

	Sole proprietorship	General Partnership	Limited Partnership	Limited Liability Company	Corporation
Coming into being	With the commencement of business	Commercial partnerships: with the conclusion of the partnership agreement. Non-commercial partnerships: with the entry in the Commercial Register	With the conclusion of the partnership agreement.	With the entry in the Commercial Register	With the entry in the Commercial Register
Minimum number of founders	1	2	2	1	1
Minimum capital (CHF)	No lower limit	No lower limit; amount according to agreement	No lower limit; amount according to agreement	CHF 20'000.-, paid-in full	100'000.-, paid-in at least 20% or CHF 50'000 (whatever is more)
Capital in foreign currency	No	No	No	Yes, whereby the capital must correspond to an equivalent value of at least CHF 20'000.-	Yes, whereby the capital must correspond to an equivalent value of at least CHF 100'000.-
Company name	Must contain the family name of the owner; can contain optional additions: Sam Smith Painter	Family name of a partner, descriptive name or fantasy name; must contain mandatory Suffix <i>KLG</i> or <i>Kollektivgesellschaft</i> : <i>Smith KLG</i> or <i>ABC Kollektivgesellschaft</i>	Family name of a partner, descriptive name or fantasy name; must contain mandatory Suffix <i>KMG</i> oder <i>Kommanditgesellschaft</i> : <i>Smith KMG</i> or <i>ABC Kommanditgesellschaft</i>	Family name of a shareholder, descriptive name or fantasy name; must contain mandatory Suffix <i>GmbH</i> : <i>Smith GmbH</i> or <i>ABC GmbH</i>	Family name of a shareholder, descriptive name or fantasy name; must contain mandatory Suffix <i>AG</i> or <i>Aktiengesellschaft</i> : <i>Smith AG</i> oder <i>ABC Aktiengesellschaft</i>
Right of uniqueness (name)	Limited to the domicile municipality	Switzerland	Switzerland	Switzerland	Switzerland
Commercial Register requirements	Registration form is enough	Registration form is enough	Registration form is enough	Public deed of the district or a notary, as well as the statutes. Registration is compulsory	Public deed of the district or a notary, as well as the statutes. Registration is compulsory
Liability (in case of insufficient company assets)	Unlimited personal liability of the owner	Unlimited personal, joint and several liability of the partners	Partners with limited liability (limited partners): up to the registered limit Partners with unlimited liability (unlimited partners): Unlimited personal, joint and several liability of the partners	Liability limited to company assets. No personal liability of the shareholders	No liability of the shareholders if the subscribed share value was paid-in full. Personal liability for the unpaid amount of subscribed shares
Management	Owner	Single or collective managing directors; Authorized third parties possible	Unlimited partners, single or collective; Authorized third parties possible	All shareholders act collectively. Usually it is regulated by statute, that the meeting of shareholders elect the managing directors	Management is conducted by the board of directors, which is elected by the general meeting. The board can delegate management to third parties
Obligation to maintain records	Annual turnover CHF 500'000.- or more	Annual turnover CHF 500'000.- or more	Annual turnover CHF 500'000.- or more	Yes	Yes
Auditing body	Optional	Optional	Optional	Obliged for ordinary or limited audits. Limited audits can be waived, if the company has max. 10 employees and all shareholders agree	Obliged for ordinary or limited audits. Limited audits can be waived, if the company has max. 10 employees and all shareholders agree
Tax liability	Owner	Each partner for his share	Each partner for his share	Company. Plus owner for their dividend	Company. Plus owner for their dividend