

Beneficial Ownership (UBO) Compliance

UAE Corporate Compliance Awareness 2026 
Transparency | Governance | Regulatory Readiness



Beyond Compliance: The Strategic Value of Transparency

UBO regulations are not merely administrative; they are designed to prevent the misuse of corporate structures and ensure the traceability of ownership. Trust in the UAE investment ecosystem relies on knowing who ultimately owns and controls entities.



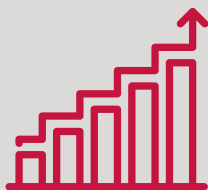
Corporate Governance:

Strengthening transparency within the entity and ensuring internal accountability.



Global Standards:

Enhancing international compliance, Anti-Money Laundering (AML), and Counter-Terrorism Financing (CFT) efforts.

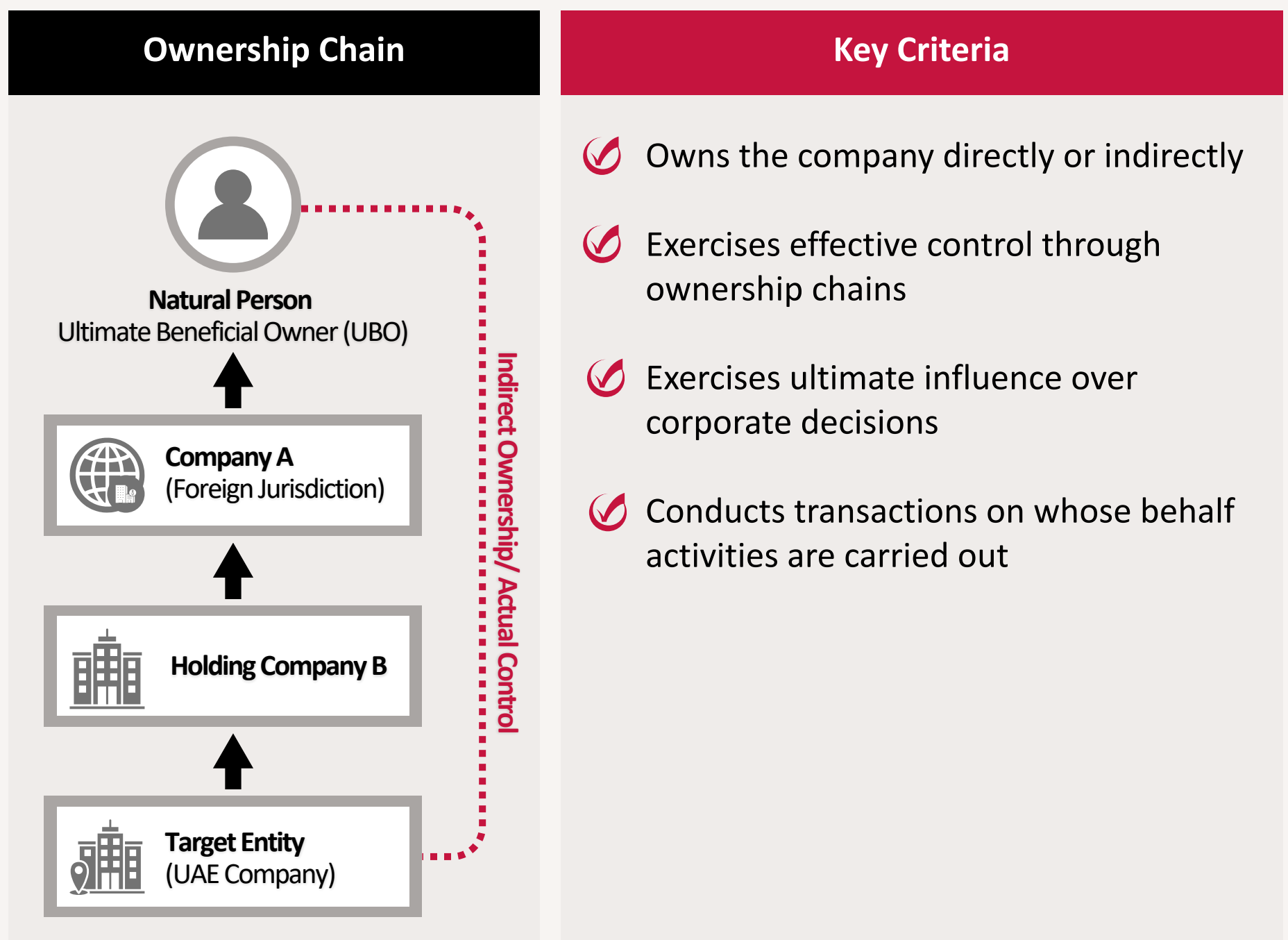


Market Integrity:

Protecting the financial system and the UAE investment ecosystem.

Defining the Ultimate Beneficial Owner (UBO)

A UBO is the natural person who ultimately owns or controls a legal entity, even if that ownership is exercised through multiple layers.



Identifying Control: The 25% Threshold and Beyond

25%+

Capital Ownership

Owning 25% or more of share capital or ownership interests in the entity.

Voting

Voting Significant Rights

Holding significant voting rights, generally aligned with the 25% ownership threshold.

Influence

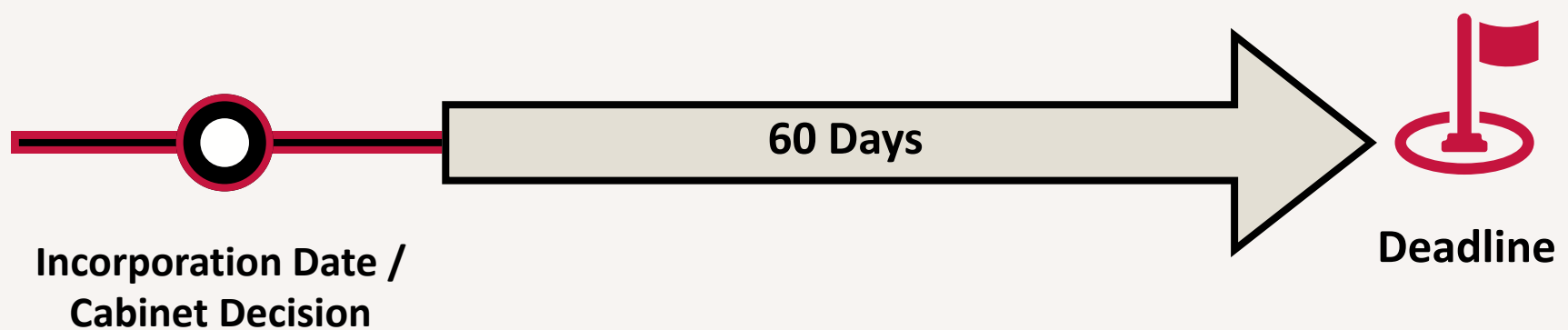
Influence Control by Other Means

Exercising decision-making control (e.g., veto rights, power to appoint directors, even without hitting the 25% equity target).

Note: These criteria apply to the natural person sitting at the top of the chain.

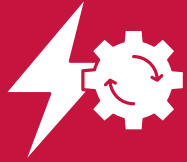
The Beneficial Owner Register: **Operational Mandates**

Every legal entity is legally required to establish and maintain a Beneficial Owner Register capturing ownership and control details.



The Register must be created within 60 days of the company's incorporation or the relevant Cabinet Decision publication.

The Compliance Lifecycle: **Monitoring and Updates**



THE TRIGGER

Change in Beneficial Owner, Ownership %, or Personal Details.

THE ACTION

Update to relevant registrar & entity updates the internal Register.



THE DEADLINE

Must be completed within 15 days of becoming aware of the change.

Continuous Duty: Entities must maintain mechanisms to track changes in real-time.

The Enforcement Framework: **Legal Basis and Authority**

Regulatory Basis

Administrative penalties are governed under:

- Cabinet Resolution No. 132 of 2023
- Cabinet Resolution No. 109 of 2023 (UBO Procedures)

Administrative Actions



Written Warnings



Financial Penalties (Fines)



Restrictions on Managerial Powers



Suspension of Commercial License



STRENGTHEN TRANSPARENCY. SECURE COMPLIANCE.

Conduct your UBO compliance review now and ensure your ownership records are accurate, documented, and fully up to date.



FOR A WORKING SESSION
CONTACT US AT

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