company and your activity is retail.

Getting Started

Before you start the application, you should be aware of the documents that you are required to submit during the process. Having these documents ready in advance can lead to a smoother application process for you.

- Approval of Store Concept
- Resolution (template available)
- Articles of Association (model articles available)
- Signed lease agreement
- Passport copies of Directors, Authorised Signatories, Individual Shareholders etc.
- Copy of valid UAE residence visa of Authorised Signatories. At least one signatory must be GCC national or hold a valid UAE residence visa.
- Certified true copy of certificate of registration/incorporation of body corporate Directors, Shareholders etc.
- Details of your data processor (if appointed) including copy of commercial license
- If the entity is subject to Anti Money Laundering Regulations (refer to section 7), CV of Money Laundering Reporting Officer and the branch AML Policies, Procedure and Control Manual.

Please be aware that the Registrar can request at any time, further documentation to support your application.

Document Templates

You can locate the relevant document templates such as business plan, resolution, model articles, etc on the SPV page of ADGM.com, under the supporting documents and templates section.

https://www.adgm.com/setting-up/retail/application-process

Where to access the application form

Applications are only accepted digitally and can be accessed at www.registration.adgm.com.

- 1) Create a new user
- 2) Once logged into the system, you will find the application form under

Online Services → Companies → Registration → Incorporate a Private Company Limited by Shares

Useful Tips:

- You are able to save and exit the form at any time. The drafted form will then be available for you to select and continue from your dashboard. The draft will be active for 90 days. If the draft is not submitted during this time, the form will expire and will no longer be available.
- You are able to navigate through each of the pages without the need to complete them in the order they appear. To navigate either use the cookie trail at the top of the page, or select next on the bottom of each page (note although an error message may appear, you can still proceed to the next pages).
- Asterisk (*) denotes a required field. You will not be able to submit the application if you have left any required fields blank.
- My Clipboard My Clipboard allows you to identify data 'clips' that can be stored and then later pasted into different parts of a form. A 'clip' can be, for example, Authorised Signatory details, which then can be used when adding a Director or a Secretary or a Shareholder or a Data Controller. Clicking on the My Clipboard button, provides the options to add a new clipboard item or to select an existing item. You need to enter all of the data into the form that is to be part of the data 'clip', before selecting to add it as a new clipboard item

Application form sections

The application	form is	divided	into 10	key sections
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- 1. General Details
- 2. Addresses
- 3. Authorised Signatories
- 4. Director
- 5. Secretary
- 6. Shares & Shareholders
- 7. Anti-Money Laundering
- 8. Data Protection
- 9. Beneficial Owners
- 10. Review

In this document we will walk through each of the sections of the application, and outline the information that is required.

Section 1: General details

Do you have a pre-approved by application? *	ousiness () Yes () No		Select – No and you be prompted to upload this document.
Approval of Store Concept *	Upload		
☐ Select a Reserved Name			Company Name:
Company Name *		Validate Name	It is advised that you check that this name is not
Proposed Name in Arabic Script			currently in use by another entity.
Does the proposed name contain sensitive words or expressions that require you to seek comments of a government department or specified body? *	○ Yes ○ No		The system can validate the company name against the name validation rules as per the company regulations.
Is the proposed name very similar to another name or trade name appearing in the register of names or trade names in ADGM or Abu Dhabi or any other relevant jurisdictions, and is this application made AS or ON BEHALF of	○ Yes ○ No		If you reserve the name in advance, select 'Select a Reserve Name'. the name will appear as Proposed Name.
and with the authority of, the registered owner(s) of the similarly registered business name(s)? *			If multiple name is reserved under your account, select the Proposed name in the dropdown list.
			Arabic: If you are unable to provide the proposed name in Arabic script, the Licensing team will do this on your behalf once submitted for review.
			Sensitive words and expressions:
			If you are unsure of this, you can refer to the name rules you can access them <u>here</u> .
			Similar Name:
			The system will automatically detect whether there is a similar name being used already in ADGM. To check Abu Dhabi or other jurisdictions, please refer to the relevant public registers of these jurisdictions.
Trade Name(s)			For the addition of a trade name, please follow the guidance above.

Accounting Reference Dat	te		The accounting reference date is the Financial Year End Date for your entity.
Day *	31	▼	
Month *	December	v	This is requested by the Registrar as it will determine the date by which you will need to file your annual accounts.
Provinces Activity Continue #	iail (Category C)		Select - Retail (Category C) Refer to the list of permitted activities to identify the Business Activity Section and Business Activities.
Articles of Association Articles of Association *	Please Select	¥	You will need to prepare the Articles of Association for your entity. The Articles will set out the ownership of your entity and how it will be run.
			You have three options with regards to the "type" of Articles that you can upload.
			Within the Model Articles Template you will locate additional guidance on how to complete the template.
			 Model Articles – these are the standard articles that are accepted by ADGM.
			 Model Articles with additional / and or amended provisions.
			3) Bespoke Articles.
Supporting Documents ©	Upload		Supporting Documents is not a required field, however if you feel you have any documents to support your application, you can upload at this location.

Section 2: Addresses

Having a physical address in ADGM is a core principle to being granted a commercial license.

Addresses		Input all of the details related to the Registered
Address of Registered Office	Office Number * Floor * Street Name of Cluster / Square / Area on the island * Al Maryah Island Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates	Office Address on Al Maryah Island
Address of Registered Office (Arabic)	Office Number Floor Building Name Street Name of Cluster / Square / Area on the island الامارات العربية المتحدة العادية المتحدة العادية المتحدة	If unable to complete the office address in Arabic, the licensing team can do this on your behalf, once the application is submitted.
Evidence of Occupancy in ADGM *	Please Select ▼	Select Signed Office Lease Agreement and you will then be prompted to upload this document.

Section 3: Authorised Signatories

A Director or another person that has been authorized to sign documents on behalf of the entity.

In what capacity are auth signatories acting? *	orised Please S	elect v	Jointly: more than one signatory required to sign.
			Severally: Single signature
			Please fill in the required information for each
			Authorised Signatory.
Full Name	Title * Forenames * Please Select ▼	Surname *	
Former Names 🕝	rieds serect		Please ensure that name, Date of Birth and nationality
	Forenames in Arabic	Surname in Arabic	align to the passport details of the individual.
Country of Residence *	United Arab Emirates	▼	Service Address:
Nationality *	United Arab Emirates	▼	
Date of Birth *	dd-MMM-yyyy		This can be any address (residential / business) that
Business Occupation			can receive notifications.
Service Address	Unit Number / Level Number		
	Building Name		
	Street / Area		
	PO Box Number *		
	State / Province		
	Emirate		
	Abu Dhabi	v	
	Country * United Arab Emirates	₩	

▼ Fit and Proper

This is required to allow ADGM Registration Authority to assess whether you are fit and proper for the purpose of your firm's registration as a legal entity subject to ADGM Companies and Commercial Licensing Regulations 2015.

Have you ever been convicted of a crime involving dishonesty? * \odot Yes \odot No

Have you ever served or been sentenced to a term of imprisonment?

Have you ever been convicted of any offence under any provision of the financial markets legislation or any offence under any provision of any foreign act, financial markets or financial services, corporations, financial reporting, or requirements for preventing money laundering? *

VES 0 No .

Have you ever been banned from acting as a director of a company or other incorporated body, of from being involved in the management of any class of incorporated or unincorporated entity? **

No **

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Have you ever been subject to disciplinary action by any professional body or disciplinary tribunal, where those actions resulted in penalties being imposed or censure? *

Have you ever had a court ruling against them in respect of a civil case, or has reached an out of court settlement, relating to their profession? *

Have you ever been dismissed, or asked to resign, from a position of trust, fiduciary appointment or similar position? *

Have you ever been placed into statutory management, or has been a director of a company which has been placed into statutory management? *

Have you ever, in the last 10 years, been a director or senior manager of a company, or other incorporated or unincorporated entity, which has been placed into liquidation, administration or receivership, entered into any compromise agreement, moratorium or other restructuring to avoid liquidation, administration or receivership? * 0 Yes 0 No 4 Yes 0

Are you subject to pending proceedings which, if any adverse finding is reached, will result in one or more of the matters set out in the paragraphs above applying to you? *

A Fit and Proper confirmation will need to be competed for each Authorised Signatory. It is essential that this is answered accurately, and you will be asked to sign (tick box) declaration that the details provided are true and correct.

Passport Evidence *

Upload

UAE Residency Visa or Emirates ID *

Upload

Evidence of Appointment *

Upload

Passport: Please upload a clear copy of the passport of the Authorised Signatory.

UAE Residency Visa / Emirates ID: Please ensure that these are valid documents that have not expired. Clear copies should be uploaded.

Evidence of Appointment: The evidence of appointment of the authorized signatory should be outlined in the entity's resolution.

If the shareholders are all individuals, you will need to complete the resolution for individuals. If there is more than one shareholder, the wording needs to be amended accordingly. All shareholder details can be put on the one resolution.

If the shareholder is a corporate shareholder – then the corporate shareholder resolution should be used. Please note further evidence will be required;

- The resolution will need to be signed by the entire board
- 2) Director register will need to be provided
- 3) The evidence must not be older than 3 months
- 4) All evidence must be provided in English.

Section 4: Directors

Director		Individual: If the Director is a person
Individual or Body Corporate	Individual ▼	Body Corporate: If the Director is an entity
If Individual:		
		Please fill in the required information for each
		Director.
Full Name	Title * Forenames * Surname * Please Select ▼ ▼	
Former Names 🕝		Please ensure that name, Date of Birth and
		nationality align to the passport details of the
Country of Residence *	United Arab Emirates ▼	individual.
Nationality *	United Arab Emirates ▼	
Date of Birth *	dd-MMM-yyyy	
Business Occupation		
	Habitania (Land Hardan	This can be any address (residential / business) that
Director's Service Address	Unit Number / Level Number	can receive notifications.
	Building Name	
	Street / Area	
	PO Box Number *	
	PU BOX NUMBER *	
	State / Province	
	Emirate	
	Abu Dhabi ▼	
	Country * United Arab Emirates	

		1
legal entity subject to ADGM Companies and Cot Have you ever been convicted of a crime involving dishonesty? Yes © No Have you ever served or been sentenced to a term of imprison of Yes © No Have you ever been convicted of any offence under any provision services, corporations, financial reporting, or requirements for of Yes © No Have you ever been banned from acting as a director of a compunicorporated entity? * Yes © No Have you ever been subject to disciplinary action by any profes of Yes © No Have you ever had a court ruling against them in respect of a cilipter of Yes © No Have you ever had a court ruling against them in respect of a cilipter of Yes © No Yes © No	* ment? * on of the financial markets legislation or any offence under any provision of any foreign act, financial markets or financial preventing money laundering? * pany or other incorporated body, of from being involved in the management of any class of incorporated or sional body or disciplinary tribunal, where those actions resulted in penalties being imposed or censure? * livil case, or has reached an out of court settlement, relating to their profession? *	This must be the residential address of the Director. Commercial addresses in this section will not be accepted. Fit and proper form must be completed for all directors and answered to the best of the knowledge of the applicant.
No Have you ever, in the last 10 years, been a director or senior mandaministration or pensionership entered into any compromise as	anager of a company, or other incorporated or unincorporated entity, which has been placed into liquidation,	
 Yes No Are you subject to pending proceedings which, if any adverse fi 	greement, moratorium or other restructuring to avoid liquidation, administration or receivership? * inding is reached, will result in one or more of the matters set out in the paragraphs above applying to you? *	
◎ Yes ◎ No		
Passport Evidence *	Upload	Passport: Please upload a clear copy of the passport of the Director
Evidence of Appointment *	Upload	Evidence of Appointment: The evidence of
		appointment of the Director should be outlined in the
		entity's Resolution document.
Director Consent * If the is to confirm that the named director has given consent form. Remove Director. Add another Director.	to act as the appointed director. I declare that the information in this application is true and complete as at the date of this	Provide the director consent, and here you will find the Add another Director button if you need one.
If Corporate		ı

Company / Firm Name *			Insert the name of the Company that is the Director, as listed on the Resolution.
Registration Number *			
Place of Registration / Incorporation *	United Arab Emirates	•	Registration number: this is the Commercial License Number of the entity.
Legal Entity Structure *			
Governing Law *			Place of Registration / Incorporation: The country that the entity has been registered or incorporated in.
Director's Service Address	Unit Number / Level Number	_	Please ensure this aligns to the Certificate Of Incorporation or Registration which will be requested
	Building Name		to be uploaded later on this page.
	Street / Area		Service Address: Enter the address of the corporate director.
	PO Box Number *		
	State / Province		
	Emirate		
	Abu Dhabi	Ψ.	
	Country * United Arab Emirates	w	
Certificate Of Incorporation or Registration * ②	Upload		Certificate Of Incorporation or Registration: Please upload a clear copy of the Certificate of Incorporation or Registration or a document of similar effect, certified by the relevant authority in the jurisdiction in
Evidence of Appointment *	Upload		which it is incorporated or registered or by its director or company secretary.
			Evidence of appointment: This is the resolution.

Section 5: Secretary

This section is not compulsory, however you have the ability to add a secretary should you wish.

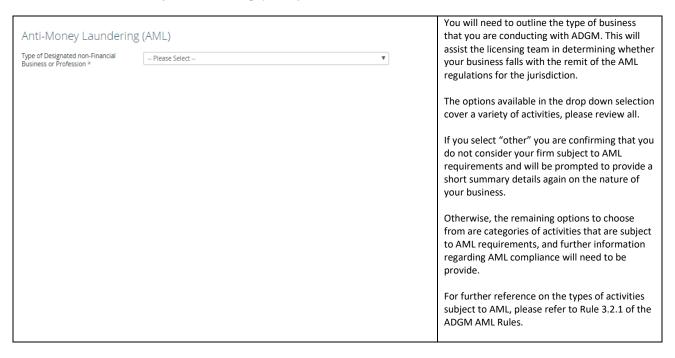
Secretary			Company Secretary can be Individual or Body Corporate
Individual or Body Corporate	Individual	Ψ	

Section 6: Shares and Shareholders

	Maximum amount of Share Capital in US\$ that the
Share Capital	company can allot (across all share classes).
Amount of Authorised Share Capital ②	Managhar their transfer and an address
	Note that this is not mandatory.
Share Class Details	
The statement of capital must state with respect to the company's share capital at the date to which the return is made up-	
(a) the total number of shares of the company, (b) the aggregate issue price of those shares,	
(c) for each class of shares:	
(i) prescribed particulars of the rights attached to the shares, (ii) the total number of shares of that class, and	
(iii) the aggregate issue price of shares of that class, and	
(d) the amount paid up and the amount (if any) unpaid on each share.	
Shares • Add Share	
	You must select one of the following
	- Preferential
Share Class Name *	- Ordinary
Please Select ▼	- Redeemable
	- Other
	The Articles of Association will set out the division of
Share Class Name ②	shares into different classes, with the respective
	rights of each of the classes being stated. The most
	common classes into which shares of a company
	may be divided are as follows: ordinary shares, ordinary shares which are non-voting shares,
	preference shares, cumulative preference shares,
	redeemable preference shares or cumulative
	redeemable preference shares, debentures and loan
	stocks
Nominal value 🕡	Nominal value of each share (i.e. the allotted value
Normal value	of each unit)
	Please enter the number of shares that have been
Number of Issued Shares *	issued
A	The amount paid
Amount paid (in US\$) *	
Amount unpaid (in US\$)	Optional field
Amount unpaid (in 03\$)	
	Optional field
Voting rights 🕡	- p

Rights on dividends distribution ②			Optional field
Rights on capital distribution			Optional field
Redemption permitted?			Optional field
Shareholders			Select the type of Shareholders – Individuals or Body Corporate. You will then be prompted to provide the details
Shareholder Type	Individual	¥	related to each of the shareholders.

Section 7: Anti Money Laundering (AML)



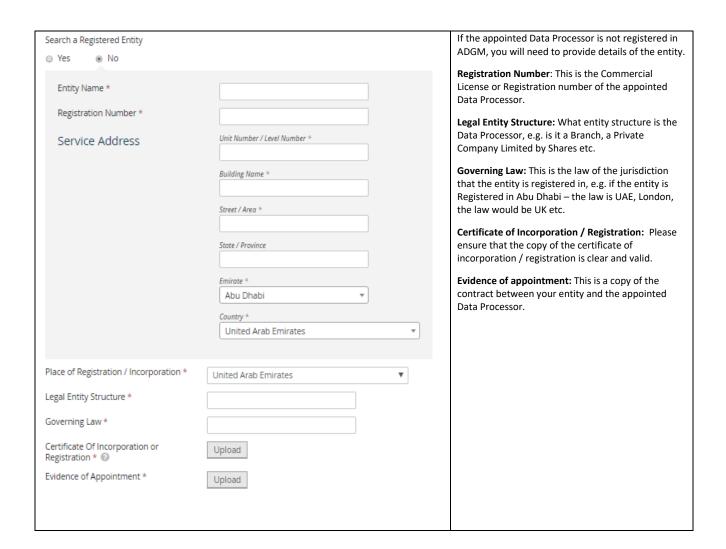
Section 8: Data Protection

(I) Data Protection

Data Protection Conta	ct Person	The Data Protection Contact person is any person assigned to be the designated point of contact in relation to data protection matters for the entity
Full Name	Title * Forenames * Surname * Please Select ▼	You will be requested to enter the contact details for the Data Protection Contact Person.
Country of Residence *	United Arab Emirates ▼	for the Data Protection Contact Person.
Nationality *	United Arab Emirates ▼	As per previous guidance, please ensure this information is accurate.
Date of Birth *	dd-MMM-yyyy	The data protection contact person does not need to be located within the UAE.
Business Occupation		
Service Address	Unit Number / Level Number	The Service Address provided can be either a commercial or residential address.
	Building Name	
	Street / Area	
	PO Box Number *	
	State / Province	
	Emirate	
	Abu Dhabi ▼	
	Country *	
	United Arab Emirates	
Telephone	Country * Area Code Number *	
Email *		

(II) Data Processors

	A Data Processor is defined as any corporate
Data Processors	person (i.e. another company) that processes Personal Data on behalf of a Data Controller (i.e. your company).
	Data Processors may include but are not limited to external service providers that have been appointed by an ADGM Data Controller (e.g. external payroll service providers, cloud services etc.)
	Data Controllers must notify the ADGM Office of Data Protection of the appointment or cessation of a Data Processor.
Does this entity appoint a Data	That is, will another entity process any of your company's personal data? (E.g. external payroll, third party support for visa services, cloud provider etc.)
	If so, you must select "yes" here.
If Selected YES	
Search a Registered Entity Yes No	If your data processor is located in ADGM, you will be able to search the ADGM Public Register for the entity details, which will prepopulate in the form.
Search for a Registered Entity you wish to add as a Data Processor *	Please note: if you have engaged a non- ADGM registered entity, you will need to select No.
Place of Registration / Incorporation ★ United Arab Emirates ▼	Legal Entity Structure:
Legal Entity Structure	Governing Law: If the Entity is Registered in
Governing Law *	ADGM, the Governing Law will be 'ADGM'.
Evidence of Appointment * Upload	Evidence of appointment: This is a copy of the contract between your entity and the appointed Data Processor.
Consent * On behalf of the appointed Data Processor I hereby confirm that the appointed Data Processor coil is on file with the Data Controller and can be demonstrated if required. I declare that the information	
Remove Data Processor Add another Data Processor	
If Selected No	



(III) Data Protection – Personal Data

Personal Data is any information relating to an identified natural person or a natural person who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identification number or to one or more factors specific to his physical, physiological, mental, economic, cultural or social identity. The definition of Personal Data applies to your employees, clients, contractors and contact lists to name some examples.

Will you be processing Personal Data as	Please consider here if you are processing any personal data elements such as: Name Address Date of Birth Email Staff ID number
Reasons for Processing of Personal Data Personal Data may only be Processed in accordance with section 2 of the ADGM Data Protection Regulations 2015. Please confirm which of the following Reasons apply to Processing of the Personal Data. Data Subject is the individual to whom Personal Data relate. The Data Subject has given his written owner to the Processing of that Personal Data * Processing is necessary for the performance of a contract to which the Data Subject is party or in order to take steps at the request of the Data Subject prior to entering into a contract * Processing is necessary for compliance with any regulatory or legal obligation to which the Data Controller is subject * Processing is necessary in order to protect the vital interests of the Data Subject of the Data Subject and the interests of the Data Subject of the Personal Data are disclosed * Processing is necessary for the purposes of the legitimate interests on the Data Controller or in a Third Party to whom the Personal Data are disclosed * Processing is necessary for the purposes of the legitimate interests pursued by the Data Controller or by the Data Controll	You will be asked to confirm the legal basis your entity will use for processing this data. Please select Yes or No as appropriate for your entity.
Type of Data	Please confirm the Personal Data types that you will keep.
Please Choose which of these kinds of Personal Data you will keep Name *	You will be asked to specify details of the
Address * • Yes • No	Others should you select this option.
Date Of Birth * Yes No	
Email *	
Staff ID number * Yes No	
Others* Yes No	
REGISTRATION AUTHORITY	

سلطة التسجيل

IV – Sensitive Personal Data

Sensitive Personal Data is a special category of Personal Data that by its nature is more sensitive, such as data revealing or concerning (directly or indirectly) racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade-union membership and health or sex life.

Will you be Processing any Sensi Personal Data as defined in the Protection Regulations 2015 *		When selecting an option please consider whether you will be collecting and of the following - Racial origin - Political opinions - Religious beliefs - Other beliefs - Physical or mental health - Criminal convictions
If yes		
Please confirm which of the following re The Data Subject has given his additional written consent to the	sed in accordance with section 3 of the Data Protection Regulations 2015 casons apply to Processing of the Sensitive Personal Data.	As with the personal data you will be requested to specify Yes or No to a series of statements regarding the legal basis for processing sensitive personal data.
Processing of such Personal Data * Processing is necessary for the purposes of carrying out the obligations and specific rights of the Data Controller *	⊚ Yes ⊚ No	
Processing is necessary to protect the vital interests of the Data Subject or of another person where the Data Subject is physically or legally incapable of giving his consent *	⊚ Yes ⊚ No	
Processing is carried out in the course of its legitimate activities with appropriate guarantees by a foundation, association or any other non-profit-seeking body on condition that the Processing relates solely to the members of the body or to persons who have regular contact with it in connection with its purposes and that the Personal Data are not disclosed to a Third Party without the consent of the Data Subjects *		
The Processing relates to Personal Data which are manifestly made public by the Data Subject, or is necessary for the establishment, exercise or defence of legal claims *		
Processing is necessary for compliance with any regulatory or legal obligation to which the Data Controller is subject *	⊚ Yes ⊚ No	

(V) Data Transfers

Data Transfers Will you be transferring data to other jurisdictions *	Yes	No	Please note that transferring data to anywhere outside ADGM includes to mainland Abu Dhabi and other areas in the UAE (except the Dubai International Financial Centre).		
If Yes					
Will you be transferring Personal Data outside the jurisdiction of the ADGM	Yes	⊚ No	Please see below for a list of the jurisdictions that are identified as having an adequate level of protection:		
that has an adequate level of protection? *			Argentina	Austria	Belgium
			Bulgaria	Canada (provided the recipient is subject to the Canadian Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act	Cyprus
				[PIPED Act])	
			Czech Republic	Denmark	DIFC
			Estonia	Finland	France
			Germany	Greece	Guernsey
			Hungary	Jersey	Iceland
			Ireland	Isle of Man	Italy
			Latvia	Liechtenstein	Lithuania
			Luxembourg	Malta	Netherlands
			New Zealand	Norway	Poland
			Portugal	Romania	Slovakia
			Slovenia	Spain	Sweden
			Switzerland	UK	Uruguay
			USA		
If you selected No			related to where why the transfer	prompted to provion the data will be tra- will take place and t you have in place	ansferred to, details of the

(VI) Data Protection - Declaration

Data Protection - Declaration	In the final subsection of the Data Protection pages you will be asked to complete a
I, in my capacity as the appointed Data Controller, hereby confirm that the processing of Personal Data will be conducted in the following manner:	declaration in relation to the data protection
* Processed fairly, lawfully and securely;	information provided.
*Processed for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes in accordance with the Data Subject's rights and not further Processed in a way incompatible with those purposes or rights;	
* Adequate, relevant and not excessive in relation to the purposes for which they are collected or further Processed;	
* Accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date; and	
* Kept in a form which permits identification of Data Subjects for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which the Personal Data were collected or for which they are further Processed.	
That every reasonable step shall be taken to ensure that Personal Data which is inaccurate or incomplete, having regard to the purposes for which it was collected or for which it was further Processed, is erased or rectified.	
* That appropriate technical and organizational measures to protect Personal Data against unauthorised or unlawful Processing and against accidental loss or destruction of, or damage to, such Person Data have been put in place. Such measures shall ensure a level of security appropriate to the risks represented by the Processing and the nature of the Personal Data to be protected.	
That in the event of an unauthorised intrusion (including any loss of devices containing Personal Data or unauthorised disclosures) whether physical, electronic or otherwise, to any Personal Data, the incident will be reported to the Registrar as soon as reasonably practicable.	
Declaration	
*I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, having made due enquiry, the information given in this form is complete and correct. I understand that it is an offence under applicable law to provide any information which is false, misleading or deceptive or to conceal information where the concealment of such information is likely to mislead or deceive. For the purpose of Data Protection Regulations, the Personal Data provided in this form will be processed by the ADGM Registration Authority in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Data Protection Regulations, in particular, in the exercise of its functions or powers under legislation administered by the ADGM or where necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the interest of the ADGM.	

Section 9: Beneficial Owners

Within the structure of companies, it is the ultimate individual who enjoys benefits of owning the company's shares. In other words, it is an individual who enjoys the benefits of ownership even though title to the ownership is in another name. For example, there is an intermediary company in which name shares are issued. Even though the shares are issued in that company's name, the true beneficial owner of the shares, for safety/convenience or privacy, is the individual. Also, any individual that either directly or indirectly has the power to vote or influence the decisions within the company through beneficial ownership of the shares, is the beneficial owner of that company.

The questions in this section will be determined by the data entered earlier in the shareholder section of the form.