**The main provisions for starting operations of a foreign entrepreneur in Latvia**

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| **Entrepreneur activities in Latvia** | |
| **Foreign merchant** | **Branch of a foreign merchant** |
| A foreign merchant can operate in Latvia permanently.  **Registration in the VAT register**  In order to conduct commercial activities in the field of construction, it must:   1. register with the State Revenue Service (SRS) as a VAT payer. Information on registration in the register of VAT payers is available on the SRS website [www.vid.gov.lv](http://www.vid.gov.lv) - <https://www.vid.gov.lv/lv/pievienotas-vertibas-nodoklis>. Information is available in Latvian, while the application for registration in the VAT register is available in English.   The registration deadline is 5 working days, if the submitted documents meet all the conditions. Registration is free of charge². | A foreign merchant can operate in Latvia by registering its branch in Latvia.  **Registration of a branch of entrepreneur**   1. The branch must be registered in the Register of Enterprises. The website [www.ur.gov.lv](http://www.ur.gov.lv) contains information about the registration process, i.e. what documents must be submitted, what the term of its registration is and what the costs are. More information in English is available here: <https://www.ur.gov.lv/en/register/company-or-merchant/branch-of-a-foreign-company/founding/registration-with-the-enterprise-register/>   The registration deadline is 1 or 3 working days, if the submitted documents meet all the conditions and the costs are from EUR 27.00, if the documents are submitted electronically, or from EUR 30.00.[[1]](#footnote-2) |
| **Registration in the VAT register**   1. At the same time as registering the branch, the company must apply for VAT status. This can happen simultaneously with the registration of the branch in the Register of Enterprises by submitting a relevant application - the information is available in English on the website [www.ur.gov.lv](http://www.ur.gov.lv) - <https://www.ur.gov.lv/en/register/company-or-merchant/branch-of-a-foreign-company/founding/registration-with-the-state-revenue-service-srs/>   More information on the VAT status is available on the SRS website [www.vid.gov.lv](http://www.vid.gov.lv) - <https://www.vid.gov.lv/lv/pievienotas-vertibas-nodoklis>. Information is in Latvian.  The registration deadline is 5 working days, if the submitted documents meet all the conditions. Registration is free of charge[[2]](#footnote-3) |
| **Registration in the Register of Construction Merchants**   1. In order to perform commercial activities in one or more fields of construction, as well as in the field of architecture or electricity, where a natural person needs a certificate of a construction specialist for independent practice, a merchant must register in the Register of Construction Merchants. The procedure for registration in the Register of Construction Merchants is determined by Regulation of the Cabinet of Ministers No. 116 from 25 February 2014, “Regulations for Registration of Construction Merchants” - available in English <https://likumi.lv/ta/en/en/id/264822>. More information about the Register of Construction Merchants, incl. on the documents (applications) to be submitted for registration in the Register of Construction Merchants and the state fees payable is available on the website of the State Construction Control Bureau [www.bvkb.gov.lv](http://www.bvkb.gov.lv) - <https://bis.gov.lv/bisp/lv/construction_companies>. Information is in Latvian.   The registration deadline is 5 working days if the application is submitted electronically, or 10 working days if the application is submitted in paper form, and if the submitted documents meet all the conditions. The registration fee is EUR 70.00, while the annual fee is from EUR 100.00 to 5000.00, depending on the net turnover of the construction merchant in the previous calendar year.[[3]](#footnote-4)   1. **Acquisition of a classification class for construction merchants**   In order to apply for the performance of such construction works, which are fully or partially financed from the means of a legal person in public law, European Union policy instruments or other foreign financial assistance, the construction merchant needs to receive a classification document. Foreign merchants can apply for a one-time classification. In order to receive a qualification class, a foreign merchant submits Construction Information to the system [www.bis.gov.lv](http://www.bis.gov.lv) (e-services) application for one-time classification. The procedure by which the classification of a construction merchant is performed is determined by Regulation of the Cabinet of Ministers No. 211 from 12 April 2016, “Regulations for classification of Construction Merchants” - available in English <https://likumi.lv/ta/en/en/id/281521>.  The registration deadline is 10 working days. Registration is free of charge.[[4]](#footnote-5) |
| **Registration in the Register of Construction Merchants**   1. If the entrepreneur has registered a branch in Latvia to conduct commercial activities in one or more fields of construction, as well as in the field of architecture or electricity, where a natural person requires a construction specialist certificate for independent practice, the entrepreneur itself (not the branch) must register in the Register of Construction Merchants. Information on the registration of an entrepreneur in the Register of Construction Merchants is available in the section “Foreign Merchant” - in Section 2 “Registration in the Register of Construction Merchants”.   The registration deadline is 5 working days if the application is submitted electronically, or 10 working days if the application is submitted in paper form, and if the submitted documents meet all the conditions. The registration fee is EUR 70.00, while the annual fee is from EUR 100.00 to 5000.00, depending on the net turnover of the construction merchant in the previous calendar year³.   1. **Acquisition of a classification class for construction merchants**   In order to apply for the performance of such construction works, which are fully or partially financed from the means of a legal person in public law, European Union policy instruments or other foreign financial assistance, the construction merchant needs to receive a classification document. Foreign merchants can apply for a one-time classification. In order to receive a qualification class, a foreign merchant submits Construction Information to the system [www.bis.gov.lv](http://www.bis.gov.lv) (e-services) for application for one-time classification. The procedure by which the classification of a construction merchant is performed is determined by Regulation of the Cabinet of Ministers No. 211 from 12 April 2016, “Regulations for classification of Construction Merchants” - available in English <https://likumi.lv/ta/en/en/id/281521>.  The registration deadline is 10 working days. Registration is free of charge⁴. |

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| **Attraction of employees of the entrepreneur** | |
| * In order to carry on commercial activity in one or more fields of construction, as well as in the field of architecture or electricity, an entrepreneur must employ a construction specialist, that is, natural persons, who have acquired the rights to practice independently in regulated professions in the field of architecture or construction, for example, in the practice of an architect; in the design of building structures; in the design of water supply and sewerage systems, including fire extinguishing systems; in the design of heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems; building construction management; restoration construction management; water supply and sewerage systems, including fire extinguishing systems, construction management; construction supervision of building construction works; construction supervision of restoration works; water supply and sewerage systems, including fire-fighting systems; construction supervision of construction works in heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems; and others. A detailed list of fields/areas of activity of construction specialists is specified in Regulation of the Cabinet of Ministers No. 169 from 20 March 2018, “Regulations for the Assessment of the Competence of Construction Specialists and Supervision of Permanent Practice”, Annex 1 - <https://likumi.lv/ta/id/298177-buvspecialistu-kompetences-novertesanas-un-patstavigas-prakses-uzraudzibas-noteikumi>. The regulatory enactment is available in Latvian. * In order for a foreign entrepreneur to be able to conduct its business, the professional qualification of the entrepreneur's foreign specialists must be recognised in Latvia. Recognition of professional qualifications is regulated by the Law “On Regulated Professions and Recognition of Professional Qualifications” - the law is available in English <https://likumi.lv/ta/en/en/id/26021>, as well as Regulation of the Cabinet of Ministers No. 47 from 21 January 2021, “Procedure for the Provision of Temporary Professional Services in a Regulated Profession in the Republic of Latvia” - the regulatory enactment is available in Latvian. | |
| **Provision of temporary service (limited in duration or occasional)** | **Certification of foreign construction specialists** |
| An EU citizen with an EU professional qualification who carries out permanent professional activity in its home country must submit a declaration to the certification body, which is entitled to issue a certificate of recognition of professional qualification in the specific field of activity, as well as in some of the professions (or specialties), this institution may check the qualification of the service provider before the service provider temporarily starts providing services in Latvia for the first time. **The list of certification institutions that have been delegated to assess the competence of construction specialists and supervise independent practice can be found on the website**[www.bis.gov.lv](http://www.bis.gov.lv)**, in the section “Contacts”** <https://bis.gov.lv/kontakti/sertificesanas-institucijas>**. For example:**   * the certification of construction specialists in the speciality of construction expertise is provided by the State Construction Control Bureau. More information, including information about submitting the declaration and making the payment is available on the website [www.bvkb.gov.lv](http://www.bvkb.gov.lv) in English <https://www.bvkb.gov.lv/en/certification-construction-experts-0> * certification in the speciality of building construction management, restoration construction management, road construction management is provided by the Latvian Association of Civil Engineers. More information is available on the website [www.buvinzenierusavieniba.lv](http://www.buvinzenierusavieniba.lv) in Latvian <https://buvinzenierusavieniba.lv/arzemju-specialistu-sertifikacijas-procedura/>. * certification in the speciality of the architect's practice is provided by the Latvian Association of Architects. More information is available on the website [www.latarh.lv](http://www.latarh.lv) <https://www.latarh.lv/arhitektu-sertificesana/sertifikata-iegusana/>   More information is available on the website of the Academic Information Centre [www.aic.lv](http://www.aic.lv) in English <http://www.aic.lv/portal/en/arvalstu-diplomu-atzisana/professional-recognition-of-foreign-qualifications-in-latvia>.  The registration deadline is two weeks, if the submitted documents meet all the conditions. If a qualification test is required for the provision of short-term services - its term is one month. The first examination of the declaration is free of charge, but if a qualification test is to be performed - the expenses start from 100 euros - the amount of expenses depends on the amount of payment set by each particular certification institution.[[5]](#footnote-6) | If a foreign specialist (both EU and non-EU service providers), who has the rights to fully (acquired professional qualification) and independently work in his home country in a profession that is regulated in Latvia, wants to also work in this profession in Latvia, it must have the construction practice certificate recognised. More information on the procedure for the recognition of professional qualifications, as well as the list of regulated professions is available on the website of the Academic Information Centre [www.aic.lv](http://www.aic.lv) in English <http://www.aic.lv/portal/en/arvalstu-diplomu-atzisana/professional-recognition-of-foreign-qualifications-in-latvia>.  Certification of foreign construction specialists and supervision of permanent practice is ensured by the certification institution, the list of which **can be found on the website**[www.bis.gov.lv](http://www.bis.gov.lv)**, in the section “Contacts”** <https://bis.gov.lv/kontakti/sertificesanas-institucijas>**.**  The fee for the recognition of a professional qualification is EUR 240[[6]](#footnote-7). |
| The professional qualifications of non-EU service providers must also be recognised in cases where a person plans to only provide short-term services in Latvia (see the section on Certification of Foreign Construction Specialists). |

1. The information provided is informative and prepared on 17.02.2021. The current information is verifiable and is available in the Register of Enterprises (website www.ur.gov.lv). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. The information provided is informative and prepared on 17.02.2021. The current information is verifiable and is available in the State Revenue Service (website www.vid.gov.lv). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. The information provided is informative and prepared on 17.02.2021. The current information is verifiable and is available at the State Construction Control Bureau (website [www.bvkb.gov.lv](http://www.bvkb.gov.lv)). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. The information provided is informative and prepared on 17.02.2021. The current information is verifiable and is available at the State Construction Control Bureau (website [www.bvkb.gov.lv](http://www.bvkb.gov.lv)). [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. The information provided is informative and prepared on 17.02.2021. The current information is verifiable and is available at the State Construction Control Bureau (website [www.bvkb.gov.lv](http://www.bvkb.gov.lv)). [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. The information provided is informative and prepared on 17.02.2021. Up-to-date information is verifiable and is available at the Academic Information Centre (website [www.aic.lv](http://www.aic.lv)). [↑](#footnote-ref-7)