

1. Regulatory Overview

- **Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA): Governance & Quality Assurance (Dubai)**
Governance for private schools and training centers in Dubai is guided by the School Inspection Framework and the Qualifications and Awards in Dubai (QAD) system. These frameworks ensure adherence to quality standards, academic integrity, and institutional accountability.
- **Abu Dhabi Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (ACTVET): National Accreditation**
ACTVET governs vocational education at a national level through the National Occupational Skills Standards (NOSS), ensuring alignment with workforce requirements and international benchmarks.
- **TASNEEF-RINA Business Assurance: Technical & Safety Compliance**
While KHDA and ACTVET focus on academic governance and pedagogy, TASNEEF provides independent technical verification, ensuring compliance with safety, operational, and international certification standards.

2. Compliance & Governance Pillars

- **Permit Compliance:**
Institutions must hold a valid Educational Permit aligned with their academic or vocational offerings.
- **Administrative Governance:**
Mandatory KHDA approval is required for key appointments (e.g., Principals, academic staff) and fee structures.
- **Safeguarding & Wellbeing:**
Strict adherence to student protection policies and well-being frameworks are essential.
- **TVET Integration:**
Training centers offering vocational qualifications must coordinate with KHDA's QAD to align with the National Qualifications Framework (NQF).
- **Accredited Training Provider (ATP) Status:**
Required for institutions delivering nationally recognised vocational qualifications.
- **Quality Standards:**
Compliance is measured across five key pillars:
 - Governance & Management

- Teaching & Learning
 - Assessment
 - Resources
 - Continuous Improvement
- **NQF Alignment:**
ACTVET ensures all vocational programmes align with the UAE National Qualifications Framework (Levels 1–9).
 - **ISO Certification:**
Many institutions pursue ISO 9001 (Quality Management) or ISO 21001 (Educational Organisations) through TASNEEF to strengthen audit readiness and credibility.
 - **Health & Safety Compliance:**
TASNEEF conducts third-party inspections to ensure technical facilities meet UAE safety standards.
 - **Specialised Training Compliance:**
For sectors such as maritime and industrial training, TASNEEF certifies equipment, simulators, and operational readiness.

3. Combined Compliance Workflow (2026)

To achieve full compliance, institutions typically follow this structured pathway:

- **Legal Licensing:**
Obtain a commercial license from the Department of Economy and Tourism (DET) or relevant Free Zone authority.
- **Educational Permit:**
Secure initial approval from KHDA (Dubai) or ACTVET/ADEK (Abu Dhabi).
- **Governance Setup:**
Establish a Governance Framework outlining roles and responsibilities of leadership and management.
- **Technical Certification (TASNEEF):**
Complete ISO certifications and safety audits to demonstrate operational excellence.
- **National Accreditation:**
Apply for ACTVET accreditation to ensure national and international recognition of programmes.

4. Key Strategic Goals

- **Standardisation:**
Align academic outputs with industry requirements through NQF-based curriculum frameworks.
- **Emiratisation:**
Meet national workforce development targets by integrating UAE Nationals into academic and administrative roles.
- **Data Protection:**
Ensure compliance with UAE Federal Data Protection laws governing student and staff information.

5. Governance Note

Non-compliance with regulatory authorities such as Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA) and Abu Dhabi Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (ACTVET) may result in serious consequences, including:

- Financial penalties ranging from **AED 10,000 to AED 150,000**
- Suspension of student registrations
- Revocation of the institution's educational permit