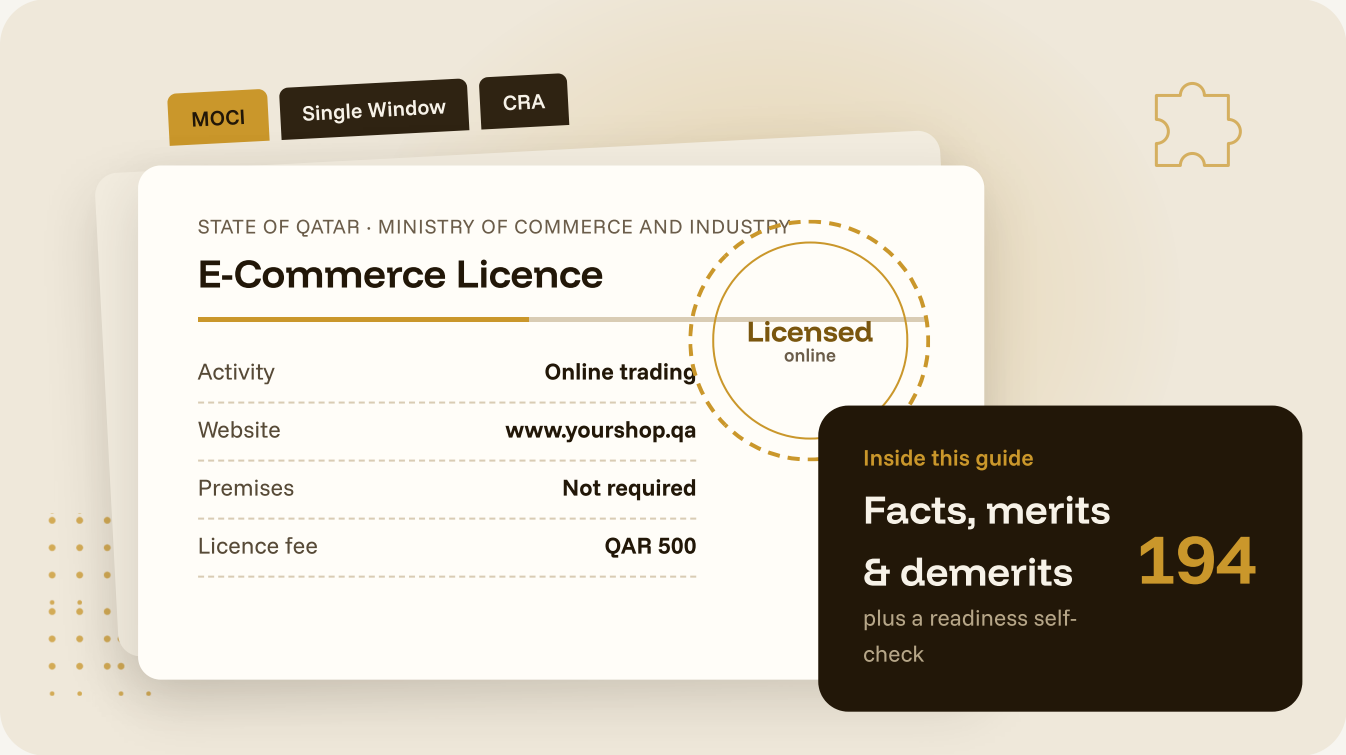
DOCUWAY
BUSINESS SERVICES

Free guide · 2026

E-Commerce Licence · Ministerial Decision No. 25 of 2026

Selling online in Qatar? Here's the licence you now need.

What the new E-Commerce Licence is, who must have it, and the honest merits and demerits — explained in five minutes by the team that knows every ministry.



01 What changed & who needs it

02 Key facts at a glance

03 Merits & demerits

04 Are you ready? Self-check

The new rule

Online selling in Qatar is now a licensed activity

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOCI) has created a dedicated licence for businesses that sell goods or services through a website, social media or any other digital platform — without the need for a physical shop or office.

Date 01

4 March 2026

MOCI issues Ministerial Decision No. 25 of 2026.

Date 02

16 March 2026

The decision comes into force after publication in the Official Gazette.

Date 03

September 2026

Licence launched — applications open online via the Single Window platform.

Most online sellers

You likely need it if you…

- Sell products through your own website or online store
- Take orders through Instagram, WhatsApp or other social channels
- Offer services online — consulting, design, photography, translation and more
- Run a home-based or side business selling in commercial volumes
- Own a company and want to add an online sales channel

Possible exceptions

It may not apply if you…

- Sell personal items occasionally, not in commercial quantities
- Operate under the QFC or a free zone — assessed case by case
- Run only a physical shop with no online sales

Not sure which side you're on? We'll check your exact activity for free.

Already selling on Instagram without a licence?

The licence is mandatory before conducting approved activities online, and no exemption has been announced for small sellers or startups. Getting compliant now protects your page, your payments and your customers' trust.

Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOCI) — Ministerial Decision No. 25 of 2026.

Verify with MOCI: rules may be updated — confirm current requirements at moci.gov.qa before applying.

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At a glance

The licence in six numbers

500 QAR

Government licence fee

Announced by MOCI. Commercial Registration and setup costs are separate.

194

Approved activities

Only activities on MOCI's published list can be licensed for e-commerce.

0

Office or shop needed

The licence is issued for your website — the business runs fully online.

1

Licence per website

Selling on more than one site or platform? Each needs its own licence.

.qa

Local domain required

Your domain must end in .qa or .com.qa, via a CRA-approved provider.

100 %

Online application

Submitted electronically through Qatar's Single Window platform.

Examples of approved activities

- Fashion design
- Consultancy services
- Digital design
- AI consulting & solutions
- Photography
- Translation services
- +188 more — ask us if yours is listed

Online only, through MOCI

E-Commerce Licence

Physical premises	Not required
Where you trade	Your licensed website
Running costs	Low — no rent
Staff visas	Not expected (p. 4)

Traditional route

Regular trade licence

Physical premises	Generally required
Where you trade	Shop, office and online
Running costs	Higher — rent, fit-out
Staff visas	Possible, based on quota

Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOCI). The comparison is a general guide — individual cases vary.

Verify with MOCI: fees and the activity list are set by MOCI and may change.

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The honest picture

Is it right for your business?

+ Merits

No office needed
Skip shop rent, fit-out and utility bills — run your business from anywhere in Qatar.

Low government fee
QAR 500 for the licence — one of the most affordable legal routes to sell online.

Fully online application
Applied for electronically through the Single Window platform.

194 activities to choose from
Retail, services, design, consulting, technology and more.

Builds customer trust
Your CR and licence numbers on your website show buyers you are a regulated business.

Low-risk way to start
Test an idea or grow a side business before committing to premises.

− Demerits

No staff visas VERIFY
Without premises, you should not expect a visa quota to sponsor employees.

CR still required first
You need a valid Commercial Registration — its costs come on top of QAR 500.

One licence per website
Multiple stores or platforms mean multiple licences.

Only listed activities
If your activity isn't among the 194, this route isn't open to you.

Website compliance duties
A .qa domain, e-payment option, CR and licence numbers, return policy and complaints process are all required.

No undo button
Once submitted, an application cannot be withdrawn or cancelled.

A great fit for…
Home-based sellers, Instagram shops, freelancers, consultants, designers and companies adding an online channel.

Think twice if…
You plan to hire staff on visas, need a showroom or warehouse, or your activity isn't on the approved list.

Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOCI). The visa position is Docuway's professional view — confirm with MOCI for your case.

Verify with MOCI: items marked VERIFY depend on official confirmation for your case.

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Are you ready?

Tick what you already have

Every applicant must meet MOCI's conditions before the licence is issued. See how close you are.

Readiness file	DW-ECOM-2026
☐ **Commercial Registration (CR)** — valid, or a plan to set one up	Required
☐ **An approved activity** — matched to exactly what you sell	Required
☐ **Extra approvals** — if your activity needs another authority	If applicable
☐ **.qa or .com.qa domain** — via a CRA-approved provider	Required
☐ **Electronic payment** — available to your customers	Required
☐ **Published policies** — contacts, returns, exchanges, complaints	Required

? **Fewer than six ticks?** That's normal — most clients start with two or three. We close the gaps for you.

3 costly mistakes we see

01

Choosing the wrong activity

Applications can't be withdrawn once submitted — a wrong choice means starting over.

02

Using a .com domain

Only .qa or .com.qa domains qualify. Your current store may need a new address.

03

Missing disclosures

Your CR number, licence number and return policy must be clearly shown on your site.

Want us to handle it? We will.

Free eligibility check and a clear quote for the full package.

WhatsApp +974 3166 3252

Verify with MOCI: this checklist is a summary, not the official list of requirements.

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Business services in Doha, Qatar

Company setup & PRO handled end to end

Docuway Business Services handles the government and documentation work of living and doing business in Qatar — from company formation, PRO work, licences and tax for businesses to visas, attestation, translation and professional licensing for individuals. One team that knows every ministry, with every file tracked from first call to handover.

1,000+ Government and document services handled

7–14 Working days for a typical company formation

1 Team that knows every ministry, start to finish

How we help

Your E-Commerce Licence, done for you

Eligibility & activity check
We match what you sell to the right approved activity before anything is submitted.

Company formation
LLCs, branches and fully foreign-owned companies — the CR your licence needs.

CR amendments & renewals
Adding the online activity to your existing CR, and on-time renewals.

Sponsor & local partner
Qatari partner or service agent arrangements where your activity needs one.

Licence application & PRO
We prepare, submit and follow your application with the ministry.

Legal translation
Certified Arabic copies of your policies and documents when required.

Step 01

Discovery & consultation
We understand your business and give you the route and document list.

Step 02

Document preparation
We collect, translate and check every paper against current rules.

Step 03

Submission & follow-up
We file with the right authority and keep you updated at every stage.

Step 04

Completion & handover
You get your licence — plus the renewal dates to remember.

Verify with MOCI: final approval rests with MOCI and other relevant authorities.

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Ready to get licensed?

Let's get you licensed handled end to end

Message us today for a free eligibility check. Tell us what you sell, and we'll tell you exactly what you need — then handle the rest.

Scan to WhatsApp us

+974 3166 3252

Call & WhatsApp
+974 3166 3252

Email
info@docuwayservices.com

Website
www.docuwayservices.com

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DW **Document tracking without a phone call.** Every file gets a tracking number — follow each step on our website.

Important — verify with MOCI. This guide is general information prepared by Docuway Business Services in November 2026 from MOCI announcements and Ministerial Decision No. 25 of 2026. It is not legal advice. Fees, approved activities and requirements are set by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and may change. Always confirm the current rules at **moci.gov.qa** or through the Single Window platform before applying — or ask us to check for you.

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