

Work permits and visas

There are 12 types of work permits available if you want to work in the UAE. The different types of work permits are:

- A permit to recruit someone from outside the UAE.
- A permit to transfer a foreign employee from one establishment to another.
- A permit for a resident on a family sponsorship.
- A temporary permit to hire an employee to complete a job within a specified timeframe.
- A one-mission permit to recruit an employee from abroad to complete a temporary or specific job during a pre-established period.
- A part-time permit to recruit a worker under the part-time contract, which means the employee's working hours or days are less than the full-time contract.
- A juvenile permit to recruit an employee between 15 and 18 years.
- A student training and employment permit to employ a 15-year-old student already living in the UAE.
- A UAE/GCC national permit to employ a UAE or GCC national.
- A golden visa holder is permitted to hire a worker with the UAE's Golden Residence visa.
- A national trainee permit to train UAE nationals.
- A freelance permit is issued to self-sponsored UAE foreigners who provide services or perform tasks for individuals or companies.

You or your employee must ensure you have a valid work permit before you start working. The employer must have:

- A valid trade license and
- The authorised signatory of the company must file the application.

You can find more information about work permits through the government portal.

The cost of work permits ranges between AED 250 and AED 3,450. The cost depends on the company's classification, reflecting the company's compliance with the UAE Labour Law, the Wages Protection System and the other relevant MoHRE resolutions and directives.

Canceling A Work Permit

Employers can cancel a work permit if the work contract ends. The employer must acknowledge that it has paid the worker everything they are entitled to. The permit cancellation form should also include the employee's signature.

The UAE Labour Law states that working without a valid work permit is illegal.