



INFORMATION SLEEVE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT & TRADE



INVEST
MALDIVES

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the Investment Windows available for foreign investors?

- Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)
- Private Sector Initiated Proposal (PSIP)
- Special Economic Zones (SEZ)

What are the Investment Windows available for foreign investors?

- Sectors open for foreign investments on 100 percent foreign shareholding basis includes tourism, agriculture and crop cultivation, aquaculture and mariculture amongst others. You may refer to the FDI Policy in effect or write to fiu@trade.gov.mv for further details.

Can a foreign investment company engage in wholesale and retail trade?

- Wholesale and retail trade sector is an area closed for foreign investments.

Are foreign investors eligible for any types of visas?

- Business Visa: a temporary multiple entry visa issued to a foreign national intending to stay in the Maldives for business operations.
- Corporate Resident Visa: for those who wish to remain in Maldives for longer periods. You may visit our OneGov.mv website to learn more about the eligibility requirements.

How does one submit PSIP to the Government?

- Interested investors are encouraged to submit their proposals to the appropriate government agency responsible for overseeing the project's relevant sector or mandate.

Are there specific investment sectors eligible for SEZs?

- The strategic areas of investments are outlined in the Presidential Decree issued on 12 Jan 2025. You may find out more by visiting our website (www.sez.gov.mv).

What is the registration process for foreign investors?

Foreign investors are required to seek approval from the Ministry prior to registration of the company. Potential investors may write to fiu@trade.gov.mv for further information on the process.

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Who needs to submit for foreign investment approval?

- Foreign parties proposing to carry out business activities in Maldives.

- Foreign parties carrying out large scale, time-bound projects in Maldives.

- Foreign parties acquiring shares in locally incorporated companies.

- Changing approved scope of an existing foreign investment.

Can a foreign investment company engage in the construction sector?

- Foreign contractors are granted approval on contract basis for the duration of the contract, inclusive of the defects liability period, if any.

How does one submit a foreign investment application?

- You may submit the completed foreign investment application form available on our website (www.trade.gov.mv) and submit with supporting documents to fiu@trade.gov.mv.

What are the requirements to be fulfilled to invest under the Special Economic Zones regime?

- SEZs aim to attract large investments and boost trade. The Presidential Decree mandates that investment proposals under \$100 million allocate at least 50% to strategic areas. For sustainable township projects, a minimum investment of \$500 million must be exclusively used for township development components.

How does one apply under the SEZ framework?

- Prospective developers can submit the completed application form and required documents to the Board of Investments via email at sez@trade.gov.mv.



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