

# Crypto regulation in the United Arab Emirates

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# Overview



# Overview

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The UAE is a federation that consists of seven Emirates. The federal financial regulators are the UAE Central Bank and the Securities and Commodities Authority (SCA).

The UAE's Constitution allows the creation of free zones and financial free zones. It is crucial to understand that Federal laws apply in the UAE Mainland and free zones; however, federal civil and commercial laws do not apply to financial free zones.

The UAE has established two Financial Free Zones: the Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM)-and the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC).

ADGM's regulator is the Financial Services Regulatory Authority (FSRA).

DIFC's regulator is the Dubai Financial Services Authority (DFSA).

This report analyses:

1. Federal crypto regulation
2. Dubai's crypto regulation
3. ADGM's crypto regulation (free financial zone)
4. DIFC's crypto regulation (free financial zone)
5. DMCC's crypto regulation (free zone)
6. RAK DAO's crypto regulation (free zone)

Therefore, UAE federal crypto-related legislation applies to the Emirate of Dubai, DMCC and RAK DAO, while it does NOT apply to DIFC and ADGM.

Status of regulation:  
positive

# Tips & Tricks by D&A Partners

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The United Arab Emirates offers a unique regulatory environment for crypto assets, characterised by different zones with specific objectives and regulations. These include the ADGM, the DIFC, the DMCC and the RAK DAO. Each of these free zones operates under its own regulatory framework, catering to various aspects of financial and commercial activities, including those related to crypto assets. This diversity allows for specialised approaches to crypto regulation, catering to the unique needs of different types of crypto projects.

The UAE has witnessed a significant influx of crypto projects, leveraging the region's progressive stance towards digital finance and innovation. The supportive regulatory environment across its various zones has

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