

**Law No. (9) of 2015**  
**Concerning the**  
**Dubai World Trade Centre<sup>1</sup>**

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**We, Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Ruler of Dubai,**

After perusal of:

Law No. (11) of 2006 Establishing the Investment Corporation of Dubai and its amendments;

Law No. (10) of 2008 Establishing the Dubai World Trade Centre Corporation;

Law No. (35) of 2009 Concerning Management of the Public Funds of the Government of Dubai and its amendments; and

The legislation establishing and regulating free zones in the Emirate of Dubai,

**Do hereby issue this Law.**

**Title of the Law**  
**Article (1)**

This Law will be cited as “Law No. (9) of 2015 Concerning the Dubai World Trade Centre”.

**Definitions**  
**Article (2)**

The following words and expressions, wherever mentioned in this Law, will have the meaning indicated opposite each of them unless the context implies otherwise:

UAE:	The United Arab Emirates.
Emirate:	The Emirate of Dubai.
Ruler:	His Highness the Ruler of Dubai.
Government:	The Government of Dubai.

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<sup>1</sup>*Every effort has been made to produce an accurate and complete English version of this legislation. However, for the purpose of its interpretation and application, reference must be made to the original Arabic text. In case of conflict the Arabic text will prevail.*

Law No. (9) of 2015 Concerning the Dubai World Trade Centre

DWTC:	The Dubai World Trade Centre.
ICD:	The Investment Corporation of Dubai.
DWTCA:	The Dubai World Trade Centre Authority.
Board of Directors:	The board of directors of the DWTCA.
Chairman:	The chairman of the DWTCA.
Director General:	The director general of the DWTCA.
DWTC Zones:	The Free Zone and the Administrative Zone.
Free Zone:	The free zone established within the boundaries of the DWTC in accordance with this Law.
Administrative Zone:	The administrative zone established within the boundaries of the DWTC in accordance with this Law.
DWTC Establishments:	Sole establishments and commercial companies licensed to operate within the DWTC in accordance with this Law and the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof.

### **Establishment of the DWTC**

#### **Article (3)**

- a. Pursuant to this Law, the following are established:
  1. a zone named the “Dubai World Trade Centre”. The location, area, and boundaries of this zone are demarcated in the maps attached to this Law; and
  2. a public corporation named the “Dubai World Trade Centre Authority”. The DWTCA will have legal personality, financial and administrative autonomy, and the legal capacity required to undertake all acts and dispositions that ensure the achievement of its objectives. The DWTCA will be affiliated to the ICD.
- b. A Free Zone and an Administrative Zone are hereby established within the DWTC. The Chairman will determine their locations, areas, and boundaries. The DWTC Zones will be managed by the DWTCA and governed by its regulatory legislation. The resolutions issued by the Chairman in this respect must be published in the Official Gazette of the Government.

## **Objectives of the DWTC**

### **Article (4)**

The DWTC aims to:

1. promote the Emirate as a hub for international trade and for diversified and sustainable economic development;
2. contribute to promoting the Emirate as a prime destination for hosting and organising exhibitions, conferences, and events at the local and international levels; and
3. contribute to attracting local and international commercial investments, companies, and corporations to set up business and invest in the DWTC Zones.

## **Functions of the DWTC**

### **Article (5)**

The DWTC will supervise the administration of the DWTC. For the purposes of achieving the objectives of the DWTC, the DWTC will have the duties and powers to:

1. in coordination with concerned entities and in accordance with the legislation in force in the Emirate, establish, develop, and manage the infrastructure and administrative services within the DWTC Zones, including the construction of buildings and residential, commercial, and hotel establishments whether by itself or through real estate developers;
2. determine the business and activities which are authorised within the DWTC Zones, and establish the rules, conditions, requirements, and procedures for licensing such business and activities;
3. approve the master plan of the DWTC Zones; and license, regulate, control, and supervise all construction works performed within the DWTC Zones;
4. register and license DWTC Establishments within the Free Zone in accordance with the provisions of this Law and the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof;
5. register and license DWTC Establishments within the Administrative Zone in accordance with the legislation in force in the Emirate;
6. in accordance with the legislation in force in the Emirate, determine and collect fees for the registration and licensing of DWTC Establishments and any other fees or charges levied by the DWTC in return for the services it provides;
7. audit and inspect DWTC Establishments and their activities to verify their compliance with the provisions of this Law and the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof;
8. establish corporations and companies solely or in partnership with third parties, or invest in these corporations and companies;
9. coordinate with other free zones to streamline the business activities of DWTC Establishments in these free zones;

10. provide DWTC Establishments, upon request, with administrative, technical, and specialised personnel, tradesmen, and any other workers, in accordance with the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof, and with the terms agreed upon by the DWTC and these DWTC Establishments;
11. purchase, take lease of, and own moveable and immoveable property, as may be required, and invest and dispose of such property in any legal manner;
12. cooperate and coordinate with local, federal, regional, and international entities, including other free zones, in areas related to the business of the DWTC; and
13. perform any other duties required for the achievement of the objectives of the DWTC.

### **Organisational Structure of the DWTC**

#### **Article (6)**

The organisational structure of the DWTC will comprise:

- a. the Chairman;
- b. the Board of Directors;
- c. the Director General; and
- d. the executive body.

### **Appointment and Functions of the Chairman**

#### **Article (7)**

- a. A Chairman will be appointed to the DWTC pursuant to a decree of the Ruler.
- b. The Chairman will undertake the general supervision of the DWTC, and for such purpose, he will have the duties and powers to:
  1. approve the general policy and the strategic and development plans of the DWTC;
  2. approve the services, works, projects, and activities that the DWTC intends to undertake;
  3. approve the organisational structure of the DWTC;
  4. approve the draft annual budget and final accounts of the DWTC, and submit the same to the competent entities for approval; and
  5. establish affiliates of the DWTC as required to perform its duties in accordance with this Law and the resolution issued in pursuance hereof.
- c. The Chairman may delegate any of the powers stipulated in paragraphs (b)(2) and (b)(5) of this Article to a committee formed by the Board of Directors, provided that such delegation is specific and in writing.

**Board of Directors**  
**Article (8)**

- a. The DWTCa will be supervised by a Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will be presided over by the Chairman, and will comprise a vice chairman and at least five (5) other members.
- b. The vice chairman and members of the Board of Directors will be appointed pursuant to a resolution of the Chairman for a renewable term of three (3) years.
- c. In the absence of the Chairman, the vice chairman will act as the Chairman, and will exercise all his functions.

**Functions of the Board of Directors**  
**Article (9)**

- a. The Board of Directors will have the duties and powers to:
  - 1. approve the general policy of the DWTCa and the strategic, development, and operational plans proposed by the Director General; and present the relevant recommendations to the Chairman to take the appropriate action in this respect;
  - 2. discuss the draft annual budget and final accounts of the DWTCa, and submit the same to the Chairman for approval;
  - 3. approve the organisational structure of the DWTCa and submit the same to the Chairman for final approval;
  - 4. approve rules and procedures for the registration and licensing of DWTC Establishments, and approve the fees prescribed for the services provided by the DWTCa;
  - 5. approve the resolutions regulating the administrative, financial, and technical work of the DWTCa;
  - 6. determine investment opportunities and supervise the construction of infrastructure in the DWTC;
  - 7. conduct annual reviews of the performance reports of the DWTCa, and submit the relevant recommendations to the Chairman;
  - 8. approve the services, works, projects, and activities which the DWTCa intends to undertake; and submit these to the Chairman for final approval; and
  - 9. perform any other duties assigned or delegated to it by the Chairman.
- b. The Board of Directors may delegate the powers stipulated in paragraph (a)(4) of this Article to the Director General, provided that such delegation is specific and in writing.

**Meetings of the Board of Directors**  
**Article (10)**

- a. The Board of Directors will be convened by its Chairman, or in his absence by the vice chairman, at least twice a year, or where required. Meetings of the Board of Directors will be valid if attended by the majority of its members, provided that the Chairman or vice chairman of the Board of Directors is in attendance.
- b. The resolutions of the Board of Directors will be passed by majority vote of attending members, and in the event of a tie the chair of the meeting will have the casting vote. Meetings of the Board of Directors will be recorded in minutes of meetings signed by the chair of the meeting and attending members.
- c. The Board of Directors may seek assistance from the experts and specialists it deems appropriate to attend its meetings, provided that they do not have the right to vote.

**Appointment and Functions of the Director General**  
**Article (11)**

- a. The Director General will be appointed pursuant to a decree of the Ruler.
- b. Under the supervision of the Chairman, the Director General will manage the DWTC in accordance with the provisions of this Law and the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof. For this purpose, the Director General will have the duties and powers to:
  - 1. propose the general policy and the strategic, development, and operational plans of the DWTC, submit these to the Board of Directors for approval, and take appropriate action for implementation of the same upon final approval;
  - 2. propose resolutions to regulate the administrative, financial, and technical work of the DWTC, and submit these to the Board of Directors for approval;
  - 3. prepare the draft annual budget and the final accounts of the DWTC, and submit the same to the Board of Directors for discussion;
  - 4. prepare the organisational structure of the DWTC, and submit the same to the Board of Directors for approval;
  - 5. issue the resolutions required for maintaining registers for the licensing of DWTC Establishments and other registers relating to the work of the DWTC;
  - 6. coordinate with local and federal government entities and with other free zones for the purpose of achieving the objectives of the DWTC;
  - 7. supervise the executive body of the DWTC and audit its administrative, technical, and financial performance;
  - 8. represent the DWTC before third parties, and conclude the contracts and agreements required for the achievement of the objectives of the DWTC;

9. subject to approval of the Chairman, open and manage bank accounts in accordance with the legislation in force;
  10. prepare annual reports on the performance of the executive body with respect to achieving the objectives of the DWTC, and submit these to the Board of Directors; and
  11. perform any other duties assigned or delegated to him by the Board of Directors.
- c. The Director General may delegate any of the powers stipulated in paragraph (a) of this Article to any employee of the DWTC, provided that such delegation is specific and in writing.

#### **Executive Body Article (12)**

The DWTC will have an executive body comprised of a number of administrative, financial, and technical employees whose terms of employment, rights, obligations, termination, and other related matters will be determined pursuant to a regulation issued by the Director General in this respect.

#### **Financial Resources of the DWTC Article (13)**

The financial resources of the DWTC will consist of:

1. the moveable and immoveable property allocated by the ICD to the DWTC;
2. licensing fees and charges for the services provided by the DWTC;
3. returns on investment of the property of the DWTC; and
4. gifts, donations, and other resources approved by the Chairman.

#### **Budget and Accounts of the DWTC Article (14)**

- a. The DWTC will have an independent budget which reflects its actual financial position.
- b. In regulating its accounts and records, the DWTC will apply commercial accounting rules and principles, and recognised international standards.
- c. The financial year of the DWTC will commence on 1 January and will end on 31 December of each year, except that the first financial year of the DWTC will commence on the date on which this Law comes into force and will end on 31 December of the following year.

**Cooperation with the DWTC**  
**Article (15)**

All Government Entities in the Emirate must cooperate with the DWTC to enable it to perform the duties assigned to it under this Law and the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof.

**Prohibited Activities**  
**Article (16)**

The following activities will be prohibited within the DWTC:

1. any activity that conflicts with the terms of the licences issued to DWTC Establishments or with the legislation in force; and
2. any activity that conflicts with public order or morality.

**Goods of the DWTC**  
**Article (17)**

- a. All national or foreign goods from whatever source will be admitted to the DWTC Zones.
- b. As an exception to paragraph (a) of this Article, the following goods and products may not be brought into the DWTC Zones:
  1. perished goods;
  2. goods violating commercial, industrial, literary, artistic, and intellectual property laws, including the laws and rules related to trademarks, patents, copyrights, and design rights;
  3. goods prohibited by the UAE or the Government;
  4. goods that feature inscriptions, drawings, ornamentations, marks, or figures that conflict with the doctrines, teachings, and beliefs of heavenly revealed religions; or that breach public order or morality;
  5. military goods and ammunition, except those admitted pursuant to a permit issued by the competent authority in the UAE; and
  6. all goods, products, and services which are prohibited under the legislation in force in the Emirate.



## **Exemption from Customs Duties**

### **Article (18)**

- a. Goods brought into the Free Zone, or manufactured, produced, or developed therein will be exempt from customs duties; and when exported outside of the UAE, no customs duties will be levied on these goods.
- b. Products stored in the Free Zone, or used in any process within the Free Zone, will be exempt from customs duties.
- c. Products exported from the Free Zone to the customs zone within the Emirate will be deemed as if imported from abroad for the first time, and customs duties will apply to these products in accordance with the customs tariff provisions in force.

## **Tax Exemption**

### **Article (19)**

In respect of their operations in the Free Zone, DWTC Establishments licensed in the Free Zone and their employees will be exempt, for a period of fifty (50) years renewable for the same period pursuant to a resolution of the Ruler, from all taxes, including the income tax. This period will start on the date on which a licensed DWTC Establishment or its employee commences work within the Free Zone.

## **Immunity from Limitation of Ownership Measures**

### **Article (20)**

Neither DWTC Establishments, nor their property, nor the property of their employees may be subject to any nationalisation or limitation of private ownership measures throughout the period of their work within the DWTC.

## **Employees of DWTC Establishments**

### **Article (21)**

DWTC Establishments may, at their own discretion, employ or hire any person to perform work in the DWTC, provided that such person is not a national of any country which is politically boycotted by the UAE.

## **Exemption from Compliance with Certain Laws**

### **Article (22)**

- a. Neither the DWTC nor the DWTC Establishments licensed in the Free Zone will, in relation to their operations in the Free Zone, be governed by the laws, regulations, authority, or powers of the Dubai Municipality or the Department of Economic Development. This will

not apply to the legislation related to public health and safety, and food and environment control , or to the legislation that expressly stipulates that it is applicable to free zones.

- b. The DWTC may, as it deems appropriate, seek assistance from Government Entities and other free zones in the Emirate, and benefit from their programmes and systems in licensing DWTC Establishments. These programmes and systems will be implemented in accordance with the bylaws in force in the DWTC. Licences issued to DWTC Establishments in cooperation with concerned Government Entities will be deemed as if issued by the DWTC.

### **Establishing DWTC Establishments Licensed in the Free Zone**

#### **Article (23)**

Corporations and companies will be incorporated in the Free Zone in accordance with the regulations in force in the Free Zone. These companies will be deemed DWTC Establishments licensed in the Free Zone. These companies may be owned by one or more natural or legal persons, whether UAE nationals or foreigners.

### **Licensing DWTC Establishments**

#### **Article (24)**

- a. No entity may conduct any activity within the DWTC unless it is licensed by the DWTC to conduct such activity.
- b. Pursuant to a relevant regulation approved by the Board of Directors, DWTC Establishments will be licensed in the Free Zone, all the rules regulating their business, including their establishment, registration, and governing requirements and rules will be determined, the regulations governing their liquidation will be established, and any other relevant matters will be determined.

### **Obligations of DWTC Establishments Licensed in the Free Zone**

#### **Article (25)**

- a. The name of a DWTC Establishment licensed in the Free Zone must, in all its transactions, contracts, advertisements, invoices, correspondence, and publications, be followed by an indication that it is a free zone establishment, and a statement of its legal form.
- b. Where the owner of a DWTC Establishment licensed in the Free Zone fails to comply with paragraph (a) of this Article, he will be personally liable to settle the obligations of the establishment from all his moveable and immoveable property.

### **Liability**

#### **Article (26)**

- a. Neither the Government nor the ICD will be liable to third parties for any debts or obligations claimed from the DWTC or its affiliates. The DWTC will be solely liable for such debts or obligations.

- b. Neither the DWTCA nor its authorised representatives will be liable to third parties for the obligations of DWTC Establishments or of their employees.

### **Exemption from Liability**

#### **Article (27)**

Except in cases of fraud or gross fault, neither the Chairman, nor the vice chairman of the Board of Directors, nor any member of the Board of Directors, nor the Director General, nor any employee of the executive body of the DWTCA will, in the course of managing the DWTCA, be liable to third parties for any act or omission in respect of such management. The DWTCA will be solely liable to third parties for such act or omission.

### **Assignment of Licence**

#### **Article (28)**

No DWTC Establishment may assign the licence issued to it by the DWTCA to any other party or entity without first obtaining the written approval of the DWTCA.

### **Penalties**

#### **Article (29)**

The Board of Directors will issue a bylaw determining the administrative penalties prescribed for violating this Law and the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof. This bylaw will also determine the entity authorised to impose and enforce these penalties.

### **Law Enforcement**

#### **Article (30)**

DWTCA employees and inspectors nominated pursuant to a resolution of the Director General will have the capacity of law enforcement officers to record the acts committed in breach of the provisions of this Law and the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof. For this purpose, they may monitor and supervise DWTC Establishments and their activities and business, issue the necessary violation reports, and, where necessary, seek the assistance of police personnel.

### **Delegation of Powers**

#### **Article (31)**

The DWTCA may delegate any of its powers stipulated in this Law to any public or private entity pursuant to an agreement concluded in this respect.

**Transfer of Rights and Obligations**  
**Article (32)**

All the rights and obligations of the Dubai World Trade Centre Corporation established pursuant to the above-mentioned Law No. (10) of 2008 are hereby transferred to the DWTCA. All employees of the said corporation will also be transferred to the DWTCA without prejudice to their existing rights.

**Issuing Implementing Resolutions**  
**Article (33)**

The Chairman will issue the resolutions required for the implementation of this Law.

**Repeals**  
**Article (34)**


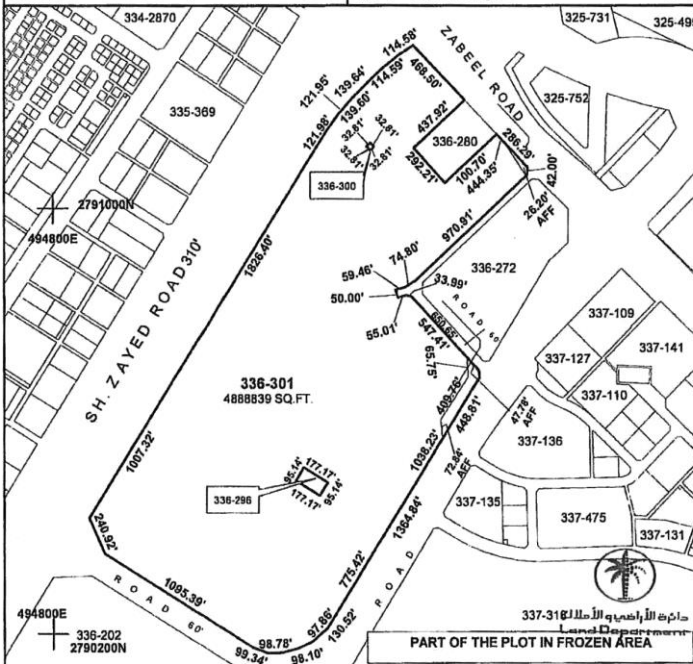
- a. This Law supersedes the above-mentioned Law No. (10) of 2008. Any provision in any other legislation will also be repealed to the extent that it contradicts the provisions of this Law.
- b. The regulations and resolutions issued in pursuance of the above-mentioned Law No. (10) of 2008 will continue in force to the extent that they do not contradict this Law until new superseding regulations and resolutions are issued.


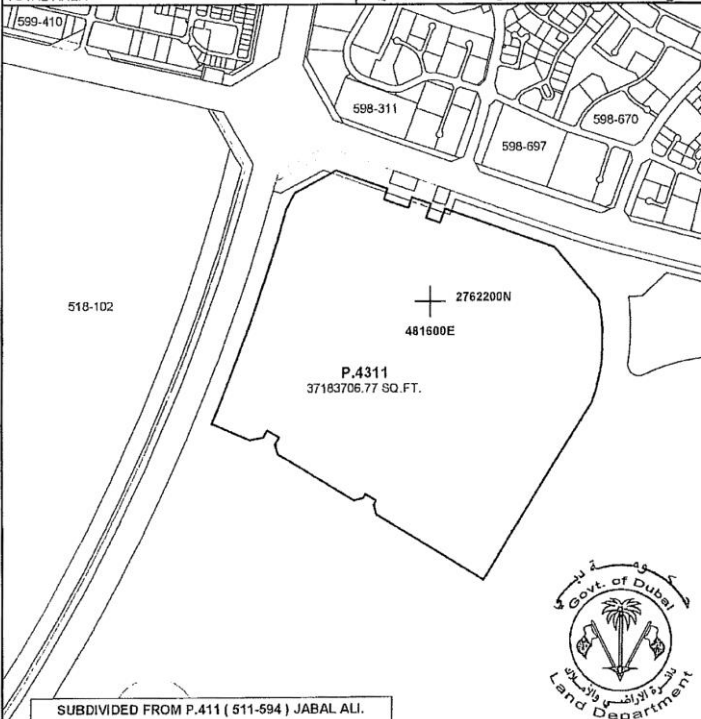


**Publication and Commencement**  
**Article (35)**

This Law will be published in the Official Gazette and will come into force on the day on which it is published.


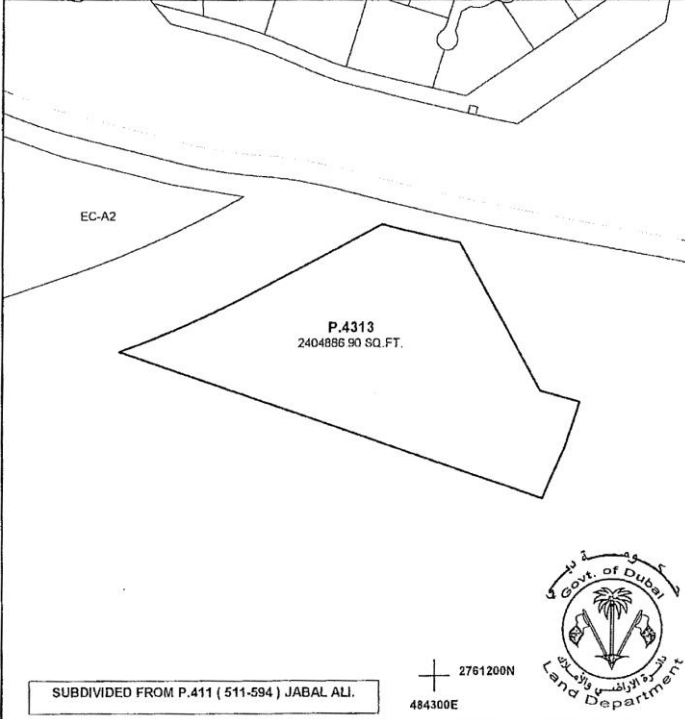


**Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum**  
**Ruler of Dubai**

Issued in Dubai on 11 April 2015  
Corresponding to 22 Jumada al-Thaniyah 1436 A.H.

 GOVERNMENT OF DUBAI		دائرة الأراضي والأموال Land Department	
الاسم: مركز دبي التجاري العالمي (ش.ذ.م.م) المنطقة: المركز التجاري الثاني (336) رقم القطعة: 24		الاسم: مركز دبي التجاري العالمي (ش.ذ.م.م) المنطقة: المركز التجاري الثاني (336) رقم القطعة: 24	
NAME: Dubai World Trade Centre (L.L.C.) BLOCK: TRADE CENTER SECOND (336) PLOT NO.: 24		الاسم: مركز دبي التجاري العالمي (ش.ذ.م.م) المنطقة: المركز التجاري الثاني (336) رقم القطعة: 24	
TOTAL AREA 4888839/= SQ.FT. 454188/44 SQ.M. AFFECTED 26052/= SQ.FT. 2420/31 SQ.M. BALANCE 4862787/= SQ.FT. 451768/13 SQ.M.		مجموع المساحة: 4888839/ قدم مربع (454188/44 متر مربع) المتأثرة: 26052/ قدم مربع (2420/31 متر مربع) الباقي: 4862787/ قدم مربع (451768/13 متر مربع)	
			
REFERENCE: DM Site Plan 336-301 DATED: 03/03/2009 PREVIOUS REG: SCALE: 1:8000 Company No: ORIGIN: Granted STATUS: Existing Plot PREPARED BY: محمد صالح محمد ISSUED ON: 02/04/2009		Theoretical BY: DATED: APPROVED BY SURVEY SECTION	

GOVERNMENT OF DUBAI LAND DEPARTMENT		 حكومة دبي دائرة الأراضي و الاملاك	
NAME: DUBAI WORLD TRADE CENTER (L L C)		الاسم: مركز دبي التجاري العالمي (ش.م.م)	
BLOCK: JABAL ALI (511)		المنطقة: جبل علي (511)	
PLOT NO. 4311		رقم القطعة: 4311	
TOTAL AREA 37183706/77 SQ.FT (3454482/74 SQ.M)		مجموع المساحة: 37183706/77 قدم مربع (3454482/74 متر مربع)	
			
<div style="text-align: center;">          Govt. of Dubai دائرة الأراضي و الاملاك Land Department       </div>			
SUBDIVIDED FROM P.411 ( 511-594 ) JABAL ALI.			
REFERENCE : DWC-EC-A1 (Dubai Exhibition City)		Theoretical	
DATED: 25/09/2007 PID : 511-		BY: _____	
PREVIOUS REG:		DATED: _____	
SCALE: 1:25000 Company No: EC-A1		APPROVED BY SURVEY SECTION	
ORIGIN: GRANTED STATUS: Open Plot			
PREPARED BY: محمد بن سيف الدين ISSUED ON: 04/08/2008			

<b>GOVERNMENT OF DUBAI</b> <b>LAND DEPARTMENT</b>		<b>حكومة دبي</b> <b>دائرة الأراضي و الاملاك</b>	
NAME: DUBAI WORLD TRADE CENTER (L L C)		الاسم: مركز دبي التجاري العالمي (ش. ذ. م.)	
BLOCK	JABAL ALI (511)	(511)	المنطقة
PLOT NO.	4312	4312	رقم القطعة
TOTAL AREA	4087706/06 SQ FT (379760/69 SQ M)	4087706/06	المجموع المساحة
		379760/69	متر مربع
SUBDIVIDED FROM P.411 ( 511-594 ) JABAL ALI.			
REFERENCE : DWC-EC-A2 (Dubai Exhibition City) DATED: 25/09/2007 PID : 511- PREVIOUS REG: SCALE: 1:9000 Company No: EC-A2 ORIGIN: GRANTED STATUS: Open Plot PREPARED BY: علي سلطان محمد النجار ISSUED ON: 04/08/2008		Theoretical BY: DATED: APPROVED BY SURVEY SECTION 	

<b>GOVERNMENT OF DUBAI</b> <b>LAND DEPARTMENT</b>		 <b>حكومة دبي</b> <b>دائرة الأراضي و الاملاك</b>	
NAME: DUBAI WORLD TRADE CENTER (L L C)		الإسم: مركز دبي التجاري العالمي (ش ذ م ح)	
BLOCK	JABAL ALI (511)	(511)	المنطقة جبل علي
PLOT NO.	4313	4313	رقم القطعة
TOTAL AREA 2404886/90 SQ.FT.(223421/52 SQ.M)		مجموع المساحة 2404886/90 قدم مربع (223421/52 متر مربع)	
			
SUBDIVIDED FROM P.411 ( 511-594 ) JABAL ALI.			
REFERENCE: DWC-EC-A3 (Dubai Exhibition City) DATED: 25/09/2007 PREVIOUS REG: SCALE: 1:8000 Company No: EC-A3 ORIGIN: GRANTED STATUS: Open Plot PREPARED BY:  ISSUED ON: 04/08/2008		Theoretical BY: DATED: APPROVED BY SURVEY SECTION 