

**IDAL**

INVEST IN **LEBANON**



# OPERATIONAL LICENSES IN THE **AGRICULTURE SECTOR**



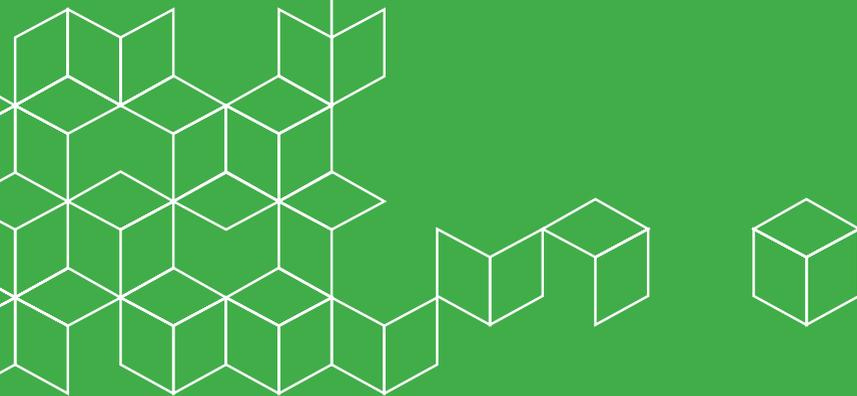


## **I. LICENSES FOR FERTILIZER FACTORIES**

## **II. LICENSES FOR CATTLE & POULTRY FARMS**

**2.1.** APPLYING FOR AN ESTABLISHMENT  
LICENSE

**2.2.** APPLYING FOR AN INVESTMENT  
LICENSE



# I. LICENSES FOR FERTILIZER FACTORIES

Fertilizer factories are considered part of the industrial sector. As such, investors must first apply for the regular operational licenses at the Ministry of Industry. After successfully obtaining them, they must seek a separate license from the Ministry of Agriculture.

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## REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

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1. Previous **Establishment License OR Investment License** issued by the Ministry of Industry.
2. **Fertilizer Import License.**
3. The owner of the company must be a **chemical engineer**, authorized to practice the profession, and registered at the Order of Engineers and Architects **OR a licensed chemist**; **OR** have a contractual agreement with a chemical engineer authorized to practice the profession and registered at an Order of Engineers and Architects, **OR** with a licensed chemist. The chemical engineer or the licensed chemist must be employed on a full-time basis at the company. In case the chemical engineer or the licensed chemist are contractors, they must submit an **Employment Contract** certified by a Public Notary. This document must state that they have a full-time job at the company and are hence liable for the application of all technical aspects imposed by Decree No. 5039 of 26/03/1982. Also, it must state that they are liable for all subsequent decisions related to the rules of preparation, filling and packaging of agricultural fertilizers. The following documents must also be submitted:
  - » **Diploma in Engineering OR Bachelor of Science** in chemistry.
  - » Permit authorizing the practice of the profession, a certificate from the Order of Engineers & Architects, and a copy of the individual's ID card should he/she be an engineer.
  - » **Full-time Employment Contract** registered by a Public Notary if the owner of the company is not a chemical engineer or a licensed chemist. The Contract must be registered at the Order of Engineers and Architects.
4. **Certificate of Registration** at the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, and a **Trade Register** certified by the Commercial Court.
5. Detailed **blueprints** on a scale of 1/100 or 1/200 of:
  - » The internal organization (sanitary utilities), including the distribution of machines used for packaging.
  - » The surfaces, sections and façades.
  - » The waste disposal resulting from unwanted items from filling and packaging.
  - » The sanitary drainage system.
  - » The location of fire extinguishers and ventilation pipes.These maps are to be signed by the Chief Engineer of the project.

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## REQUIRED CONDITIONS

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1. The total surface area of the preparation units, which include warehouses, workshops, offices, roads, and other structures, shall not be less than 1,000 m<sup>2</sup>. If the project is composed of a single preparation unit, a surface area of 500 m<sup>2</sup> is sufficient. As for the existing units, they shall be given a period of three years to rectify their surface areas.
2. The location of the factory must be as far away possible from sources of fresh water as well as groundwater, in order to avoid polluting these sources. Areas exposed to flooding must also be avoided. The factory shall comply with the same health & environmental measures as those imposed in the regulations of Construction Permits. As for existing factories, they shall be given a period of three years to rectify their surface areas.
3. The following units/rooms should be separated by walls within the building: the laboratory. Raw material storage room (taking into account the public safety measures set according to the specifications of raw materials); Preparation room; Filling room; Storage room for prepared materials; And administration offices.
4. A functional ventilation system must be ensured, with sufficient aspirators or pressure fans to contain all toxins generated. The capacity of fans should cater for the entire volume of the factory. Otherwise, ventilation outlets representing 20% of the surface of the land should be installed on the roof or on the walls, from the top and bottom.
5. The factory is to be equipped with all firefighting tools, such as:
  - » Fire alarms,
  - » Water sprinklers, installed on the ceiling,
  - » Fire extinguisher units, with a capacity of at least 6 Kg for the appropriate materials, for every 50 m<sup>2</sup>.These items should be accessible and placed at the entrances and exits of the building(s).



6. The premises must feature anti-leakage materials and systems, including:
  - » Sand bags or absorbent substances with shovels,
  - » Empty and solid bags and barrels that can be sealed.
 These items should be accessible and placed at the entrances and exits of the building(s).
7. Warning signs, such as '**Danger**' - '**No Smoking**' - '**Toxic**' - '**No Entry | Staff Only**' must be placed throughout the premises in visible locations.
8. It is strictly forbidden to have an open flame or smoke in the preparation and packaging rooms and in the warehouses.
9. The laboratory should have all the necessary tools and equipment needed for analyzing raw materials and substances processed in order to conduct:
  - » **Chemical analyses:** Gas Chromatograph, HPLC, Spectrophotometer for active substances, impurities, additives and others.
  - » **Physical analyses:** Appearance Tests; Sieve Tests; Viscosity & Density Tests; Flash Point & Emulsion Stability Tests; Suspensibility, Wettability, Dispersion, Pourability, Cold, pH and Conductivity Tests.
10. All equipment needed to clean machines and tools must be made available. The Agricultural Fertilizer Committee has the right to exempt the applicant, according to the application, from selected equipment required for the laboratory, provided that he/she conducts the necessary analyses at a laboratory in Lebanon or abroad, approved by the Committee in a periodic manner and for each batch. The applicant shall also keep two samples of each batch for a period of no less than two years, along with the records containing all detailed information related to every mixture.
11. Toilets, showers, washbasins and sanitary utilities are to be installed according to the number of workers in such a way as to have one toilet and washbasin for every five individuals.
12. Staff rooms with steel lockers for the clothes and uniforms, and other personal needs of the workers must be installed.
13. Protective clothes should also be provided for all workers exposed to toxins, and are to be placed in specially allocated closets. These protective clothes include:
  - » Overalls covering the arms, legs and body (made of cotton).
  - » Special glasses for eye protection.
  - » Toecaps for protection of feet.
  - » Anti-chemical gloves (PVC; nitrile rubber).
  - » Protective helmets.
  - » Mask for protection against dust and smoke.
 Every worker is liable for the cleanliness and good condition of his/her protective clothes.
14. Protective items for emergencies, such as gas masks related to the type of toxins available or SCBA, must be placed in appropriate locations and made available for at least two persons.



# II. LICENSES FOR CATTLE AND POULTRY FARMS

Farms are allocated plots where animals of various types are raised. **Cattle farms are divided into two types:** dairy cattle breeding farms and cattle farms specialized in the production of meat. **Poultry farms are also divided into two types,** which include: egg production farms and meat production farms. As for the remainder of animal farms, pigs and rabbits specifically, they focus on the production of meat as well.

It must be noted that cattle farms produce heavy liquid and solid waste, as well as air & bacteriological pollution. Also, most of the farms consume large amounts of water and are a source of noise pollution.

## 2.1 APPLYING FOR AN ESTABLISHMENT LICENSE

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### REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

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1. **Easement and Planning Statement**, necessitating:
  - » Surface blueprint.
  - » **Real Estate Certificate.**
  - » **Planning and Easement receipt.**
2. Copy of the **ID Card** or **Official Records** ('Ikhraj Qeid') of the applicant (for Lebanese), or **Work Permit** (for foreigners) **OR a Commercial Register** (for companies).
3. Copy of the **Occupancy Permit** or a **Completion Certificate** confirming the completion of the building (if the building already exists), or a formal **Completion Certificate** if the building was completed before 1964.
4. Copy of the **Lease Contract OR the Title Deed.**
5. Two copies of the **site location blueprint** of the establishment on a scale of 1/1000 showing the surface of the land on which the building is or will be constructed. The map must show the border of the establishments and its surroundings within a radius of at least 500 meters, and feature the locations of all industrial establishments, schools, shelters, hospitals, public buildings, worship places, individual or combined houses, roads, springs, wells, streams and sewers.
6. Three copies of the **building & floors blueprints** on a scale of 1/100 or 1/200, showing:
  - » All sections of the building, their descriptions and uses, internal arrangements to be made, and the wastewater drainage system, which is to be linked to a drain hole or a public sewer.
  - » The allocation of equipment to be used.
  - » Technical setups to be implemented in order to cater for issues that may arise from the location, in order to maintain safety and public health measures, and to protect agriculture and not cause any inconveniences.
7. The study developed and approved concerning the removal and disposal methods of waste.
8. Copy of the **Admission Fee OR Receipt** for First Category projects: LBP 500,000.

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## REQUIRED CONDITIONS

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1. The surface area of the real estate plot shall not be less than 3000 m<sup>2</sup> in total.
2. Areas with a distinctive character such as protected zones, natural and touristic places, shall be avoided by a distance of at least 1000 meters, regardless of whether these places are specified or not by decrees.
3. Water springs must be avoided by a distance of at least 1,000 meters.
4. Rivers & streams must be avoided by a distance of at least 500 meters.
5. All irrigation channels distributed in the region and winter riverbeds shall be avoided by a minimum distance of 50 meters. This distance can be reduced to 10 meters if the channels or sewers are covered and properly sealed.
6. Hospitals, clinics, orphanages, schools of all types, universities, nurseries and worship places shall be avoided by at least 1,000 meters. Cemeteries are to be avoided by at least 300 meters.
7. Residences of any type, if not related to the farm or to neighboring farms, shall be avoided by at least 1,000 meters.
8. The farm shall be located at least 500 meters away from international roads and highways.
9. The farm shall be located at least 100 meters away from the limits of local, primary and secondary roads. It should not be visible from the road.
10. The distance of the farm's building from the land plot's limits shall not be less than 10 meters.
11. The location of the farm should be outside the usual direction of the wind towards any type of the above-mentioned buildings, cities and villages, after determining the Micro-Climate.
12. In a mountainous area, the farm's buildings may be protected by the base of the mountain.
13. Highly visible locations shall be avoided in order to avoid tampering with the landscape.
14. The land reserved for breeding shall not be used for agricultural purposes under any circumstances. Also, it is strictly forbidden to cut trees in order to build a farm. If it is necessary to cut a tree, five trees shall be planted instead, provided that they are taken care of to grow and surround the building.
15. The surrounding environment shall be protected from smoke and odors.
16. The farm shall be lined with a fence as required by the region's conditions, and with trees that are suitable with the climate of the region (evergreen trees in particular).
17. Waste water should only be drained into a public sewage if it is located more than 100 meters away. Otherwise, a well-planned sanitary duct, approved by the Ministry of Public Health may be provided. Sanitary drainage is forbidden in artesian wells. Hence, a feasibility study shall be submitted.
18. In case the farm includes a chicken slaughterhouse, a special and healthy slaughterhouse shall be built. All required health documents, certified by the Sanitary Engineering Department at the Ministry of Public Health, shall be submitted.
19. The building must be elevated from the ground by at least 50 cm to protect the poultry from floods.
20. Natural ventilation openings on distances not exceeding 2.5 meters are required, provided that the surface of the openings is at least 25% of a squared meter. In addition fans and aspirators must be included, and should regulate the room temperature according to the season and region.

21. Protection from fire, earthquakes and other natural disasters, such as hurricanes, should be taken into account in the initial studies and blueprints.
22. The building shall be equipped with the required installations for electricity supply, pumps and all other technical devices. Catalogues of the needed equipment will have to be submitted.
23. A special and detailed study shall be submitted for the incineration plant.
24. The height of the building shall not exceed:
  - » 5 times the width, provided that it does not exceed 65 meters in length.
  - » 7 times the width, provided that it does not exceed 85 meters in length.
  - » 10 times the width, provided that it does not exceed 100 meters in length, particularly in the Bekaa Valley.
25. The space between the farm's buildings shall not be less than 12 meters, according to the Decree for Unclassified Zones.
26. Installations and support walls must not distort the landscape and should blend in with the surroundings.
27. The owner(s) should specify the sanitary zone(s) and slaughterhouse(s) of the project to be licensed, and estimate the logicity of the license, future expansion, parking spots, and others elements in the initial study and building blueprints.
28. The architectural design of the farm's installations shall have construction specifications that ensure their proper functionality, and reflect an aesthetic view that is consistent with their functions and surroundings.

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## FEES DUE

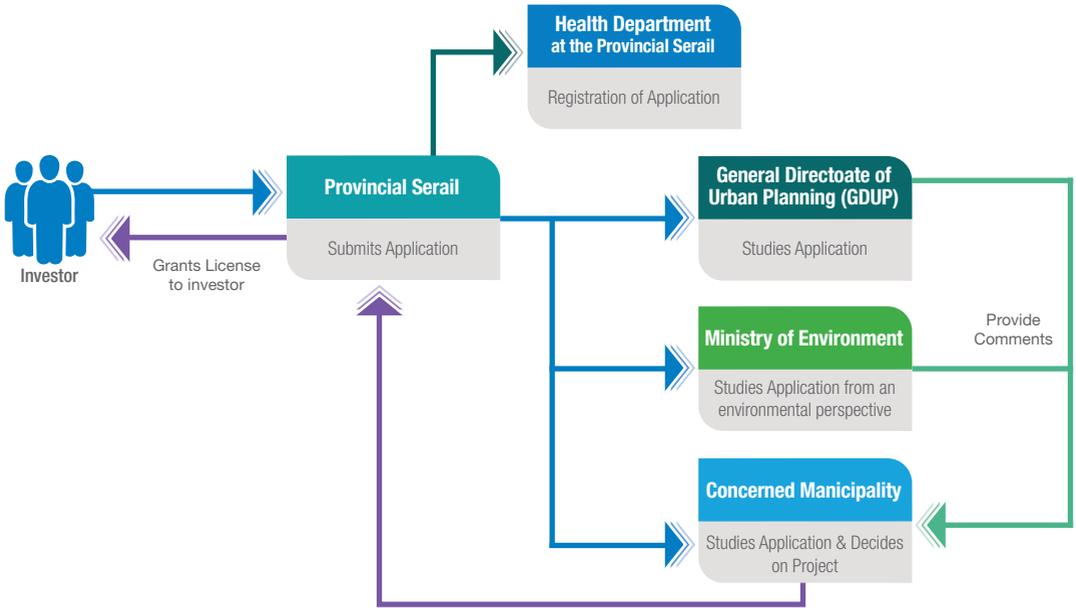
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- » A revenue stamp of **LBP 1,000** for every document.
- » A cash application fee of **LBP 500,000**.
- » An Establishment License fee of **LBP 750,000** in value.  
(The applicant shall not pay any fees to the Ministry of Environment)

**Notes:** In case the concerned person is applying for additional buildings on a licensed farm, and in case these additions exceed 10% in area of the farm, the added sections only shall be subject to the conditions stated above, without affecting the old building, except if necessary.

In case the concerned person wishes to set up a farm for livestock that are not currently used in Lebanon, he/she shall submit a special request to the General Directorate of Urban Planning, with all explanations included therein, in order to obtain an initial approval.

## FILE PROGRESS SYSTEM



**Note:** According to decree No. 1/7 dated 16/05/2011 (adoption of the inspection mechanism), issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, periodic and unannounced inspections are to be conducted on the factories and facilities that undertake agricultural & industrial works of agricultural origin, and that have a direct impact on the health of citizens, the safety of food, nature and environment.



## 2.2 APPLYING FOR AN INVESTMENT LICENSE

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### REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

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1. Building blueprints and all documents submitted in the construction phase.
  2. Construction Permit Approval Letter.
  3. Occupancy Permit (if any).
  4. Photographs of the building with pictures of the sanitary duct, during and after construction.
  5. A detailed scientific study showing the mechanisms for removing waste, resulting from the farm's activity (solid waste; liquid waste; air/odor emissions) attached to the appropriate blueprints.
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### FILE PROGRESS SYSTEM

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The application shall be submitted to the Provincial or 'Muhafaza' Serail after construction is complete, according to the specified Investment License procedures.

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### FEES DUE

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- » Revenue stamp of **LBP 1,000**.
- » Investment fee in cash of **LBP 350,000**.  
(The applicant shall not pay any fees to the Ministry of Environment).



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## CONTACTS

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### Ministry Of Agriculture

- Add. : Embassies Street, Bir Hassan,  
Beirut, Lebanon
- Tel. + 961 1 849 600 - 611
- Email [ministry@agriculture.gov.lb](mailto:ministry@agriculture.gov.lb)
- Web [www.agriculture.gov.lb](http://www.agriculture.gov.lb)

For contact information of provincial serails, visit  
[www.informs.gov.lb](http://www.informs.gov.lb)



