

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA



**YIDA INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT HOLDINGS (ANTIGUA) SPECIAL
ECONOMIC ZONE GUIDELINES, 2025**

STATUTORY INSTRUMENT

2025, No. 33

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ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**YIDA INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT HOLDINGS (ANTIGUA) SPECIAL
ECONOMIC ZONE GUIDELINES, 2025****ARRANGEMENT****GUIDELINES****PART I – PRELIMINARY**

1.	Short Title	4
2.	Purpose.....	4
3.	Interpretation.....	4
4.	Application and Supremacy	5

PART II – GOVERNANCE AND AUTHORITY

5.	Zone Management Committee	5
6.	Powers of the Licensee and Operator.....	5

PART III – FISCAL AND CUSTOMS FRAMEWORK

7.	Fiscal Incentives.....	6
8.	Customs Procedures.....	6

PART IV – OVERSIGHT, COMPLIANCE AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

9.	Oversight and Reporting	6
10.	Compliance Obligations.....	6
11.	Dispute Resolution.....	6

PART V – CONTINUITY, REVIEW AND AMENDMENT

12.	Duration and Review	7
13.	Amendment and Publication	7
14.	Saving	7

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The YIDA International Investment Holdings (Antigua) Special Economic Zone Guidelines, 2025 made in exercise of the powers contained in section 36 of the Special Economic Zone Act, 2015 (No. 17 of 2015) and pursuant to the *Antigua and Barbuda Special Economic Zone (YIDA International Investment Holdings Antigua Limited) Licence Order, 2025*.

PART I – PRELIMINARY

1. Short Title

These Guidelines may be cited as the YIDA International Investment Holdings (Antigua) Special Economic Zone Guidelines, 2025 made in and shall come into operation on the date approved by the Zone Management Committee.

2. Purpose

The purpose of these Guidelines is to establish an operational framework for the internal governance, management, and regulatory coordination of the YIDA International Investment Holdings (Antigua) Special Economic Zone (the “Zone”) in accordance with the Special Economic Zone Act, 2015 and the Licence Order, 2025.

3. Interpretation

In these Guidelines—

“Act” means the Special Economic Zone Act, 2015 (No. 17 of 2015);

“Committee” means the Zone Management Committee established under the Licence Order;

“Licensee” means YIDA International Investment Holdings (Antigua) Limited;

“License Order 2025” means the Antigua and Barbuda Special Economic Zone (YIDA International Investment Holdings Antigua Limited) Licence Order, 2025;

“Operator” means the person or entity holding an operator permit under section 31 of the Act; and

“Zone” means the YIDA International Investment Holdings (Antigua) Special Economic Zone.

4. Application and Supremacy

- (1) These Guidelines apply within the Zone and shall regulate internal administration and operations.
- (2) Nothing in these Guidelines shall derogate from:
 - (a) the Constitution of Antigua and Barbuda;
 - (b) the Special Economic Zone Act, 2015;
 - (c) the sovereign authority of Parliament or the Cabinet; or
 - (d) Antigua and Barbuda Special Economic Zone (YIDA International Investment Holdings Antigua Limited) Licence Order, 2025.
- (3) Where an inconsistency arises, national law shall prevail.

PART II – GOVERNANCE AND AUTHORITY**5. Zone Management Committee**

The Committee shall have authority, subject to ministerial oversight, to:

- (a) administer and regulate operations within the Zone;
- (b) issue internal operational directives consistent with these Guidelines;
- (c) ensure compliance with national environmental, labour, and customs regulations;
and
- (d) coordinate with national authorities on policy and enforcement matters.

6. Powers of the Licensee and Operator

- (1) The Licensee shall be responsible for the general management, promotion, and sustainable development of the Zone.
- (2) The Operator shall ensure that all enterprises within the Zone comply with these Guidelines, the Act, and applicable national laws.
- (3) Neither the Licensee nor the Operator may enact provisions contrary to national law or exercise powers reserved to the State.

PART III – FISCAL AND CUSTOMS FRAMEWORK

7. Fiscal Incentives

Enterprises operating within the Zone shall enjoy the fiscal incentives granted under the Licence Order, 2025, including—

- (a) exemption from customs duties, consumption taxes, and stamp duties for authorized activities;
- (b) the right to repatriate profits and capital, subject to national banking and anti-money laundering laws; and
- (c) access to preferential import and export treatment through the Customs Department, consistent with the *Customs (Control and Management) Act*.

8. Customs Procedures

- (1) All customs operations shall be conducted under the supervision of the Comptroller of Customs.
- (2) The Zone shall establish a designated customs processing area, operated in coordination with the Customs Department, to facilitate trade efficiency and compliance.

PART IV – OVERSIGHT, COMPLIANCE AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

9. Oversight and Reporting

- (1) The Zone shall be subject to oversight by the Minister responsible for Finance and Corporate Governance and the Advisory Committee established under section 26 of the Act.
- (2) The Licensee shall prepare an annual report summarizing economic activity, environmental compliance, and employment statistics within the Zone for submission to the Minister.

10. Compliance Obligations

Enterprises must comply with these Guidelines, the Licence Order, the *Special Economic Zone Act, 2015*, and applicable laws.

11. Dispute Resolution

- (1) Disputes between enterprises, or between an enterprise and the Operator, shall first be resolved through mediation administered by the Committee.

(2) Failing settlement, the matter shall be referred to arbitration under the Arbitration Act, Cap. 33, with the seat of arbitration in Antigua and Barbuda, unless the parties otherwise agree and the parties may, by written agreement—

- (a) elect to resolve their dispute through an international arbitration forum, including the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), or the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC); or
- (b) utilize a digital or technology-assisted dispute resolution platform approved by the Minister responsible for Finance and Corporate Governance, such as provided such platform operates in conformity with the Arbitration Act, Cap. 33 and does not derogate from the jurisdiction of the national courts.

(3) Nothing in this guideline precludes parties from seeking relief before the courts of Antigua and Barbuda or any competent international tribunal recognized by law.

PART V – CONTINUITY, REVIEW AND AMENDMENT

12. Duration and Review

(1) These Guidelines shall remain in force concurrently with the Licence Order, 2025.

(2) The Committee shall review these Guidelines every five (5) years and propose amendments to the Minister where necessary to ensure alignment with evolving national policy and law.

13. Amendment and Publication

(1) Any amendment to these Guidelines shall be subject to ministerial approval and publication in the *Official Gazette*.

(2) The amended Guidelines shall take effect from the date of publication unless otherwise stated.

14. Saving

Nothing in these Guidelines shall be construed as restricting the jurisdiction of any lawful national authority or as conferring sovereignty independent of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda.

Made on this 9th day of October, 2025.

Hon. Gaston Browne,
*Prime Minister and Minister responsible
For the Special Economic Zone.*