

LEGALIZATION OF THE UAE DOCUMENTS: FAST AND EFFICIENT WITH WHITE SQUARE

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Due to the active economic interaction between the United Arab Emirates ("**UAE**") and other countries, it is appropriate to consider the UAE's requirements for foreign documents to be used in the UAE and for Emirati documents to be used abroad. This alert contribution considers the key aspects of these requirements.

I. General Regulatory Information

The UAE is not a signatory to the Hague Convention of 5 October 1961 on the abolition of legalization requirements for foreign official documents (the "**Hague Convention**"), which facilitates the process of recognition of foreign documents (e.g. civil status certificates, university degrees, notarized powers of attorney, court judgments, etc.) by means of an apostille. Thus, in order to give legal force to documents outside the UAE it is necessary to undergo the consular legalization procedure. The same rule applies vice versa - consular legalization is required for the use of foreign documents in the UAE.

Consular legalization is a process of authenticating an official document for use outside country in which it was issued.

The UAE is not the only Gulf Cooperation Council state with consular legalization requirements. The list of non-signatories to the Hague Convention also includes Kuwait and Qatar.

The legalization process involves numerous formalities and its complexity depends on several factors such as:

- the country in which the document was issued ("**sending country**");

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- the country where the document will be used ("destination country");
- the type of document: personal (e.g., birth certificate) or corporate (e.g., articles of incorporation);
- language requirements (e.g., some states require a translation into the language of the receiving state to legalize the document).

II. Legalization procedure

The process of consular legalization of documents can be divided into the following stages:

Step 1: Legalization by the Ministry of Justice or other authority of the state where the document was issued (if required)

Some sending countries (such as the Russian Federation) require legalization at the Ministry of Justice. The UAE does not require legalization. Some countries require the document to be certified by other government agencies (e.g., Ministry of Education).

Step 2: Legalization by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the country where the document was issued

The document must be legalized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs ("MFA") of the sending country, which certifies the authenticity of the signature and seal.

Step 3: Legalization at the Consulate/Consular Section of the Embassy of the destination country

After legalization at the MFA of the sending country, the document must be authenticated at the consulate or consular section of the embassy of the destination country.

Step 4: Delivering the document to the country of destination

After all legalizations are completed, the document is delivered to the state where it is to be presented.

Step 5: Translation of the document (if required)

Most receiving countries require a translation into the official language of the destination country. The translation must be done by a certified professional. Many consular offices will provide a translation into the official language of the receiving state along with a certification of the accuracy of the translation.

III. Advantages of White Square Consular Legalization Assistance

- Efficiency and Promptness: we understand the importance of minimizing the time required to process documents for our clients, so we undertake the entire volume of complex and time-consuming work, ensuring legalization in the shortest possible time;
- Professionalism: we understand the legal requirements of different countries and take into account the nuances of regulations established by intergovernmental agreements, which allows us to significantly simplify the process of document legalization;
- Personalized approach: we take into account the specifics of your request and offer solutions that are optimal for your needs. You can be sure that your documents will be accepted in the destination country.



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