

HOW TO CREATE A BRANCH OF A FOREIGN COMPANY IN FRANCE?

If a foreign company wants to create a branch in France, it will be necessary to register it in the «*Registre du Commerce et des Sociétés*» (Trade and Company Register) of the French area where said branch is to be opened.

To do so, the registration request must be submitted to the “*Centre des Formalités des Entreprises*” (CFE) having territorial jurisdiction (that is to say, the CFE of the French area where you would like to open the permanent establishment).

The request will have to be submitted with the following documents:

1. An application form, duly filled with information relative to the foreign company (legal form, capital, main activities, information about the associates and managers, information about the legal representative in France).
2. Two copies of the foreign company’s articles of incorporation.
3. The foreign company’s homeland certificate of incorporation or an equivalent official document proving the foreign company’s existence.
4. A written proof of the address where the branch will be established (lease contract, registered office contract, etc).
5. The identification and power of attorney of the foreign company’s representative in France:
 - The instrument appointing the branch’s representative, if said representative is not a legal representative of the company.
 - The branch representative’s sworn statement relating to the absence of conviction or civil or administrative penalty prohibiting their exercise of a commercial activity.
 - A copy of the representative’s ID card or valid passport, if they are an European Union national.
 - If the representative is a national of a third-party country:
 - If the person resides in France, a copy of the temporary residence permit authorizing them to exercise a professional activity;
 - If the person does not reside in France, a copy of the ID card or valid passport.

6. If the applicant is not the branch representative, the proxy enabling said person to make the application, granted by a legal representative of the company.

Once registered, the permanent establishment may be closed, at any time, with a simple request to the Trade Register.

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The purpose of this note is merely informative and does not take into account the specificities that may arise in each case. For a complete and adapted information to your particular case, a professional advice is recommended.

The members of our firm are available to advise you and accompany you in your project of developing your activities in France.