BRIS GROUP

NEVIS

BUSINESS CORPORATION

CLIENT GUIDE 2026

Formation, non-resident taxation, accounting records and annual renewal

Professional company formation and ongoing corporate administration

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COMPANY FORMATION OVERVIEW

Nevis Business Corporation at a Glance

A **Nevis Business Corporation (NBC)**, often still called a Nevis IBC, is a share-based company incorporated under the **Nevis Business Corporation Ordinance, Cap. 7.01(N)**. The 2017 Ordinance expressly provides for international business corporations and has since been amended, including in 2018, 2019 and 2023. In July 2026 a further amendment bill received its first reading; because a bill is not law merely on first reading, this guide uses the legislation currently in force and BRIS Group will reconfirm any later enactment before incorporation.

Topic	Current position
Foreign ownership	A standard NBC may be wholly foreign-owned and used for international trading, holding, consulting and investment activities.
Shareholders	A single-shareholder structure is permitted under the corporate framework.
Directors	The corporation is managed by its board. Directors need not generally be resident in Nevis for an ordinary international structure.
Registered agent	A corporation must continuously maintain a **Nevis-licensed registered agent**.
Registered office	The registered agent's physical place of business in Nevis is the corporation's registered office.
Annual renewal	Government annual renewal fee is payable **before the anniversary date** through the registered agent.
Tax	The historic blanket NBC tax exemption ended by **30 June 2021**. A non-resident corporation managed abroad with no Federation-source income can nevertheless have **0% Saint Kitts & Nevis corporate income tax on foreign-source profits** under the current residence/source framework.

Key Benefits for International Clients

- 100% foreign ownership is available for the ordinary international structure.
- Only a licensed Nevis registered agent and registered office are required locally; shareholders and ordinary directors can be overseas.
- Flexible share-capital provisions allow different classes/series, par-value and no-par-value shares as provided in the Articles.
- Corporate law is modelled on a North American-style corporation framework with directors, officers, shareholders and by-laws.
- Continuation/redomiciliation into Nevis and departure from Nevis are expressly provided for by the Ordinance, including emergency transfer-of-domicile provisions.
- Proper accounting records may be maintained at the registered office or another place selected by the directors, subject to the statutory information requirements.
- For a genuinely non-resident corporation managed and controlled outside the Federation, with no local permanent establishment or Federation-source income, foreign-source profits can result in **no local corporate income tax payable**.
- Corporate records are maintained within the statutory/registered-agent framework; AML/CFT and beneficial-ownership information remains available to competent authorities as required by law.

Incorporation Requirements

Topic	Current position
Company name	Must be available and compliant. A registered agent may reserve a name; the statutory reservation period is 120 days and may be renewed once for a like period.
Articles of Incorporation	State the name, purposes/powers, registered agent, registered office and authorised share structure, among other statutory particulars.
By-laws	Set out internal governance and may be filed with the Articles or maintained as part of the corporate records.
Shareholder(s)	Ownership and share allocation must be established and supported by full KYC/UBO information.
Director(s)	Provide proposed director(s), consents and KYC. Directors manage the corporation subject to the Ordinance and constitutional documents.
Registered agent/office	Mandatory in Nevis throughout the life of the corporation.
Business activity	Full activity, jurisdiction, customer/counterparty and transaction profile is required for AML and tax analysis.
Regulated activity	Banking, insurance, fiduciary, investment and other regulated activities require the relevant licence/approval.

Share Capital

The Articles of Incorporation state the aggregate number of shares the corporation is authorised to issue and the par value, if any, or provide for no-par-value shares. Different classes and series can be created with rights stated in the Articles or valid board resolutions.

No general high minimum paid-up capital

The Nevis Business Corporation Ordinance does not impose a universal high minimum paid-up capital for an ordinary international corporation. Authorised capital is not the same as cash that must be deposited. The company issues shares for properly authorised consideration and records the issued/paid position in its corporate records.

Documents Required from the Client

- Certified passport or acceptable government-issued identification for each shareholder, director and ultimate beneficial owner.
- Recent proof of residential address.
- Full ownership/control and beneficial-ownership information.
- Detailed business description, countries of operation, expected customers/counterparties and transaction profile.
- Source-of-funds evidence and, where appropriate, source-of-wealth evidence.
- Tax-residence and management/control information needed to assess the corporation's Saint Kitts & Nevis tax position.
- For a corporate shareholder/director: incorporation and constitutional documents, management/ownership evidence and natural-person UBO documentation.
- Additional KYC, sanctions/PEP and compliance information requested by the licensed Nevis registered agent.

Before certification

Send scans to BRIS Group first. We will confirm the registered agent's exact certification, notarisation/apostille and translation requirements before costs are incurred.

Formation Process & Documents Received

1. Structure/activity review **2.** KYC/AML approval **3.** Name reservation/approval **4.** Articles filing **5.** Directors/share issue **6.** Corporate file

Typical corporate file: Certificate of Incorporation; filed Articles of Incorporation; By-laws; organisational resolutions; register of shareholders; register of directors/officers; share certificate(s), where issued; registered-agent/registered-office particulars; and other statutory records. Certificate of Good Standing, certified filed documents and apostille can be arranged separately.

Taxation - Important Current Position

Do not use the old 'statutory tax-exempt IBC' wording

Section 136 formerly granted broad tax exemptions to qualifying NBCs. The 2018 and 2019 amendments closed that regime and provided that the exemptions ceased no later than **30 June 2021**. Therefore, a new Nevis corporation formed in 2026 should **not** be marketed as tax-exempt under the old section 136 exemption.

The current practical result is instead determined under the Federation's **Income Tax Act**, including corporate residence, management and control, source of income and any local permanent establishment. The general corporate income-tax rate is **33%** where taxable corporate profits fall within the Federation's charge.

0% can still be the correct result for a genuine non-resident international company

Where the NBC is **managed and controlled outside Saint Kitts and Nevis**, has no local permanent establishment/business operations and earns no Saint Kitts & Nevis-source income, there may be **no local corporate income tax payable on its foreign-source profits**. This is a residence/source result under the current tax framework - not the repealed pre-2021 blanket IBC exemption.

If management and control is exercised in the Federation, or the corporation has Federation-source taxable income/local business, the 33% corporate income-tax regime may apply. The owners may also have tax obligations in their own countries of residence.

Tax Registration & Annual Tax Return

A Nevis corporation should not assume that a zero local tax liability means no tax administration. The federal Inland Revenue Department administers corporate income tax for Saint Kitts and Nevis. Current practice requires the tax position, TIN/registration and annual corporate return obligations to be reviewed for the company, including where the return reports no taxable local profits.

BRIS Group will confirm the filing position before completion

For each new NBC we recommend confirming the company's management/control, source of income and current IRD filing requirements with the Nevis provider/tax adviser. This avoids the common but outdated statement that an international NBC has 'no tax filing' simply because its business is overseas.

Accounting Records

Section 103 of the Nevis Business Corporation Ordinance requires proper books and records, including underlying documentation such as contracts and invoices where applicable. The records must explain transactions, enable the financial position to be determined with reasonable accuracy and allow financial statements to be prepared.

Topic	Current position
What to keep	Money received/expended, sales/purchases and other transactions, assets and liabilities, plus relevant supporting documents.
Standard	Records must correctly explain transactions and enable the financial position to be determined with reasonable accuracy.
Financial statements	The statutory records must be sufficient to allow financial statements to be prepared.
Retention	Books and records must be preserved for at least **5 years** from the date they are prepared.
Location	They may be kept at the registered office or another place/places selected by the directors.
Public filing	The obligation to keep proper accounts does not by itself mean that a normal private NBC files its financial statements on a public corporate registry.

0% local tax result does not mean 'no accounts'

Even where a non-resident NBC has no Saint Kitts & Nevis corporate income tax payable on foreign-source profits, the statutory accounting-record obligation remains.

Annual Renewal & Government Fees

Section 7 and the Regulations require the annual registration fee to be paid through the registered agent. Under the published Schedule of Fees, the annual renewal is due **before the anniversary date**.

Topic	Current position
Articles of Incorporation	Published statutory filing fee: **US$250**.
Articles + By-laws	Published statutory filing fee: **US$300**.
Certificate of Incorporation	Published certificate fee: **US$10**.
Annual renewal	Published statutory annual renewal fee: **US$250**.
Name reservation	Published fee: **US$30**; reservation lasts 120 days and may be renewed once.
Good Standing	Published fee: **US$35**.
Apostille	Published fee in the NBC Regulations schedule: **US$25**.
Late renewal	Published late charge: US$115 after one month but before six months; US$250 after six months but before one year.

The published statutory schedule is the consolidated official schedule currently available from the Law Commission. Government charges can be amended; BRIS Group will reconfirm the live Registry/registered-agent charges before incorporation and renewal.

Annual Maintenance Checklist

- Pay the government annual renewal fee before the incorporation anniversary.
- Renew the licensed Nevis registered-agent and registered-office service.
- Maintain proper accounting records and supporting documents for at least five years.
- Review the company's federal tax residence, source of income and current IRD return/TIN obligations.
- Keep shareholder, director/officer and corporate records current.
- Update beneficial-owner/KYC information requested by the registered agent.
- File changes to registered agent, registered office, Articles, charges or other matters where required.
- Maintain any sector-specific licence if the corporation carries on regulated business.
- Review CRS/FATCA classification and reporting obligations where applicable.

Privacy, AML & Beneficial Ownership

Nevis continues to provide commercial privacy, but it should not be described as anonymous. The licensed registered agent must conduct customer due diligence and maintain the ownership/control information required under the Federation's AML/CFT framework and applicable Nevis legislation. Competent authorities may obtain information through lawful statutory channels.

Banking and financial-account information may also be subject to **CRS and FATCA** classification/reporting. A client's home-country reporting and tax obligations remain separate from the Nevis company's local tax result.

How BRIS Group Supports You

Pre-formation review - Review the activity, ownership, management location and suitability of an NBC.

Company formation - Coordinate name, Articles/By-laws and incorporation through a licensed Nevis registered agent.

KYC & beneficial ownership - Coordinate shareholder, director, UBO and source-of-funds due diligence.

Corporate administration - Assist with shares, directors/officers, resolutions, registers and corporate changes.

Annual renewal - Coordinate the annual Registry fee, registered agent/office and good-standing maintenance.

Accounting compliance - Coordinate maintenance/preparation of accounting records and financial statements.

Tax coordination - Arrange review of residence/source, TIN and corporate-return requirements where required.

Documents - Arrange Good Standing, certified Registry documents, apostilles and other corporate certificates.

Professional Fees & Quotations

Tailored quotation

This brochure is an informational guide to Nevis Business Corporation incorporation and maintenance and is not a fee quotation. BRIS Group professional fees, licensed Nevis registered-agent/registered-office fees, government Registry fees, accounting/tax support, certified documents and optional services are quoted separately. Clients may request a tailored quotation based on the proposed structure and activity.

Client Preparation Checklist

- Three proposed company names.
- Detailed business activity and countries where operations will take place.
- Names and ownership percentages of shareholders and ultimate beneficial owners.
- Proposed director(s) and officer(s).
- Certified passport and recent proof of address for each relevant individual.
- Source-of-funds/source-of-wealth evidence.
- Expected turnover, currencies, banking and transaction profile.
- Proposed authorised/issued share structure.
- Corporate-owner/director documents where a legal entity is involved.
- Country where central management and control will actually be exercised.
- Whether any income, staff, premises, customers or permanent establishment will arise in Saint Kitts & Nevis.
- Any banking, apostille or regulated-activity requirements.

Important Legal Notes & Official Sources

This brochure is a general commercial guide and does not constitute Saint Kitts & Nevis legal, tax, accounting, banking or investment advice. **The old blanket NBC tax exemption is no longer in force.** The legitimate current tax benefit is that a genuinely non-resident NBC managed abroad and without Federation-source taxable income/local permanent establishment may have **0% local corporate income tax payable on foreign-source profits**, while taxable resident/local-source profits can fall within the 33% corporate tax regime.

Primary official sources reviewed: Nevis Business Corporation Ordinance, Cap. 7.01(N), 2020 consolidation; Nevis Business Corporation (Amendment) Ordinance 2019; Nevis Business Corporation (Amendment) Ordinance 2023; official NBC Regulations and Schedule of Fees; Income Tax Act, Cap. 20.22; St. Kitts and Nevis Law Commission revised/annual laws; and Nevis Island Administration notice concerning the 2026 amendment bill.

2026 legislative watch: The Nevis Business Corporation (Amendment) Bill 2026 received its first reading on 14 July 2026. This guide does not treat a first-reading bill as enacted law. Any subsequent enactment will be checked before a client order is processed.

Information reviewed: August 2026. Fees, tax filing practice and legislation will be reconfirmed before incorporation and annual renewal.

PREPARED BY BRIS GROUP

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Professional incorporation and corporate administration for international clients.