



US Money Services Business (MSB) Registration

Registration with FinCEN

A Money Services Business (MSB) registration in the United States enables companies to legally conduct specific financial activities such as money transmission, currency exchange, and virtual asset services within the regulatory framework of the Bank Secrecy Act (BSA).

MSBs are registered with FinCEN, the U.S. Treasury authority responsible for anti-money laundering enforcement and financial crime prevention.

Unlike many jurisdictions, the U.S. MSB regime operates as a federal registration framework rather than a traditional licensing regime, allowing companies to register and begin operations subject to AML compliance requirements.



Permitted Activities

A registered MSB may conduct the following regulated activities:

- ✓ Money transmission services
- ✓ Foreign currency exchange
- ✓ Virtual currency exchange and transfer services
- ✓ Digital asset payment processing
- ✓ Cross-border remittance services
- ✓ Issuance and redemption of stored value instruments
- ✓ Crypto-to-fiat and fiat-to-crypto settlement infrastructure

The scope of activities depends on the business model and compliance structure.

Suitable Business Models

The U.S. MSB framework is suitable for companies operating in sectors such as:

- ✓ Cryptocurrency exchanges
- ✓ OTC crypto brokerage desks
- ✓ Digital asset payment gateways
- ✓ Cross-border remittance platforms
- ✓ PSP (Payment Service Providers)
- ✓ Crypto-to-fiat on/off-ramp providers
- ✓ Stablecoin payment infrastructure
- ✓ Fintech payment processing platforms



Regulatory Requirements

Companies registered as MSB must comply with the requirements of the Bank Secrecy Act (BSA), including:

01

Establishment of a written AML/CTF compliance program

02

Implementation of KYC/KYB procedures

03

Transaction monitoring and suspicious activity reporting

02

Recordkeeping and reporting obligations

MSB registration must be renewed every two years.

Jurisdiction Structure

A typical international MSB structure includes:

- ✓ Incorporation of a U.S. company (usually LLC)
- ✓ Registration with FinCEN as an MSB
- ✓ Implementation of AML compliance framework
- ✓ Banking and payment rails via partner institutions

Certain states such as Montana do not require additional state-level Money Transmitter Licenses, making them attractive for international fintech structures.





Registration Process

Step 1

Company Incorporation

Establishment of a U.S. entity (LLC or Corporation).

Step 2

EIN Application

Obtaining an Employer Identification Number (EIN) from the IRS.

Step 3

Compliance Setup

Preparation of AML/BSA compliance policies and procedures.

Step 4

FinCEN Registration

Submission of FinCEN Form 107.

Step 5

Public Registry Listing

The company appears in the FinCEN MSB public registry.

Estimated timeline to MSB registration:

Approximately 2-3 months, depending on the business model and regulatory review.



Advantages of U.S. MSB Registration

- ✓ Internationally recognised regulatory framework
- ✓ Fast registration process compared to licensing jurisdictions
- ✓ Suitable for fintech and crypto businesses
- ✓ Flexible operational structure
- ✓ Strong jurisdictional reputation

Ideal Clients

This structure is particularly suitable for:

- ✓ Crypto exchanges
- ✓ Web3 startups
- ✓ Fintech payment platforms
- ✓ Cross-border payment companies
- ✓ OTC crypto brokers



US MSB (FinCEN) – Service Packages

	Professional	Full Operational
Corporate Setup		
UBO / executive director due diligence	Up to 3 persons	Unlimited
Shareholders as physical persons	✓	✓
Holding ownership structure accepted		✓
Company name verification	✓	✓
US company incorporation	✓	✓
Employer Identification Number (EIN) Application (IRS)	✓	✓
Notarized corporate documents		✓
Regulatory structuring consultation		✓
Corporate Infrastructure		
Legal registered address (1 year)	✓	✓
Corporate secretarial Support	✓	✓
Mail forwarding service (1 year)		✓
Digital infrastructure		
Legal entity identifier (LEI)		✓
Non-connected SWIFT code		✓
Domain name registration		✓
Website development		✓
Corporate email setup		✓
Virtual U.S. mobile number (eSIM)		✓
Compliance documentation		
MSB compliance documentation	Standard	Advanced
Business plan	Business plan outline	Tailored business plan
MSB Registration with FinCEN	✓	✓
Listing in FinCEN MSB Public Registry	✓	✓
Banking & Operational Support		
Assistance with operational bank account opening		✓
Introduction to payment providers / EMIs		✓
Payment infrastructure advisory		✓
Crypto payment infrastructure advisory		✓
Correspondent banking support		✓
SWIFT Connectivity via Partner Banks		✓
	€20,000	€35,000



About DM Strategy



DM Strategy specializes in regulatory structuring and market entry solutions for FinTech and digital asset businesses. The firm supports companies in establishing compliant financial infrastructure across leading jurisdictions, combining strategic guidance with practical implementation of regulatory and operational frameworks.

The practice is led by professionals with over 10 years of experience in banking, fintech, and digital asset regulation, having supported numerous projects in areas such as licensing, regulatory structuring, and financial infrastructure setup. DM Strategy works with crypto exchanges, fintech companies, payment institutions, and digital asset platforms entering regulated markets. Each project begins with a preliminary regulatory assessment to determine the most appropriate licensing and compliance structure. **For project inquiries and regulatory assessment, please contact our team.**

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