Establishment

The Ghana Free Zones Authority (GFZA) was established on 31st August, 1995 by an Act of Parliament – the Free Zone Act, 1995 (Act 504), to enable the establishment of free zones in Ghana for the promotion of economic development; to provide for the regulation of activities in free zones and for related purposes. The Authority has nine members appointed by the President in consultation with the Council of State. The Board is chaired by the Minister of Trade and Industry. The day-to-day activities of the Authority are managed by a Secretariat headed by a Chief Executive.

Services provided

- Provides information on investment opportunities in the free zone
- Issues licenses to approved Free Zone Enterprises
- Assists in securing other permits from related agencies
- Provides facilities i.e. serviced land and utilities at the Export Processing Zones
- Provides any other services requested by investors
Why locate in Ghana?

Ghana is strategically located within West Africa with easy access to one of Africa’s biggest markets with a population of about 400 million people. Ghana’s location together with its relative stability makes Ghana a gateway for regional trade and investment. Among other factors that make Ghana unique as an investment destination of choice in the sub-region are:

- A stable political environment within the West African sub region.
- Abundant, easily trainable and bilingual labour force, ideal to serve the English and French market.
- A competitive daily minimum wage rate.
- No restrictions on issuance of work and residence permits to free zone investors and employees.
- Duty free access of manufactured exports to USA (AGOA) and European Union markets.
- Excellent sea and air connections with Europe and USA.
- An already existing industrial base.
- Availability of a stock exchange as well as other bank and non-banking financial institutions.
- A dynamic private sector willing to partner foreign investors.
- A committed and progressive government to private sector participation.
- Headquarters for AFCFTA.
Incentives

To attract investors into the Ghana Free Zones Scheme, the GFZA offers extensive and generous incentives to potential investors.

The tax base incentives offered include:

1. 100% exemption from payment of direct and indirect duties and levies on all imports for production and exports from free zone.

2. 100% exemption from payment of income tax on profits for 10 years which will not exceed 15 per cent thereafter.

3. Total exemption from payment of withholding taxes from dividends arising out of free zone investments.

4. Relief from double taxation for foreign investors and employees where Ghana has a double taxation agreement with the country of the investors or employees.

5. No import licensing requirements.

100% ownership of shares by any investor foreign or national in a free zone enterprise is allowed.

Free Zone investments are also guaranteed against nationalization and expropriation.

At least 70% of annual production of goods and services of Free Zone Enterprises must be exported; consequently up to 30% of annual production of goods and services of a free zone enterprise are authorized for sale in the local market.

There are no conditions or restrictions on: repatriation of dividends or net profit; payments for foreign loan servicing; payments of fees and charges for technology transfer agreements; and remittance of proceeds from sale of any interest in a free zone investment.

Free Zone investors are permitted to operate foreign currency accounts with banks in Ghana.
Approved sectors:
- Manufacturing
- Service
- Commercial
- Developer

Investment opportunities:
- Agro Food Processing
- Floriculture
- Information and Communication Technology (ICT)
- Downstream Petrochemical
- Textile/apparel Manufacturing
- Seafood Processing
- Jewellery/Handicraft Production
- Ceramic Tile Manufacturing
- Metal Fabrication
- Pharmaceuticals
- Ethnic Beauty Products
- Light industry/Assembling Plant
- Research, Development & incubation
Enclaves

TEMA EXPORT PROCESSING ZONE

The Tema Export Processing Zone (TEPZ) is located in Tema, a major residential and industrial city. Tema has the largest seaport in Ghana and is located about 24 kilometres from the Accra International Airport.

The Tema EPZ has a total area of 1,200 acres (480 hectares) and offers investors a favourable and conducive environment for Manufacturing, Service and Commercial value addition export activities.

The Tema EPZ is well service with the following offsite facilities and on-site infrastructure;

- Good roads
- A dedicated electricity system
- Water distribution system
- Central sewerage system
- Telecommunication infrastructure
- Securitized enclosures

ASHANTI TECHNOLOGY PARK

The Technology Park is located at Boankra in the Ashanti Region. It adjacent to the Ghana proposed Inland Port. It has a total area of 1099 acres (444.75 hectares). The existing railway line from Accra to Kumasi traverse the Ashanti Technology Park. The Industrial sectors specially earmark for the area includes;

- ICT/ Cyber village
- Cocoa processing
- Light industrial manufacturing
- Heavy industrial manufacturing
- Warehouse and Logistics Services
- Social Service Center
- Bio-Technology Development

The Ashanti Technology Park is 20.7km (13miles) to Kumasi the capital of Ashanti Region. Kumasi has an Airport. Flight time between Kumasi and Accra is thirty (30) minutes and the distance by road from Accra to Kumasi is 252.5km.
SHAMA YABIW
INDUSTRIAL PARK

The Yabiw / Shama Industrial Park is located at the Shama District in the Western Region. The total land size of the industrial park is 2800 acres (1133.12 hectares).

It is earmark for downstream Oil & Gas activities. A portion of the Yabiw / Shama Industrial Park borders the sea making it ideal for the development of a jetty or mini port to link the main Takoradi Port which is about 2.1 km away.

SEKONDI
INDUSTRIAL PARK

The Sekondi Industrial Park is located at Sekondi-Takoradi, Ghana’s second Port City. The Industrial Park covers a total area of 2200 acres (890.30 hectares). It is earmarked for Heavy and Light industries as well as Warehousing.

The Western railway line to the Takoradi Port runs through the Sekondi Industrial Park. The Sekondi Industrial Park also boast of the supply of natural gas terminal from the Ghana Gas Company at Atuabo for use by prospective investors. Sekondi Takoradi has an Airport with regular flights from Accra. Flight time between Sekondi-Takoradi and Accra is thirty (30) minutes. Distance from Accra to Sekondi-Takoradi by road is 228.2 km.
Requirements for Free Zone Application

Free zone investors do not require any minimum capital investment. However, investors must indicate their ability to fulfill the minimum 70% export requirement. New investors are required to go through the following steps to obtain a free zone license.

**NEW INVESTMENTS**

- Duly completed Free Zone Application Form (US$ 200)
- Certificate of Incorporation
- Certificate to Commence Business
- Companies Regulation
- Business Plan/Feasibility Study
- Environmental Impact Assessment
- Evidence of Transfer of Funds/Funding
- Evidence to Export
- Evidence of Lease or Rental of Land/Facility Premises

In addition to the above,

EXISTING COMPANIES WISHING TO CONVERT TO FREE ZONE STATUS SHOULD SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING:

- Company’s Audited Accounts for 3 years
- SSNIT Clearance Certificate
- Tax Clearance Certificate
- Evidence to Add Value/Increase Employment

Below is the license fee and its renewal fee:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>License</th>
<th>Annual Renewal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>US$3,000</td>
<td>US$2,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commercial</td>
<td>US$10,000</td>
<td>US$5,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Service</td>
<td>US$4,000</td>
<td>US$3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developer</td>
<td>US$5,000</td>
<td>US$4,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>