

COUNTRY INFORMATION SHEET: **BAHRAIN**



Why Select the Bahrain Market?

- Bahrain is a small, but prosperous economy. It's business friendly, ranking 53rd in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business report.
- Bahrain is an important partner and base for UK companies in the Gulf given its position as a major trading hub in the region.
- There are over 500 active UK commercial agencies and over 90 branches of British companies in Bahrain. In addition, over 350 Bahraini companies have UK partners.

Benefits for UK businesses exporting to Bahrain include:

- good communication links
- direct access into Saudi Arabia via causeway
- most liberal tax regime in the Gulf
- 100% foreign ownership of business assets and real estate allowed with no 'free-zone' restrictions

Strengths of the market

- competitive operational costs
- well regulated financial services sector
- advanced logistics services
- dedicated industrial zones
- educated and skilled local workforce
- high quality of life for foreign residents

Summary

The independent state of Bahrain consists of a group of 30 islands situated in the Arabian Gulf off the north-east coast of Saudi Arabia.

Cities

Capital: Manama (Bahrain Island)

Principal Ports

Manama, Mina' Salman, Sitrah.

Population

1.5 million

International Country Code

BH

Language(s)

Arabic, English, Farsi, Urdu

For more
in-country
support
and advice

British Arab Chamber of Commerce

Tel: 020 7235 4363

Email: info@abcc.org.uk

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DOCUMENTATION GUIDE

CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN

Shipments from the UK may have to be supported by a Certificate of Origin (CO) obtained from a local Chamber of Commerce, certified by the Arab-British Chamber and legalised by the embassy (generally arranged by the Chamber); there will be fees for this. Although UK Chambers of Commerce will stamp an EC CO for Bahrain it cannot be legalised, so exporters must be prepared to issue a letter of indemnity to protect the Chamber from any potential action against them if there is a problem at import. Goods going into Bahrain with an EC CO from the UK may be subject to delays at import and may incur penalties.

COMMERCIAL INVOICE

The invoice should be prepared in English or Arabic. If it has not been completed in Arabic, a translation may be requested by Bahrain customs.

Show usual full details, including country of origin, marks and numbers, full description of goods, net and gross weights and value. The name of the manufacturer or producer must also be clearly stated. Generally, certification by Arab-British Chamber of Commerce and legalisation by the embassy is not required, unless requested under the terms of a letter of credit. Facsimile signatures not allowed and at least one copy of the invoice must be marked "ORIGINAL". Customs require three copies.

Ensure you quote the following clause on your invoice: "We certify that the goods exported to Bahrain are of pure national origin of Name of the manufacturer:"

OTHER DOCUMENTS

Temporary importation of commercial samples, professional equipment and goods for exhibitions can be made under an ATA Carnet (see ATA Carnets in Documents) as long as the goods are exported from Bahrain within 12 months of the issue date of the Carnet.

Commercial samples of negligible or no commercial value may be admitted duty free. Temporary shipments or saleable samples can be imported against a deposit of duty repayable at re-export.