

Is the company tax resident in Guernsey?

NO

Guernsey substance requirements not applicable but must demonstrate where tax resident.

YES

Does the company have income from carrying on a Relevant Activity?

Banking Business
Insurance Business
Shipping Business
Fund Management Business
Finance and Leasing Business
Headquarters Business
Holding Business
Intellectual Property Business
Distribution and
Service Centre Business

(See next page for full descriptions)

NO

Substance requirements not applicable.

Guernsey has passed legislation requiring certain legal entities which carry on 'Relevant Activities' to demonstrate that they have adequate economic substance in Guernsey.

To check if the economic substance requirements could apply to your business, please review if it is engaging in any of the Relevant Activities defined here.

YES

Is the company a pure equity holding entity?

YES

If the company is compliant with the corporate law filing requirements and there are adequate employees and premises in Guernsey then the company will meet the substance requirements.

NO

Entity must be able to demonstrate substance in Guernsey.

(NB different threshold for IP companies)

Is the Relevant Activity directed and managed from Guernsey?

Are there adequate employees, expenditure and appropriate premises in Guernsey?

Are the Core Income Generating Activities carried out in Guernsey?

NO

Substance requirements must be addressed.

YES

Substance requirements are met.





Banking Business - Companies that are deposit taking business and are subject to Guernsey banking regulations. All such companies should be easily identifiable as they are required in Guernsey to hold a licence issued by the financial regulator.

Insurance Business - Companies which undertake an insurance business that is subject to regulations in Guernsey. These should also be easily identifiable as they are required in Guernsey to be authorised and hold a relevant licence.

Shipping - Companies that operate ships in international traffic for income from the transportation of passengers or cargo. It also includes activities directly connected with, or ancillary to this business such as the rental on a charter basis of ships, the sale of tickets, the use of containers for the transportation of goods and the management of the crew of ships.

Fund Management - Fund management is also a regulated business in Guernsey and operated under licence.

It includes companies that provide management services in relation to funds (i.e. Collective Investment Vehicles), but not the fund itself. Activities include the provision of fund management services to a fund, in relation to its investment decisions, and its risk decisions.

Finance and Leasing - Any company which offers credit or financing of any kind for consideration, such as loans, hire purchase agreements, long term credit plans, and finance leases in relation to assets other than land. This includes intra-group financing.

Head quartering - Companies which provide headquarters services to non-resident members of the same group/ connected persons. A headquarters will take responsibility for the overall success of the group, or an important aspect of the group's performance, and ensure corporate governance. Such headquarters services include:

- The provision of senior management
- Taking responsibility or control of material risk for activities carried out by, or assets owned by, any of those persons
- The provision of substantive advice in relation to such risks

Holding Business - A company will be regarded as a Pure Equity Holding company if its primary function is to acquire and hold equities, and the equities in question are controlling stakes in other companies. It will be subject to the substance requirements if it receives income on its own behalf from those holdings (i.e. if it is the beneficial owner of the shares).

If a company also undertakes other commercial activities, then it is outside of this narrow definition and will instead need to meet the higher substance requirements, if applicable for any Relevant Activity it carries on.

Intellectual Property Business - Holding Intellectual property assets - any intellectual property right in intangible assets, including but not limited to copyright, patents, trademarks, brands, and technical know-how from which identifiable income accrues to the business (such income being separately identifiable from any income generated from any tangible assets in which the right subsists)

Distribution and Service Centre - Companies which purchase raw materials and finished products from other non-resident members of the same group /connected persons and re-sell them for a profit.

The definition also encompasses companies which provide services, consulting or other administrative services, to other non-resident members of the same group/connected persons.

The scope does not extend to cases where activities are not the main activity of a company, nor to activities where a company purchases raw materials and finished products from, or provides services to third parties.

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