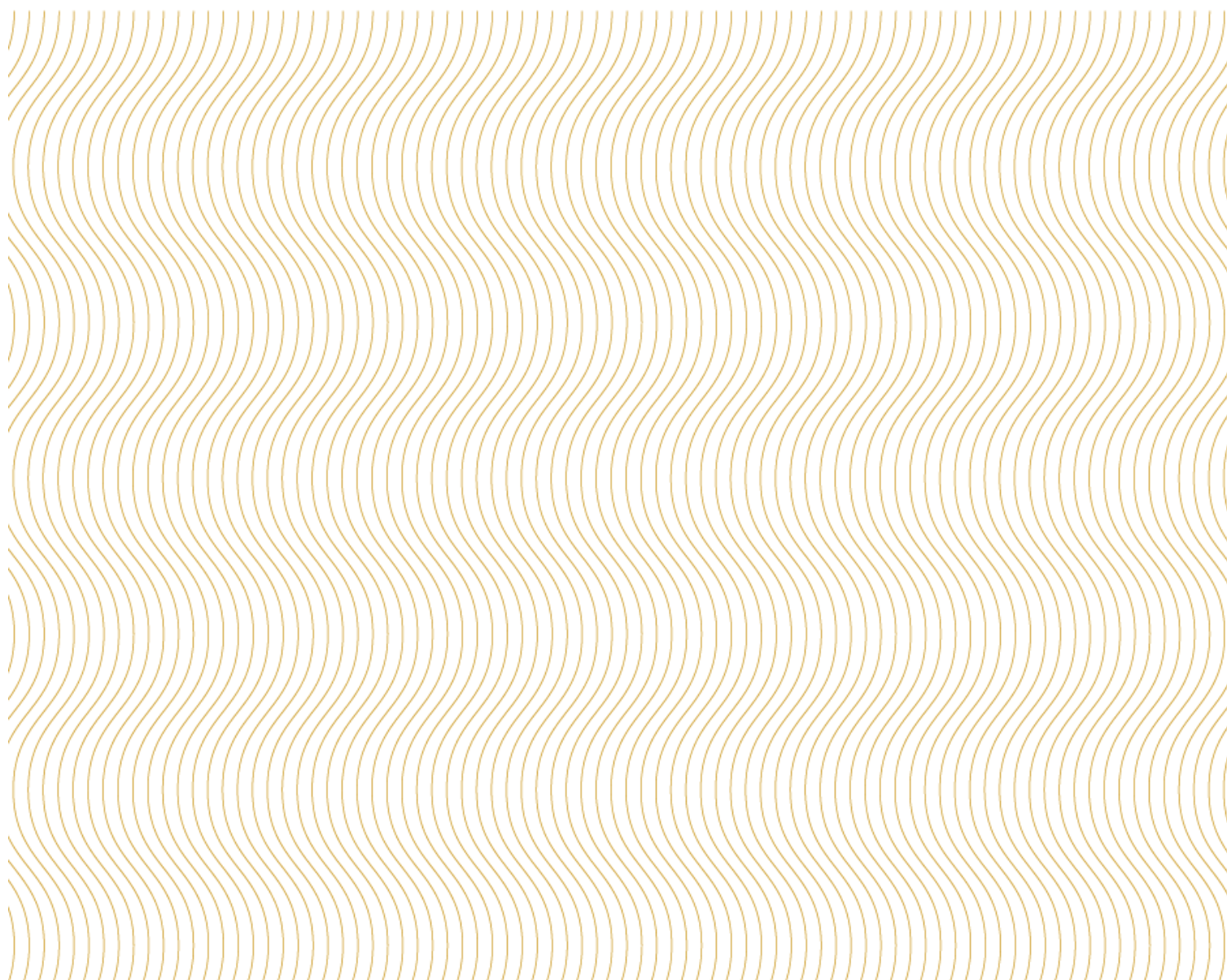


Registration Authority

Hotels and Tourism Establishments in Abu Dhabi Global Market Guidance Note



ABU DHABI GLOBAL MARKET
سوق أبوظبي العالمي



Introduction

Abu Dhabi Global Market (“ADGM”) is a broad based international financial centre, established pursuant to the Federal Decree No. 15 of 2013 and Abu Dhabi Law No. 4 of 2013 in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. With its own civil and commercial laws based on Common law, ADGM offers the local, regional and international business community a world-class legal system and regulatory regime.

This guidance (“Guide”) is issued under Section 28 of the Commercial Licensing Regulations 2015. The Guide has been prepared by the Registration Authority to assist ADGM registered hotel and tourism establishments in relation to the application of relevant requirements for such operators in the ADGM. The Guide also outlines the cooperation arrangements between the Registration Authority and Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority (“TCA”).

Hotels & Tourism Establishments

This guide applies to all hotels and tourism establishments, including but not limited to tourism restaurants, tour organisers and operators, travel agencies and suppliers of alcohol, operating in or from Al Maryah Island.

This guide is also relevant to any ADGM registered entity that wishes to organize or host an event, exhibition or conference on Al Maryah Island.

Legal Framework

Abu Dhabi Global Market Registration Authority

Abu Dhabi Law No. 4 of 2013 grants the ADGM independent powers and authorities to register and license ADGM establishments to conduct financial, commercial, economic and professional activities (including touristic activities) within the geographical scope of the financial free zone prescribed under Cabinet Resolution No. 4 of 2013 concerning the specification of the geographical zone of ADGM.

Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority

Abu Dhabi Tourism and Culture Authority (“TCA”) was established under Abu Dhabi Law No. 2 of 2011 to maintain and promote the cultural heritage of Abu Dhabi and license hotels, hotel restaurants and tourism establishments in the emirate of Abu Dhabi including the classification and inspection of these establishments.

Application of Hotel & Tourism Requirements in ADGM

Abu Dhabi Law No. 4 of 2013 exempts ADGM, its authorities, establishments and ADGM employees from the application of the laws of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi and the regulations and resolutions of any local government body, except as may be provided by a special provision in the ADGM Regulations.

However, recognizing the strategic benefit of mutual cooperation and coordination between governmental agencies, ADGM and TCA have agreed to work together in relation to touristic activities within Al Maryah Island.

To that end, on 27 February 2017, ADGM entered into an Agreement for Cooperation and Delegation (“Agreement”) with the TCA. The Agreement recognizes both authorities’ commitment to cooperation and coordination on the development and oversight of tourism, hospitality and tourist investment on Al Maryah Island.

ADGM Role and Responsibilities

The Agreement recognizes ADGM as the competent authority for the registration and oversight of all commercial activities conducted in or from Al Maryah Island (including hotel and tourism activities), including the issuance and renewal of **commercial licenses**, as per Abu Dhabi Law No. 4 of 2013.

The Agreement also confirms ADGM's role as the issuer of **alcohol licenses** for hotels and tourism establishments as well as having responsibility for the issuance of permits for any **events, exhibitions and conferences** taking place on Al Maryah Island.

TCA Role and Responsibilities

Under the Agreement, ADGM will adopt the TCA's laws, regulations and requirements into ADGM's commercial legislative framework so that hotels and tourism establishments operating in or from Al Maryah Island and registered with ADGM, shall remain subject to TCA's regulations and operating requirements (including the hotels classification and categorization system).

Further, under the Agreement, the following activities are delegated by ADGM to the TCA:

1. The TCA is responsible for reviewing and/or re-assessing the grade or the classification of any hotel operating in or from Al Maryah Island.
2. The TCA is responsible for issuing technical approvals or the establishments of hotels, and reviewing and assessing compliance with the technical pre-approval requirements.
3. The TCA is responsible for inspection and monitoring on tourism-related operating requirements, and may impose and collect fines from hotels, hotels restaurants and tourism establishments in case of any violation of TCA regulations.

ADGM Commercial Registration

In light of the above, all hotels and hotel restaurants operating in or from Al Maryah Island, whether or not currently licensed by TCA, are required to be duly registered and licensed by the ADGM Registration Authority (as being the competent and sole commercial licensing authority on Al Maryah Island).

Hotels, hotel restaurants and tourism establishments currently holding a Tourism License issued by TCA are now requested to commence the registration with ADGM Registration Authority (if they have not already done so) at least one month prior to the expiry of your Tourism License, in order to be able to continue conducting business activities in or from Al Maryah Island.

Please also note that it is also the responsibility of hotels and hotel restaurants operating in and from Al Maryah Island to obtain any other permits required by other governmental bodies.

For registration and licensing of legal entities, please contact the Registration & Incorporation Team by email at: ra@adgm.com.

For visas and work permits, please contact Government Services Team on Gov.Services@adgm.com.

Permits for events, exhibitions or conferences

If you wish to hold an event, exhibition or conference, you must apply for a permit, which is issued by the Registration Authority. Please contact the Government Services Team for the full list of necessary documents to obtain the necessary permit.

For event, exhibition or conference permits or any ADGM no-objection letters, please contact Government Services Team on Gov.Services@adgm.com.

These arrangements take immediate effect.

Disclaimer

This Guide provides information on licensing and regulating hotels and tourism establishments in ADGM. This is only a guide and should be read together with the relevant legislation, in particular, ADGM Companies Regulations 2015, ADGM Commercial Licensing Regulations 2015 and any other relevant regulations and enabling rules. The Guide only refers to the procedures that need to be completed in relation to the Registrar. It does not cover other requirements such as obtaining relevant permits from third parties, if necessary. Further advice from a specialist professional may be required.

For more information, please contact the Registrar by:

Telephone: +971 2 333 8888

Email: ra@adgm.com

In person: 3rd floor, ADGM Building, Abu Dhabi Global Market Square, Al Maryah Island, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

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