

DOING BUSINESS IN ANGUILLA

*A Practical Guide for Entrepreneurs, Investors,
and Business Owners*

 ShoCash Proposals

Turning Ideas into Structured, Bankable Businesses

Prepared by ShoCash Proposals • Anguilla, British West Indies

www.shocash.ai

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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this Guide

Starting a business in Anguilla can be both straightforward and rewarding when the correct structure and procedures are followed. However, many entrepreneurs — whether local or international — are often unsure where to begin, what legal structure to choose, or what requirements apply to their specific situation.

This guide has been developed to provide a clear, practical overview of how to establish and operate a business in Anguilla. It explains:

- the different legal structures available
- how to choose the most appropriate structure
- the steps required to register a business
- the key regulatory and compliance obligations
- important considerations for growth and sustainability

The objective is not to replace legal or professional advice, but to simplify the process and help business owners make informed decisions from the outset.

1.2 Who this Guide is For

This guide is designed to assist a wide range of users, including:

- individuals starting a business for the first time
- small and medium-sized business owners
- partnerships and family-run businesses
- regional entrepreneurs expanding into Anguilla
- international investors seeking to establish a presence
- professionals requiring a structured understanding of the jurisdiction

1.3 How to Use this Guide

This document is structured to take you through the business setup process step by step.

- If you are new to business, it is recommended that you read the guide from the beginning.
- If you already have a business idea, you may go directly to sections on business structures, registration, or licensing requirements.
- If you are an investor or consultant, sections on companies, LLCs, partnerships, and economic substance will be particularly relevant.

Important Note

Establishing a business involves both registration and operational approval. Registering a business entity does not automatically grant permission to operate — additional licences and regulatory approvals may be required depending on the nature of the business.

1.4 Disclaimer

This guide is provided for general informational purposes only. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, laws, regulations, and procedures may change over time. Business owners are encouraged to seek professional advice where necessary, particularly in relation to legal structuring, taxation, regulatory compliance, and financing and investment.

2. Overview of Doing Business in Anguilla

2.1 Key Advantages of Anguilla

Anguilla is a well-established international financial services jurisdiction with a stable legal framework and a business-friendly environment. Its combination of simplicity, flexibility, and global accessibility makes it an attractive location for both local and international business activity.

1. Stable Legal and Regulatory Framework

Anguilla operates under a modern legislative regime designed to support business formation and international operations, while maintaining compliance with global standards.

2. Efficient Business Formation

Businesses — particularly companies — can be formed efficiently through the electronic registration system, allowing for relatively quick turnaround times when documentation is in order.

3. Flexible Business Structures

Anguilla offers a range of structures including companies, Limited Liability Companies (LLCs), Limited Partnerships (LPs), and sole proprietorships and partnerships, allowing entrepreneurs to select a structure suited to their needs.

4. Global Accessibility

Anguilla-based entities are widely used for international business, investment holding, consulting services, and digital operations.

5. Growing Digital and Innovation Presence

With increasing global recognition tied to its association with the ".ai" designation, Anguilla is gaining significant attention as a jurisdiction connected to innovation, technology, and digital enterprise.

2.2 Business Environment and Opportunities

Anguilla's economy is primarily service-driven, with strong opportunities in both traditional and emerging sectors:

Sector	Examples
Tourism and Hospitality	Hotels, villas, restaurants, guest services
Retail and Distribution	Grocery, hardware, specialty retail
Construction and Trades	Contractors, tradesmen, suppliers
Professional Services	Consulting, accounting, marketing, admin
Marine and Transport	Boat charters, transport, logistics
Agriculture and Production	Local farming and specialty goods
Digital and Online	Remote services, e-commerce, digital platforms

2.3 Important Considerations Before Starting

Before starting a business in Anguilla, it is important to consider several practical factors that can significantly impact success.

- Choosing the Right Structure — affects personal liability, tax obligations, ability to raise capital, and long-term growth.
- Understanding Licensing Requirements — registration does not automatically grant permission to operate.
- Financial Planning — a clear understanding of startup costs, operating expenses, expected revenue, and cash flow is essential.
- Banking and Documentation — opening a business bank account requires detailed information, business plans, and financial projections.
- Compliance and Ongoing Obligations — all businesses must maintain records, renew licences, pay applicable fees, and comply with regulatory requirements.
- Use of Licensed Service Providers — companies, LLCs, and limited partnerships must be established and maintained through a locally licensed company manager.

KEY ADVANTAGES OF DOING BUSINESS IN ANGUILLA



**Stable Legal
Framework**



**Efficient Business
Formation**



**Flexible Business
Structures**



**Global
Accessibility**



**Business-Friendly
Environment**

Anguilla offers a stable, flexible, and globally connected business environment.



3. Legal Ways to Start a Business in Anguilla

In Anguilla, businesses can be established under different legal structures. These structures determine how the business operates, who is responsible for its obligations, and how it is regulated. Broadly, business structures fall into two categories:

- Unincorporated Businesses (simpler, handled through Inland Revenue)
- Registered Entities (formed under legislation and registered through the Commercial Registry)

3.1 Unincorporated Businesses (Inland Revenue)

These are the simplest forms of business and are typically used for small or locally operated enterprises.

3.1.1 Sole Proprietorship

A sole proprietorship is a business owned and operated by one individual. It is simple and inexpensive to establish, with full control by the owner and minimal administrative requirements. The business has no separate legal identity — the owner is personally responsible for all debts, obligations, and liabilities.

Best suited for: small retail operations, tradesmen, service providers, freelancers, and home-based businesses.

3.1.2 General Partnership

A general partnership is a business owned by two or more persons who share responsibility for the business. Each partner can be held responsible for the full debts of the business, regardless of who incurred them. A written partnership agreement is strongly recommended to define roles, profit sharing, and responsibilities.

Best suited for: family businesses, small joint ventures, and professional collaborations.

3.2 Registered Entities (Commercial Registry)

These structures are established under specific legislation and registered through the Commercial Registry. They provide greater structure, legal separation, and flexibility for growth.

3.2.1 Business Company

A business company is a separate legal entity distinct from its owners (incorporated under the Business Companies Act). It provides limited liability for shareholders, a separate legal identity, structured governance through directors and shareholders, and the ability to enter contracts and own assets.

□ **Relevant Legislation:** <https://www.commercialregistry.ai/legislation>

3.2.2 Limited Liability Company (LLC)

An LLC is a flexible business structure combining features of a company and a partnership (formed under the Limited Liability Company Act). It provides a separate legal entity with limited liability for members and a flexible management structure without the requirement for a traditional shareholder/director model.

See Section 4 for a full discussion of LLCs.

□ **Relevant Legislation:** <https://www.commercialregistry.ai/legislation>

3.2.3 Limited Partnership (LP)

A limited partnership consists of General Partner(s) who manage the business and are fully liable, and Limited Partner(s) who contribute capital and have limited liability (formed under the Limited Partnership Act).

See Section 5 for a full discussion of LPs.

□ **Relevant Legislation:** <https://www.commercialregistry.ai/legislation>

3.3 Beneficial Ownership Requirements

All registered entities in Anguilla — including Business Companies, LLCs, and LPs — must comply with beneficial ownership rules under the Commercial Registry and Beneficial Ownership Registration System Act (CROBORS Act). These requirements ensure transparency while protecting legitimate privacy.

A beneficial owner is generally any natural person who ultimately owns or controls 25% or more of the entity (through shares, voting rights, or other means), or who exercises significant control over its activities.

Main obligations include:

- Identifying all beneficial owners at the time of formation
- Filing the information with your licensed company manager, who submits it to the secure Beneficial Ownership Register
- Updating the information within 14 days of any change (e.g., new owners or changes in control)
- Maintaining accurate records

Access to the Register

The information is held securely and is accessible primarily to the Anguilla Financial Services Commission (AFSC), law enforcement, and other competent authorities for legitimate purposes.

□ **Relevant Legislation:** <https://www.commercialregistry.ai/legislation>

3.4 Use of Licensed Company Managers (Registered Agents)

All registered entities in Anguilla — including companies, LLCs, and limited partnerships — must be established and maintained through a locally licensed service provider, commonly referred to as a Registered Agent or Company Manager.

Their role includes:





- submitting incorporation documents
- maintaining statutory records
- ensuring compliance with applicable laws
- acting as the official intermediary with the Registry

Important

You cannot directly register or maintain these entities on your own. A licensed company manager is required.

□ **Company Manager Directory:** <https://www.commercialregistry.ai>

COMPARING BUSINESS STRUCTURES

	 LLC	 COMPANY (INC)	 LP	 SOLE PROPRIETORSHIP
Liability	Limited	Limited	Limited	Full
Formation	Registered Agent Required	Registered Agent Required	Partnership Agreement	Easy, No Registration
Costs	Moderate	Moreate Moderate to High	Moderate to High	Moderate
Taxes	Tax-Neutral (Optional election)	Tax-Neutral (Optional election)	Taxed as Corporation	Pass-through Taxation
Administration	Simpler	More Formal	Moderate	Minimal

4. Limited Liability Companies (LLCs)

4.1 What is a Limited Liability Company (LLC)?

A Limited Liability Company (LLC) is a business structure that combines features of both a company and a partnership. An LLC is a separate legal entity, meaning it exists independently from its owners (known as members). It provides limited liability protection while allowing flexibility in how the business is structured and managed.

□ **Relevant Legislation — Limited Liability Company Act:**
<https://www.commercialregistry.ai/legislation>

4.2 Key Features of an LLC

1. Separate Legal Identity

The LLC can enter into contracts, own property, and operate independently of its members.

2. Limited Liability

Members are generally not personally responsible for the debts of the LLC. If the LLC incurs liabilities, the personal assets of its members are usually protected.

3. Flexible Management Structure

Unlike companies, LLCs do not require a strict structure of directors and shareholders. An LLC can be member-managed (owners run the business) or manager-managed (appointed persons manage operations).

4. Operating Agreement

LLCs are typically governed by an Operating Agreement, which sets out ownership percentages, management roles, profit distribution, and decision-making procedures.

5. Perpetual Existence

An LLC can continue to exist even if members change, depending on how it is structured.

4.3 When to Use an LLC

An LLC is particularly useful where flexibility and shared ownership are important. Common use cases include joint ventures, investment structures, family-owned businesses with multiple stakeholders, businesses requiring customised profit-sharing arrangements, and holding companies.

4.4 Comparison with a Business Company

Feature	LLC	Company
Owners	Members	Shareholders
Management	Flexible	Directors
Structure	Customisable	More formal
Governing document	Operating Agreement	Articles & Bye-Laws
Best use case	Joint ventures, flexible arrangements	Growth, financing, formal operations

4.5 Requirement for a Registered Agent

All LLCs in Anguilla must be established and maintained through a licensed company manager (registered agent). A licensed service provider is required — you cannot register or maintain an LLC independently.

- ❑ **Company Manager Directory:** <https://www.commercialregistry.ai>

5. Limited Partnerships (LPs)

5.1 What is a Limited Partnership?

A Limited Partnership (LP) is a business structure that allows for a combination of active management and passive investment. An LP consists of General Partner(s) and Limited Partner(s). A Limited Partnership separates control of the business from financial investment.

□ **Relevant Legislation — Limited Partnership Act:** <https://www.commercialregistry.ai/legislation>

5.2 General Partners vs Limited Partners

General Partner (GP)	Limited Partner (LP)
Controls day-to-day operations	Contributes capital only
Makes business decisions	Does not participate in management
Assumes full liability	Liability limited to investment amount

5.3 Key Features of a Limited Partnership

- Clear separation between management and investment roles
- Limited liability protection for investors beyond their contribution
- Flexible profit-sharing arrangements between partners
- Governed by a Partnership Agreement detailing roles, capital contributions, profit distribution, and decision-making authority

5.4 Typical Use Cases

Limited Partnerships are commonly used for investment funds, real estate projects, private equity arrangements, joint ventures with passive investors, and structured financing arrangements.

5.5 Comparison with LLCs and Companies

Feature	Limited Partnership	LLC / Company
Management	General Partner	Flexible (LLC) / Directors (Company)
Investors	Limited Partners	Members (LLC) / Shareholders (Company)
Liability	GP: Unlimited / LP: Limited	Limited for all members
Structure	Agreement-based	Flexible (LLC) / Formal (Company)
Best use case	Investment structures	Joint ventures / Growth businesses

5.6 Requirement for a Registered Agent

As with companies and LLCs, Limited Partnerships must be established and maintained through a licensed company manager (registered agent).

- **Company Manager Directory:** <https://www.commercialregistry.ai>



6. Company Naming and Suffix Options

6.1 Overview of Company Names

When registering a business entity in Anguilla, a name must be selected and approved. The name must be unique (not already in use), not misleading or restricted, and approved by the Commercial Registry. Most registered entities are required to include an approved suffix that identifies the legal nature of the entity.

6.2 Standard Suffix Options

Common suffixes used in Anguilla include: Ltd, Limited, Inc, Corporation. These suffixes indicate that the entity is incorporated and operates as a separate legal person.

6.3 The .ai Suffix — Anguilla Incorporated

Anguilla offers a distinctive and modern suffix: ".ai" — meaning Anguilla Incorporated. This suffix can be used as the legal ending of a registered entity formed under the relevant legislation.

Important Clarification

The .ai suffix is a legal company designation — not the same as a domain name. It does not replace the need to register a company. A company named "Example.ai" is a legally registered entity, not just a website or domain.

6.4 Use of .ai Across Entity Types

The .ai suffix may be applied, where permitted, to different types of registered entities, including Business Companies, Limited Liability Companies (LLCs), and Limited Partnerships (LPs). The .ai suffix is not limited to one structure — it can be used across different entity types depending on how the business is formed.

6.5 Strategic Advantages of the .ai Suffix

The .ai suffix provides a unique opportunity for businesses to differentiate themselves globally.

- Global Recognition — the term "AI" is widely associated with artificial intelligence and innovation.
- Strong Branding Potential — businesses using the .ai suffix can position themselves as modern and forward-thinking.
- Unique to Anguilla — this designation is directly linked to Anguilla, creating a distinctive identity in international markets.
- Suitable for Digital and International Businesses — particularly effective for technology companies, digital services, consulting firms, online platforms, and intellectual property holding entities.

6.6 Suitable Use Cases

The .ai suffix is especially appropriate for technology and AI-focused businesses, online and remote service providers, digital marketing and media companies, consulting firms with international clients, startups seeking strong global branding, and businesses operating in innovation-driven sectors.

6.7 Important Considerations

Before selecting a .ai suffix, business owners should consider whether the branding aligns with their business activity, how the name will be perceived by customers and partners, and whether the structure supports its intended use. The .ai suffix enhances branding, but it does not change the legal obligations of the entity.

BRANDING YOUR COMPANY WITH .AI

BEFORE **AFTER**

Dash Technology Ltd. Vision Media **.ai** Dash.ai Vision.ai

BEFORE **AFTER**

- Longer
- Plain
- Local

.ai

- Modern
- Tech-Savvy
- Distinct

Dash.ai Technology Ltd. Vision.ai Neptune.ai OceanView.ai

Adding **.ai** enhances your brand and highlights your connection to Anguilla.

7. Choosing the Right Business Structure

Selecting the appropriate business structure is one of the most important decisions you will make when starting a business in Anguilla. The structure you choose will affect your personal liability, how the business is managed, your ability to raise capital, your regulatory obligations, and your long-term growth potential. There is no single best structure — only the one that best fits your specific circumstances.

7.1 Key Differences Between Structures

Structure	Key Characteristics
Sole Proprietorship	Simple, low-cost, full personal liability
General Partnership	Shared ownership, all partners personally liable
Company	Structured, widely recognised, limited liability
LLC	Flexible, customisable, limited liability
Limited Partnership	Investment-focused, separation of management and capital

7.2 Liability Considerations

Sole proprietorships and general partnerships carry unlimited personal liability — the owner(s) are personally responsible for all debts and obligations. Companies, LLCs, and Limited Partnerships (for limited partners) offer limited liability protection, where the business is legally separate and personal assets are generally protected.

Practical Guidance

If your business involves risk, contracts, employees, or borrowing, a limited liability structure is strongly recommended.

7.3 Practical Decision Guide

- Choose a Sole Proprietorship if you are starting small, want minimal setup, and are comfortable with personal liability.
- Choose a Partnership if starting with one or more persons in a simple arrangement with a clear agreement.
- Choose a Company if you want limited liability, plan to grow or borrow funds, or want a widely recognised structure.
- Choose an LLC if you want flexibility in ownership and management, or are entering a joint venture.
- Choose a Limited Partnership if structuring an investment with passive investors and want to separate management from capital.

8. Business Companies in Anguilla

8.1 What is a Business Company?

A Business Company is a legal entity incorporated under Anguilla's Business Companies Act. It is one of the most commonly used structures for both local and international business activities. A company is treated as a separate legal person — it can enter into contracts, own assets, borrow money, and operate independently of its owners.

□ **Relevant Legislation — Business Companies Act:** <https://www.commercialregistry.ai/legislation>

8.2 Key Features of a Company

- Limited Liability — shareholders are generally not personally responsible for the debts of the company.
- Separate Legal Identity — the company exists independently from its owners.
- Perpetual Existence — the company continues even if ownership or management changes.
- Structured Governance — operates through shareholders (owners) and directors (managers).
- Credibility and Recognition — widely recognised and preferred by banks, investors, and international partners.

8.3 Shareholders and Directors

Shareholders are the owners of the company. They invest capital, own shares, receive dividends, and appoint directors. Directors are responsible for managing the company — making strategic decisions, overseeing operations, ensuring compliance, and acting in the best interests of the company. Ownership and management can be separated.

8.4 Role of the Registered Agent / Company Manager

All companies in Anguilla must be established and maintained through a licensed company manager (registered agent). Responsibilities include submitting incorporation documents, maintaining statutory records, ensuring compliance with applicable laws, and acting as the official point of contact with the Commercial Registry.

□ **Company Manager Directory:** <https://www.commercialregistry.ai>

8.5 Use of the CRES System

All company registrations and filings are conducted through the Corporate Registry Electronic System (CRES). This system allows licensed company managers to register new entities, file updates and changes, submit required documents, and maintain company records.

□ **CRES System:** <https://www.cres.gov.ai>

8.6 Ongoing Obligations

Once a company is incorporated, certain obligations must be maintained. These typically include maintaining a registered agent, paying annual fees, keeping proper records, and complying with applicable laws and regulations. Incorporation is not a one-time process — companies must remain compliant on an ongoing basis.

MEETING ECONOMIC SUBSTANCE REQUIREMENTS

Key Obligations for Anguilla-based Companies



PHYSICAL PRESENCE

Maintain a staffed office in Anguilla where core business activities are performed



CORE INCOME-GENERATING ACTIVITIES

Carry out essential activities locally (e.g., management, R&D, banking)



QUALIFIED EMPLOYEES

Employ skilled staff in Anguilla who conduct and oversee local business operations



PROPORTIONATE EXPENDITURE

Make expenditures in Anguilla proportionate to the business activities conducted

Demonstrating substance is essential for compliance and accessing international markets.



9. Economic Substance Requirements

9.1 What is Economic Substance?

Economic Substance refers to a set of rules that require certain businesses to demonstrate that they have real operations in Anguilla, rather than existing only on paper. In practical terms, a business may be required to show that it is directed and managed in Anguilla, conducts its core income-generating activities locally, and has adequate staff, expenditure, and physical presence in Anguilla.

What this means

Simply registering a company in Anguilla is not always sufficient. Some businesses must demonstrate actual economic activity within the jurisdiction.

9.2 Relevant Activities

Economic Substance requirements generally apply to businesses engaged in certain defined activities, commonly referred to as relevant activities. These may include banking, insurance, fund management, financing and leasing, headquarters activities, shipping, intellectual property holding, and distribution and service centre activities.

9.3 Who Must Comply

Typically, the rules apply to companies, LLCs, and certain other registered entities that carry out relevant activities. A company that does not conduct a relevant activity may not be required to meet full economic substance requirements, but may still have reporting obligations.

9.4 Practical Implications for Businesses

If Economic Substance requirements apply, businesses may need to hold meetings in Anguilla, maintain local management or decision-making presence, incur operating expenditure in Anguilla, maintain appropriate records, and demonstrate that activities are carried out locally.

9.5 Reporting and Compliance

Entities that fall within scope may be required to file Economic Substance reports, provide details of activities and operations, and demonstrate compliance annually. Failure to comply may result in financial penalties, regulatory action, and potential restrictions on operations.

9.6 Importance of Proper Structuring

Economic Substance requirements should be considered at the time of forming a business, not after. Choosing the wrong structure or misunderstanding your obligations can lead to compliance issues later.

9.7 Role of Company Managers and Advisors

Licensed company managers play an important role in advising on whether Economic Substance applies, assisting with filings and reporting, and ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements. Business owners should work closely with their company manager and professional advisors to ensure they understand and meet all obligations.

9.8 Recent Guidance and Updates

The Registrar issues periodic guidance on economic substance. Detailed Economic Substance Guidance Notes provide practical clarification on what constitutes adequate presence, core income-generating activities, and reporting. Requirements continue to evolve in line with international standards.

Important

Always check the Commercial Registry website or ask your company manager for the most recent guidance notes, as international standards continue to evolve.

- **Economic Substance Guidance — Commercial Registry:** <https://www.commercialregistry.ai>

BENEFITS OF ECONOMIC SUBSTANCE IN ANGUILLA

Advantages of Ensuring a Real Business Presence

- ACCESS TO GLOBAL MARKETS**
Be recognized as a legitimate entity in international business
- TAX COMPLIANCE**
Meet international regulations and benefit from Anguilla's favorable tax regime
- ENHANCED REPUTATION**
Demonstrate credibility and substance to partners, investors, and regulators
- INCREASED BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES**
Strengthen your position for growth and investment

Having real substance in Anguilla opens doors to global opportunities and fosters long-term growth.

10. How to Register a Business in Anguilla

Registering a business in Anguilla depends on the type of structure you choose. The process differs between unincorporated businesses (sole proprietorships and partnerships) and registered entities (companies, LLCs, and limited partnerships).

10.1 Registering Sole Proprietorships and Partnerships

Sole proprietorships and general partnerships are handled through the Inland Revenue Department.

- Step 1 — Choose a Business Name
- Step 2 — Register with Inland Revenue (provide identification, details of the business activity, and register for tax purposes where applicable)
- Step 3 — Obtain a Trade Licence (if required)
- Step 4 — Secure Any Additional Approvals (health permits, tourism licences, sector-specific permissions)

10.2 Registering Companies, LLCs, and Limited Partnerships

Companies, LLCs, and Limited Partnerships are registered through the Commercial Registry using licensed service providers. You must use a licensed company manager (registered agent) to establish and maintain these entities.

- Step 1 — Choose and Reserve a Name (include an approved suffix, submit for approval through your company manager)
- Step 2 — Engage a Licensed Company Manager
- Step 3 — Prepare Required Documents (shareholder/member details, director/manager details, identification and due diligence documents, business activity description)
- Step 4 — Submit Application via CRES
- Step 5 — Receive Certificate of Incorporation or Registration

Key Reminder

Once incorporated, your entity legally exists — but may still require licences before operating.

- **Commercial Registry:** <https://www.commercialregistry.ai>
- **CRES System:** <https://www.cres.gov.ai>

10.3 Required Documents (General Guide)

While requirements may vary, most registrations will require valid identification (passport or national ID), proof of address, ownership details, business activity description, and contact information. Additional documents may include business plans, source of funds information, and professional references.

10.4 Additional Requirements for Non-Belongers (International Applicants)

International investors and non-Anguillians often face slightly more detailed requirements during registration and licensing. Typical extra documents may include a recent police record (covering the last 10 years), three character reference letters, proof of financial ability or bank reference, a business plan, and source of funds information.

These requirements support anti-money laundering and due diligence standards. For businesses involving foreign ownership or management, additional approvals such as work permits may also be needed before operations can begin.

Practical tip: Work closely with your licensed company manager — they are experienced in preparing complete packages that meet both local and international expectations.



11. Licensing and Regulatory Requirements

Registering a business in Anguilla does not automatically grant permission to operate. Most businesses must obtain one or more licences or approvals before commencing operations.

11.1 Trade Licences

A trade licence is the primary approval required to legally operate most businesses in Anguilla. It is typically required if your business involves selling goods, providing services, operating from a physical location, or engaging with the public. You must obtain a trade licence before beginning operations, even if your business is already registered.

11.2 Sector-Specific Approvals

Sector	Additional Approvals Required
Food and Beverage	Health inspections, food handling approvals
Tourism-Related	Accommodation approvals, transport or excursion licences
Construction	Planning permissions, environmental approvals
Transport Services	Vehicle licensing, route approvals

11.3 The Importance of a Business Plan

There are four primary reasons to prepare a business plan:

- To obtain a business licence — some applications require a clear explanation of the business model and operations.
- To open a business bank account — financial institutions may request business activity details, expected revenue, ownership structure, and source of funds.
- To secure financing (loans or investors) — a business plan is essential for loan applications, investor presentations, and funding proposals.
- To test the viability of your idea — a properly prepared business plan helps you assess startup costs, project revenue and expenses, identify risks, and determine financial viability.

11.4 Ongoing Licensing Obligations

Once a licence is granted, businesses are required to renew licences annually where applicable, comply with conditions of approval, and maintain required standards (health, safety, etc.). Licensing is not a one-time process — businesses must remain compliant throughout their operation.

LICENSING YOUR BUSINESS



GATHER REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Collect business plan, proof of ID, and other necessary paperwork



OBTAIN NECESSARY APPROVALS

Submit paperwork to relevant authorities (e.g., ACC, FSC)



SET UP A BUSINESS BANK ACCOUNT

Establish a local bank account to manage your business funds



CONFIRM BUSINESS LOCATION

Ensure your business location meets zoning requirements

Completing these steps ensures your business meets Anguillian regulatory requirements.

www.commercialregistry.ai

12. Financial and Banking Readiness

Establishing a business is not only a legal process — it is also a financial one. Proper financial planning is essential to ensure that your business can start, operate, and grow successfully.

12.1 Opening a Business Bank Account

Opening a business bank account is a critical step after registration. Financial institutions are required to conduct due diligence before onboarding new clients. Banks may require identification of owners and directors, proof of address, details of the business activity, source of funds, expected transaction activity, and supporting documentation including business plans in some cases.

12.2 Financial Projections

Financial projections are a key component of business planning. Typical projections include startup costs (equipment, inventory, setup expenses), revenue forecasts (expected sales or income), operating expenses (rent, utilities, wages, supplies), cash flow projections (timing of income and expenses), and profit and loss statements.

12.3 Preparing for Financing

If you intend to seek financing, preparation is essential. Lenders and investors typically assess the strength of your business plan, financial projections, management capability, market demand, and risk factors. Clearly define your business model, demonstrate realistic financial assumptions, show how funds will be used, and outline repayment or return expectations.

12.4 Common Reasons Applications Fail

Applications for bank accounts or financing may be declined due to incomplete or unclear documentation, lack of a business plan, unrealistic financial projections, unclear source of funds, and poorly defined business activity. Clarity, consistency, and preparation are essential — most rejections can be avoided with proper documentation and planning.

12.5 Note on Costs and Fees

Business setup and ongoing compliance involve various government and professional fees. These typically include incorporation/registration government fees, annual licence or renewal fees, registered agent/company manager fees, trade licence fees (which vary based on the type of business, stock value or turnover, and belonger status), work permit fees where applicable, and stamp duty on certain documents or transactions.

Important

Exact fees change over time and depend on the specific structure and activities. Budget for both one-time setup costs and recurring annual obligations. Always confirm the latest amounts directly with the Commercial Registry, Inland Revenue Department, or your service provider.

13. Operating Your Business

Once your business has been registered and licensed, the next phase is ongoing operation. This involves maintaining proper systems, meeting regulatory obligations, and managing day-to-day activities effectively.

13.1 Record Keeping and Accounting

All businesses, regardless of size, should maintain proper records. Key records include income and sales records, expense receipts and invoices, bank statements, payroll records, and contracts and agreements. Accurate records allow you to understand how your business is performing and ensure you meet regulatory requirements.

13.2 Staffing and Employment Considerations

If your business employs staff, you must manage employment responsibilities in accordance with applicable laws and standards in Anguilla.

Key considerations:

- Defining roles and responsibilities clearly
- Preparing written employment agreements
- Maintaining payroll records
- Ensuring fair and lawful employment practices
- Complying with minimum wage requirements

Minimum Wage Requirements

Employers are required to comply with the minimum wage provisions established under Anguilla law. Minimum wage rates may vary depending on job category, sector, and updates to legislation. Employers should confirm the current minimum wage rates before hiring staff to ensure compliance.

Employment Law and Compliance

Employment relationships in Anguilla are governed by the Labour Act, which outlines employee rights, employer responsibilities, working conditions, termination procedures, and dispute resolution. Failure to comply with employment laws can result in disputes, penalties, and reputational damage.

□ **Labour Act / Department of Labour:** <https://www.gov.ai/service/immigration--labour>

Staffing and Recruitment Services

Businesses seeking to hire staff in Anguilla can benefit from working with local employment and recruitment service providers, who assist with matching employers to suitable candidates across a range of sectors.

Work-Bridge.ai is a locally-based employment services provider offering staffing and recruitment solutions to businesses in Anguilla. Whether you need to fill permanent, temporary, or contract positions, Work-Bridge connects employers with qualified candidates across key sectors including hospitality, construction, retail, and professional services.

□ **Work-Bridge.ai — Employment Services:** <https://www.work-bridge.ai>

13.3 Location, Utilities, and Setup

Your business location and operational setup play an important role in efficiency and customer experience. Key considerations include choosing an appropriate location, ensuring accessibility for customers, securing necessary utilities (electricity, water, internet), and maintaining a safe and suitable environment. For home-based businesses, ensure the activity is permitted and confirm whether licences or approvals are required.

13.4 Ongoing Compliance Obligations

All businesses must meet ongoing legal and regulatory requirements. These may include renewing trade licences, maintaining registration status, paying applicable fees, complying with sector-specific regulations, and maintaining required health and safety standards. For registered entities (companies, LLCs, LPs), this includes maintaining a registered agent, keeping statutory records, and meeting filing and reporting obligations.

13.5 Work Permits and Immigration Considerations for Non-Belongers

If you or key personnel in your business are not Anguillian belongers, you will likely need a work permit to live and work legally in Anguilla.

Key features:

- All job vacancies must generally be advertised locally before a work permit can be approved
- There are four main types: Self-employed, Employee, Renewal, and Temporary
- Permits are typically granted for up to 4 years, with possible extensions in certain cases
- Multi-year work permits are available in some sectors

Typical requirements for a work permit application:

- Copy of the job advertisement
- Completed application form
- Passport and birth certificate
- Police record (last 10 years)
- Academic or professional qualifications
- Recent medical examination report
- Passport-sized photographs
- Proof of accommodation
- Social Security and tax clearance documents (from employer side)

Note

A work permit is separate from business registration or trade licensing. Even if you own the company, you may still need one to work in it on a day-to-day basis. Anguilla also offers a remote work programme for those working remotely for non-Anguillian employers, which may suit certain digital or consulting businesses.

□ **Immigration and Labour Department:** <https://www.gov.ai/service/immigration--labour>

13.6 Customer Service and Business Reputation

In a small and connected environment such as Anguilla, reputation is a key factor in business success. Consistency of service, reliability, responsiveness, and professionalism contribute to repeat business and long-term success.

13.7 Growth and Continuous Improvement

Once your business is operational, monitor performance, review financial results, adjust pricing or operations where necessary, and identify opportunities for growth. Businesses should not remain static — continuous improvement is essential for long-term sustainability.

OPERATING YOUR BUSINESS IN ANGUILLA

- MODERN WORKSPACES**
Access professional office spaces or co-working facilities
- QUALITY STAFF**
Hire local, skilled employees and provide fair wages
- RELIABLE INFRASTRUCTURE**
Benefit from stable utilities, high-speed internet, and modern amenities
- LOCAL PARTNERS & RESOURCES**
Connect with local service providers, advisors, and experts

Anguilla's infrastructure and skilled workforce provide a foundation for your business success.

www.commercialregistry.ai

14. Common Mistakes to Avoid

Many challenges faced by business owners are not due to the idea itself, but due to avoidable mistakes made at the early stages. Being aware of these common issues can help you make better decisions and improve your chances of success.

14.1 Choosing the Wrong Business Structure

Operating a high-risk business as a sole proprietor, entering a partnership without a formal agreement, or choosing a structure that does not support future growth can expose you to unnecessary liability and make it difficult to expand or secure financing.

14.2 Starting Without a Business Plan

Many businesses are started without proper planning — underestimating startup costs, overestimating revenue, failing to plan for cash flow, and not identifying potential risks. A business plan is essential for obtaining a business licence, opening a bank account, securing financing, and assessing viability.

14.3 Confusing Registration with Permission to Operate

Registration creates the legal entity. Licensing grants permission to operate. Operating without the required licences can result in penalties or closure of the business.

14.4 Ignoring Economic Substance Requirements

Businesses sometimes fail to determine whether Economic Substance rules apply to their activities, resulting in non-compliance with reporting obligations, financial penalties, and regulatory action. Understanding your obligations at the outset helps avoid compliance issues later.

14.5 Poor Financial Management

Mixing personal and business finances, failing to keep proper records, not tracking expenses, and lack of budgeting are among the leading causes of business failure. Without proper financial management, it is difficult to assess performance or make informed decisions.

14.6 Weak or Incomplete Documentation

Incomplete or unclear documentation can delay business registration, licence approvals, bank account opening, and financing applications. Proper documentation is critical to moving efficiently through the setup process.

14.7 Not Understanding Regulatory Requirements

Lack of awareness of the full range of obligations — including licensing requirements, employment laws, ongoing compliance obligations, and sector-specific regulations — can lead to non-compliance, penalties, or disruption of operations.

14.8 Failing to Seek Advice When Needed

Some business owners attempt to manage all aspects of setup and operation without guidance. Seeking advice early can save time, reduce risk, and improve outcomes.

15. Business Start-Up Checklist

The following checklist provides a practical step-by-step guide to help you move from business idea to operation.

15.1 Business Planning and Preparation

- Define your business idea clearly
- Identify your target market and customers
- Determine your products or services
- Estimate startup costs
- Prepare financial projections
- Assess risks and viability

15.2 Choose the Appropriate Business Structure

- Decide between Sole Proprietorship, Partnership, Company, LLC, or Limited Partnership
- Consider liability, growth, and operational needs
- Seek professional advice if unsure

15.3 Select and Approve Business Name

- Choose a suitable business name
- Ensure the name is available
- Select appropriate suffix (e.g. Ltd, Inc, .ai) if applicable
- Submit for approval via company manager if required

15.4 Register the Business

- Register with Inland Revenue (for sole proprietorship or partnership), OR
- Engage a licensed company manager (for companies, LLCs, LPs)
- Submit required documents
- Obtain certificate of registration/incorporation

15.5 Obtain Licences and Approvals

- Apply for trade licence
- Identify and obtain sector-specific approvals if required
- Complete inspections if applicable
- Receive approval before commencing operations

15.6 Set Up Financial Systems

- Open a business bank account
- Prepare or finalise business plan if required
- Set up accounting and record-keeping system
- Separate personal and business finances

15.7 Secure Location and Operational Setup

- Identify business location if applicable
- Confirm zoning or approval requirements

- Arrange utilities (electricity, water, internet)
- Acquire equipment and supplies

15.8 Staffing (If Applicable)

- Determine staffing needs
 - Prepare employment agreements
 - Confirm minimum wage requirements
 - Ensure compliance with the Labour Act
 - Consider engaging a local employment services provider if needed
- Labour Act / Employment Guidance:** <https://www.gov.ai/service/immigration--labour>
- Staffing and Recruitment — Work-Bridge.ai:** <https://www.work-bridge.ai>

15.9 Compliance and Ongoing Requirements

- Maintain business records
- Renew licences annually
- Maintain registered agent (for companies, LLCs, LPs)
- Monitor regulatory obligations
- Confirm Economic Substance requirements if applicable



16. How ShoCash Can Help

Starting and operating a business involves multiple steps, decisions, and requirements. ShoCash provides practical business support services designed to assist entrepreneurs, business owners, and investors at every stage of the business lifecycle.

16.1 Business Plans and Proposals

ShoCash prepares structured, professional business plans tailored to your specific needs — for trade licence applications, bank account opening, loan applications, and investor presentations. A well-prepared business plan increases credibility and improves the likelihood of approval from regulators, banks, and investors.

16.2 Financial Projections

ShoCash can assist with startup cost analysis, revenue forecasting, expense projections, cash flow planning, and profit and loss statements. Clear financial projections help you understand your business and demonstrate its viability to others.

16.3 Business Structuring Advice

ShoCash provides guidance on selecting the appropriate structure (company, LLC, partnership, etc.), understanding liability implications, and aligning structure with business goals. The right structure supports growth, reduces risk, and avoids complications later.

16.4 Licensing and Setup Guidance

ShoCash can assist in preparing for trade licence applications, regulatory approvals, and business setup requirements. Proper preparation reduces delays and improves the chances of approval.

16.5 Investor and Bank Readiness

ShoCash helps businesses prepare for financing applications, investor engagement, and formal business presentations. Businesses that are properly prepared are more likely to secure funding and establish strong financial relationships.

□ ShoCash Proposals: <https://www.shocash.ai>

17. Key Resources and Links

17.1 Commercial Registry

The Commercial Registry is responsible for the registration of companies, LLCs, and limited partnerships.

- **Commercial Registry:** <https://www.commercialregistry.ai>

17.2 Corporate Registry Electronic System (CRES)

CRES is the electronic system used for registering entities, filing documents, and maintaining records.

- **CRES System:** <https://www.cres.gov.ai>

17.3 Company Manager (Registered Agent) Directory

All companies, LLCs, and limited partnerships must be established and maintained through licensed company managers.

- **Company Manager Directory:** <https://www.commercialregistry.ai>

17.4 Relevant Legislation

Business activities in Anguilla are governed by various laws, including the Business Companies Act, Limited Liability Company Act, Limited Partnership Act, and the Commercial Registry and Beneficial Ownership Registration System Act.

- **Legislation Repository:** <https://www.commercialregistry.ai/legislation>

17.5 Labour Act and Employment Guidance

Employers must comply with labour laws, including minimum wage requirements and employment standards.

- **Labour Act / Immigration and Labour Department:** <https://www.gov.ai/service/immigration--labour>

17.6 Employment and Staffing Services

Work-Bridge.ai is a locally-based employment services provider connecting employers with qualified candidates across Anguilla's key economic sectors. Businesses requiring assistance with staffing and recruitment can reach out directly.

- **Work-Bridge.ai — Employment Services:** <https://www.work-bridge.ai>

17.7 Beneficial Ownership Register Information

- **Beneficial Ownership — Commercial Registry:** <https://www.commercialregistry.ai>

17.8 Government of Anguilla

For access to government services, departments, and additional regulatory information.

- **Government of Anguilla:** <https://www.gov.ai>

17.9 ShoCash Proposals

For business plan preparation, financial projections, structuring advice, and licensing support.

- **ShoCash Proposals:** <https://www.shocash.ai>

Note: Requirements, fees, and procedures may change over time. Business owners are encouraged to confirm current requirements with the relevant authorities or licensed service providers.

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www.shocash.ai