



invest 
Qatar

LEGALLY SPEAKING

Invest Qatar Legal Newsletter

April 2025

Stay informed and up-to-date with the latest developments and valuable insights into Qatar's dynamic legal landscape.



▼ **Amiri Decision No. 13 of 2025, restructuring the Board of Directors of the Qatar Free Zones Authority (QFZ)**

- ▼ Amiri Decision No. 13 of 2025 Restructures Board of Directors of the Qatar Free Zones Authority, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani has issued Amiri Decision No. (13) of 2025, providing for the reconstitution of the Board of Directors of the Qatar Free Zones Authority (QFZ). Pursuant to the decision: HE Sheikh Faisal bin Thani bin Faisal Al Thani, Minister of Commerce and Industry, has been appointed as Chairperson of the Board. HE Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Thani, Minister of Transport, has been appointed as Vice Chairperson. The Board's membership also includes: HE Abdulaziz bin Nasser bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, President of the Civil Service and Government Development Bureau HE Akbar Al Baker, Advisor to His Excellency the Prime Minister, HE Ahmed bin Abdullah Al Jamal, Chairman of the General Authority of Customs, HE Mohammed Hassan Al Malki, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Sheikh Ali bin Al Waleed Al Thani, CEO of the Investment Promotion Agency Qatar (Invest Qatar), Mr. Yousuf Mohamed Al Jaida, CEO of the Qatar Financial Centre Authority. A representative from the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology. The decision also authorizes the Prime Minister to appoint additional members to the Board, provided they possess the necessary experience and qualifications. The Amiri Decision is effective from the date of its issuance and shall be published in the Official Gazette.

▼ [Link : Amir issues Amiri Decision restructuring QFZ Board | The Peninsula Qatar](#)



▼ **Amiri Decision No. 16 of 2025, establishing the Rawda Award for Excellence in Social Work**

- ▼ His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani issued Amiri Decision No. 16 of 2025, establishing the Rawda Award for Excellence in Social Work. This initiative underscores Qatar's commitment to fostering a culture of social responsibility and community engagement in Qatar. The Rawda Award aims to recognize and honor outstanding contributions in social work across various sectors. It encompasses five categories: individuals, families, non-profit organizations, the private sector, and media. The award is structured into three levels: the Rawda Award, the Shield of Excellence in Social Work, and a Certificate of Appreciation. to oversee the award's implementation, a Trustees Committee will be established within the Ministry of Social Development and Family. This committee will be chaired by the Minister of Social Development and Family, HE Buthaina bint Ali Al Jabr Al Nuaimi and include representatives from various ministries and governmental bodies, as well as experts in social work. Each entity will nominate a representative of at least department director level, with members appointed by the Minister.

▼ [Link to Law: Amir issues Amiri Decision establishing Rawda Award for Excellence in Social Work | The Peninsula Qatar](#)



▼ Qatar Central Bank launches 'Multiple Wallets per Mobile Number' feature through Qatar Mobile Payment System

- ▼ Announced via its official X account, Qatar Central Bank (QCB) has introduced a new feature within the Qatar Mobile Payment (QMP) system—"Multiple Wallets per Mobile Number"—marking a key milestone under the Third Financial Sector Strategy. The enhancement allows users to link up to two mobile wallets to a single mobile number, each issued by different payment service providers. This development empowers users to select and manage a default wallet for incoming transfers, while offering flexibility to switch default settings at any time. The move is intended to improve user experience, stimulate competition and innovation among payment providers, and reinforce financial inclusion in Qatar. QCB emphasised that this initiative reflects its commitment to advancing digital financial services and expanding access to mobile payments as part of its broader fintech and inclusion agenda.

▼ [Link : Qatar news agency](#)

▼ Law No. (6) of 2025 On the Regulation of Health Research

- ▼ Qatar's Official Gazette No. (09) of 2025 published Law No. (6) of 2025 on the Regulation of Health Research, introducing a comprehensive legal framework to govern all aspects of health-related research in the country. This law aims to enhance the quality of healthcare and ensure the ethical conduct of research, while safeguarding the rights, safety and dignity of participants. The law applies to all health research activities, including clinical, laboratory and animal studies; research institutions; review committees; researchers and biobanks operating in Qatar. Health research may only be conducted through licensed institutions and approved research ethics committees. Researchers must meet minimum qualifications and be registered with competent authorities. The law mandates informed consent, prohibits undue risk, ensures access to free medical care during participation and guarantees the right to withdraw from research at any time. It strictly regulates or prohibits certain practices, including human cloning, genetic enhancement, research on embryos and gametes and the use of embryonic stem cells, except under stringent ethical and legal conditions. A National Committee for Research Ethics is established under the Ministry of Public Health to review sensitive approvals and set national standards. A Health Research Oversight Committee will monitor compliance and recommend administrative measures or penalties in cases of violations. Violations of core provisions may result in administrative penalties, including suspension or revocation of licenses or criminal sanctions such as imprisonment and fines of up to QAR 1 million. Existing research entities and researchers must regularize their status within one year from the date the law takes effect. This law represents a significant advancement in Qatar's health governance and aligns national research practices with international bioethics and human rights standards.

▼ [Link to Law: Official Gazette No. \(09\) of 2025](#) (moj.gov.qa)





▼ **Law No. (22) of 2024 Amending Certain Provisions of the Income Tax Law Issued by Law No. (24) of 2018**

- ▼ Law No. (22) of 2024, published in Qatar's Official Gazette No. (08) of 2025, introduces key amendments to Qatar's Income Tax Law (Law No. 24 of 2018), primarily to align the country's tax framework with international standards, including the OECD's Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) initiatives and the Global Anti-Base Erosion (GloBE) rules under Pillar Two. The law applies retrospectively and takes effect from 1 January 2025, with a transition period ending no later than 31 December 2026. However, its provisions do not apply to any financial year ending after 30 June 2028. Key features of the amendment include introduction of minimum tax rules for multinational enterprises, strengthening of anti-avoidance provisions and alignment with the GloBE Pillar Two framework by introducing effective minimum taxation for large multinationals. The amendments also include empowerment of the Council of Ministers, Minister of Finance and the General Tax Authority to issue the necessary implementing regulations and guidelines. The amendment is a critical step toward reinforcing Qatar's compliance with global tax transparency and fairness standards, while maintaining competitiveness and encouraging responsible investment.

▼ [Link to Law: Official Gazette No. \(08\) of 2025](#) (moj.gov.qa)



▼ **Law No. (5) of 2025 Amending Certain Provisions of Law No. (1) of 2012 Regulating and Monitoring the Placement of Advertisements:**

- ▼ Law No. (5) of 2025, which amends Law No. (1) of 2012 on the regulation and monitoring of advertisements in Qatar, was published in Official Gazette No. (07) of 2025. The amendments expand the scope of the original law to explicitly include sculptures and memorials, introducing new definitions and enforcement mechanisms. A license is now required for placing any sculpture or memorial, subject to approval by the Ministry of Culture's designated administrative unit, a newly established licensing committee, and the relevant municipality. The Minister of Culture is tasked with issuing regulations that govern licensing procedures, permissible types, conditions, fees and removal criteria. The law introduces stricter penalties, including fines of up to QAR 30,000 for minor violations and up to QAR 1,000,000 or six months' imprisonment for more serious breaches involving unauthorised structures. Courts may also order the removal of such structures at the offender's expense. Settlement of certain violations is permitted by municipal authorities or the Ministry of Culture before or during court proceedings, upon payment of specified amounts. Designated staff from the Ministry of Municipality and the Ministry of Culture are granted judicial enforcement powers. The law takes effect the day following its publication in the Official Gazette.

▼ [Link to Law: Official Gazette No. \(07\) of 2025](#) (moj.gov.qa)



▼ Prime Minister Decision No. (3) of 2025 on the Establishment of the Steering Committee for Smart Government and Digital Leadership

- ▼ Decision No. (3) of 2025, issued by the Prime Minister and published in the Official Gazette No. (07) of 2025, establishes the “Steering Committee for Smart Government and Digital Leadership.” Chaired by the Prime Minister and vice-chaired by the Minister of Interior, the committee includes high-level representatives from the Qatar Central Bank, Ministry of Communications and IT, Ministry of Municipality, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Planning Council and other key public sector entities. The committee is tasked with overseeing the implementation of Qatar’s digital government strategy, ensuring inter-agency coordination, approving digital government initiatives and issuing relevant policies and directives. It aims to align digital projects with Qatar National Vision 2030 and facilitate integrated execution across public and private entities. The committee may form subcommittees or task forces and engage experts for advisory roles. All government entities are required to cooperate with the committee, provide requested data and implement its directives. Meetings are to be held quarterly or as needed, with decisions made by majority vote. The PM decision No.(3) of 2025 repeals the 2013 decision establishing the previous e-Government Steering Committee and enters into force upon publication.

▼ [Link to Law: Official Gazette No. \(07\) of 2025 \(moj.gov.qa\)](#)



▼ Minister of Commerce and Industry Decision No. (129) of 2024 Issuing the Executive Regulations of Law No. (10) of 2020 on the Protection of Industrial Designs and Models.

- ▼ The Executive Regulations of Law No. (10) of 2020 on the Protection of Industrial Designs and Models, issued by Ministerial Decision No. (129) of 2024, published in the Official Gazette No. (06) of 2025, establish the detailed framework for implementing the law in Qatar. The regulations define key terms and outline procedures for submitting, examining and registering applications for the protection of industrial designs. They specify the required documentation, classification according to the Locarno Agreement and technical standards for image submissions. The regulations allow applicants to submit multiple designs in a single application (up to 100) provided they fall under the same classification. They address issues such as novelty protection, deferred publication requests and publication procedures in official gazettes and online platforms. Rules are also set for renewal, transfer, licensing and enforcement of rights, including seizure and compulsory licensing mechanisms. They establish procedures for record-keeping, objections and modifications to registered data. The document also sets standards for public access to registered information, the handling of confidential requests and obligations for agents representing applicants. It underscores compliance with international classification systems and mandates ministerial approval for official forms and procedural decisions.

▼ [Link to Law: Official Gazette No. \(06\) of 2025 \(moj.gov.qa\)](#)



▼ Law No. (2) of 2025 on the State Emblem

Published in Official Gazette No. (05) of 2025, Law No. (2) of 2025 on the State Emblem was issued by His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar, following the Constitution, the proposal of the Council of Ministers, and the endorsement of the Shura Council. This law establishes a clear legal framework for the design, use, and protection of Qatar's national emblem. It defines the emblem's official shape, colors, and specifications as set out in the annex to the law and authorizes the issuance of a special emblem for the Amir by Amiri decision. The law limits use of the State Emblem to official government documents, seals, and publications, and other designated uses as outlined in a usage manual to be issued by the Council of Ministers. It requires all government entities to coordinate with the designated competent authority to ensure proper implementation. The law emphasizes the need to respect both the State Emblem and the Amir's Emblem and prohibits any misuse or dishonor. Violations may result in imprisonment of up to three years or fines of up to QAR 200,000, with lesser offenses punishable by up to six months' imprisonment or a QAR 100,000 fine. Designated judicial officers may be authorized to enforce the law in coordination with the relevant minister or authority. The official design of the State Emblem, as outlined in the annex to Law No. (2) of 2025, consists of four maroon-colored elements: two crossed swords, four waves, two palm trees, and a traditional Qatari sailing dhow known as "Al-Jalboot." Each of these components symbolizes a proud aspect of Qatar's rich history and evokes optimism for a promising future. The emblem is rendered in the maroon shade defined as Pantone 1955 C, with the following color codes: CMYK (30, 100, 70, 28), RGB (138, 21, 56), and Hex #8A1538. The law took effect upon its publication in the Official Gazette.

▼ [Link to Law: Official Gazette No. \(05\) of 2025](#) (moj.gov.qa)



▼ Amiri Decision No. (1) of 2025 on the Organization of the Council of Ministers

Published in Official Gazette No. (5) of 2025, Amiri Decision No. (1) of 2025 restructures the organisation and operation of the Council of Ministers in Qatar. Issued by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the decision repeals the previous Amiri Decision No. (15) of 2014 and sets out updated definitions, roles and responsibilities for key positions within the Council, including the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Ministers, ministers and the Secretary-General. It details the composition of the Council, its executive authority, procedures for convening and managing sessions and mechanisms for coordination between ministries. The decision also outlines the functions of the General Secretariat, procedures for drafting and reviewing legislative proposals and follow-up mechanisms for implementing Council decisions. Additionally, it provides for the formation of permanent or ad hoc committees to support government policy development and coordination. The new structure aims to enhance institutional efficiency, improve decision-making and support Qatar's strategic governance goals.

▼ [Link to Law: Official Gazette No. \(05\) of 2025](#) (moj.gov.qa)



▼ Council of Ministers Decision No. (8) of 2025 Amending Certain Provisions of the Executive Regulations of the Customs Law issued by Council of Ministers Decision No. (21) of 2004

- ▼ Published in Official Gazette No. (5) of 2025, the Council of Ministers issued Decision No. (8) of 2025, amending several provisions of the Executive Regulations of the Customs Law (initially issued by Council of Ministers Decision No. (21) of 2004). This decision aligns Qatar's customs framework with the recent resolutions of the GCC Financial and Economic Cooperation Committee, especially those from its 109th to 121st sessions. The amendments cover changes in terminology and titles, updated procedures for electronic documentation, exemptions for charitable organisations and persons with disabilities and refined rules for temporary import/export, customs fines and duty refunds. Notably, a detailed annex now outlines the HS codes and conditions for duty exemptions on vehicles and assistive devices for people with disabilities. The amended regulations strengthen compliance mechanisms, modernise customs facilitation tools and expand the list of exempted and temporarily exported goods, while enhancing oversight on their use and re-importation.

▼ [Link to Law: Official Gazette No. \(05\) of 2025](#) (moj.gov.qa)



▼ Decree No. (6) of 2025 On the Accession of the State of Qatar to the Convention for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes

- ▼ Published in Official Gazette No. (4) of 2025, Qatar Accedes to the 1907 Hague Convention on the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes. In a significant step toward reinforcing its commitment to international law and peaceful conflict resolution, the State of Qatar has officially joined the Convention for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes, concluded at The Hague on 18 October 1907. The accession was formalised through Amiri Decree No. (6) of 2025, issued by His Highness Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Emir of the State of Qatar, and published in the Official Gazette No. (5) of 2025. The Hague Convention is one of the foundational instruments in international law aimed at encouraging the peaceful resolution of disputes between states through mechanisms such as mediation, arbitration and international commissions of inquiry. By acceding to this Convention, Qatar strengthens its alignment with the principles of diplomatic conflict resolution and enhances its legal framework for engaging in international dispute settlement. The decree confirms that the Convention will have the force of law in Qatar pursuant to Article (68) of the Constitution, and tasks all relevant authorities with implementing its provisions. This development not only reflects Qatar's growing role in international diplomacy but also reinforces its credibility as a neutral venue for arbitration and dispute resolution.

▼ [Link to Law: Official Gazette No. \(4\) of 2025](#) (moj.gov.qa)



▼ Qatar Financial Markets Authority Board Resolution No. (1) of 2025 On the Issuance of Code of Market Conduct

- ▼ Issued by Board Resolution No. (1) of 2025 and published in Official Gazette No. (04) of 2025, the Qatar Financial Markets Authority (QFMA) has introduced the Code of Market Conduct—its first legislation of this kind—aimed at enhancing investor confidence, promoting fairness and ensuring transparency in the Qatari financial markets. The Code outlines prohibited deceptive and misleading practices, aligning with QFMA’s strategic objectives to stabilise the markets and mitigate systemic risks. The Code applies to all market participants and clarifies that certain behaviors—such as placing buy or sell orders with no intent to execute, manipulating prices through coordinated trades or creating artificial impressions of demand, supply or trading volume—constitute market manipulation or misleading conduct. Specific examples include wash trades, layering, spoofing, ramping and price-fixing around key market timings or events. Conversely, the Code exempts legitimate activities carried out in accordance with existing regulations, such as share buybacks, market maker operations and price stabilisation mechanisms, provided these do not involve manipulative intent. The new Code serves both as a regulatory and educational tool, guiding market participants on ethical standards and helping deter unlawful behavior in Qatar’s capital markets.

- ▼ [Link to Law: Official Gazette No. \(04\) of 2025 \(moj.gov.qa\) ضوابط سلوكيات التعامل في السوق.pdf](#) [The Qatar Financial Markets Authority Issues the Code of Market Conduct](#)



▼ Council of Ministers Decision No. (29) of 2024 On Specifying the Fees for Claims, Appeals, Applications, and Guarantees before the Enforcement Court

- ▼ The Council of Ministers has issued Decision No. (29) of 2024, setting the official fees for filing cases, appeals, applications and guarantees before the Enforcement Court, in line with Law No. (4) of 2024 on Judicial Enforcement. The decision, ratified by the Amir and published in the Official Gazette No. (02) of 2025, introduces a standardised fee structure to support efficiency and clarity in enforcement proceedings. Key fees include QAR 1,000 for filing a writ of execution or appeal, QAR 2,000 for travel bans or detention orders, QAR 100-300 for various procedural requests (e.g., seizures, evictions, or urgent applications) and QAR 5-50 for administrative services (e.g., certificates or document copies). The regulation supports streamlined case handling, promotes transparency and aligns with broader judicial reforms.

- ▼ [Link to Law: Official Gazette No. \(02\) of 2025 \(moj.gov.qa\)](#)



▼ **Law No. (1) of 2025 Amending Certain Provisions of Law No. (16) of 2018 on the Regulation of Real Estate Ownership and Use by Non-Qataris**

- ▼ Law No. (1) of 2025 introduces key amendments to Law No. (16) of 2018 concerning the ownership and use of real estate by non-Qataris. The amendment reflects a transfer of regulatory authority from the Ministry of Municipality to the General Authority for the Regulation of the Real Estate Sector, replacing the term "Ministry" with "Authority" in Article 3 of the original law. Additionally, Article 1 of the 2018 law has been replaced to update definitions, specifying that the Minister refers to the Minister of Municipality, and reaffirming the role of the designated Committee responsible for overseeing non-Qatari real estate ownership and usage. This legislative update underscores Qatar's efforts to streamline regulatory responsibilities and enhance governance of the real estate sector in alignment with recent institutional reforms. The law came into effect the day following its publication in the Official Gazette, dated 15 January 2025.

- ▼ *Link to Law:* [Official Gazette No. \(03\) of 2025](#) (moj.gov.qa)



▼ **Cabinet Decision No. (1) of 2025 On the Conditions and Regulations for Real Estate Ownership by Citizens of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) States**

- ▼ Cabinet Decision No. (1) of 2025, published in the Official Gazette No. (03) of 2025 setting out the updated conditions and regulations governing real estate ownership by natural and legal persons from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). This decision repeals the earlier Cabinet Decision No. (5) of 2006 and aligns with Qatar's ongoing efforts to harmonize its property laws with regional commitments and national strategic development plans. Under the new decision, GCC nationals may own up to three residential properties within designated residential areas, provided the total area does not exceed 3,000 square meters. Additional ownership may be granted subject to approval from the Prime Minister. Properties must be used for personal or family residence and cannot be exploited for other purposes unless permitted under applicable laws. If the owned property is undeveloped land, construction must be completed within four years. Failure to do so allows the authorities to mandate sale or forfeiture of the land, with compensation based on the lower of the purchase or sale price. A grievance mechanism allows owners to appeal committee decisions to the Minister of Municipality. Restrictions on resale apply—owners may not sell built properties within the first two years of registration, unless exceptional approval is granted. The law also introduces a five-year minimum naturalisation period before newly naturalised GCC citizens can acquire property rights. Moreover, GCC nationals licensed to operate commercial or professional activities in Qatar may own real estate necessary for such operations, subject to size, use and location approvals from the competent committee and Prime Minister.

- ▼ *Link to Law:* [Official Gazette No. \(03\) of 2025](#) (moj.gov.qa)



▼ Cabinet Decision No. (2) of 2025 On the Formation of the Licensing Committee at the General Authority for Regulating the Real Estate Sector, Its Operating Procedures, and Compensation Framework

- ▼ Decision No. (2) of 2025 establishing the Licensing Committee within the General Authority for Regulating the Real Estate Sector was published in the Official Gazette No. (03) of 2025 . This committee is responsible for issuing licenses to real estate developers as well as companies engaged in managing and maintaining real estate development projects, in accordance with Law No. (6) of 2014, as amended. The committee will be composed of representatives from the Authority, the Ministry of Municipality, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Ministry of Finance. The Minister of Municipality will appoint the chairperson, vice-chairperson and members of the committee. The committee's secretariat will be staffed by employees of the Authority, with their roles and compensation determined by the Authority's Chair. The committee will meet at least twice monthly, with additional meetings scheduled as needed. It is empowered to issue, review and reject licensing applications for development, registration and classification. Applicants can appeal decisions to the Minister within 60 days. The committee may also form working groups and consult external experts. Its deliberations, records and obtained information are confidential. Compensation for the committee members will follow the provisions of Cabinet Decision No. (9) of 1993. The decision takes effect from the date of publication in the Official Gazette and is binding on all relevant government entities.

- ▼ [Link to Law: Official Gazette No. \(03\) of 2025](#) (moj.gov.qa)



▼ CRA Issues New Licensing Frameworks for Postal and Trust Services

The Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA) has taken significant steps to enhance regulatory clarity and service quality by issuing two key regulatory decisions published in the Official Gazette No. (04) of 2025:

- ▼ **Decision No. (54) of 2024:** Issuing the Regulatory Framework for Postal Licensing Applications, this decision sets out the procedures and requirements for entities applying to provide postal services in Qatar. It aims to promote competition, ensure service reliability and enhance user protection in the postal sector.
- ▼ **Decision No. (3) of 2025:** Issuing the Regulatory Framework for Trust Service Providers, governing entities that offer digital certification and authentication services (referred to as "Trust Services"). This includes standards and compliance obligations for electronic signatures, seals, time stamps and related services to support secure digital transactions and data integrity.

- ▼ [Link to Law: Official Gazette No. \(4\) of 2025](#) (moj.gov.qa)