



الهيئة الوطنية
للأمن السيبراني
National Cybersecurity Authority

Investor Guide

For Providers of Cybersecurity Services,
Products, or Solutions in KSA

TLP: White

Document Classification: General

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Traffic Light Protocol (TLP):

This marking protocol is widely used around the world. It has four colors (traffic lights):



Red – Personal, Confidential and for Intended Recipient Only

The recipient has no rights to share information classified in red with any person outside the defined range of recipients either inside or outside the organization.



Amber – Restricted Sharing

The recipient may share information classified in orange only with intended recipients inside the organization and with recipients who are required to take action related to the shared information.



Green – Sharing within The Same Community

The recipient may share information classified in green with other recipients inside the organization or outside it within the same sector or related to the organization. However, it is not allowed to exchange or publish this information on public channels.



White – No Restriction

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Introduction

The National Cybersecurity Authority (NCA) is the national entity in charge of cybersecurity in Saudi Arabia and serves as the national authority on its affairs. The NCA aims to improve the cybersecurity posture of the country in order to safeguard its vital interests, national security, critical infrastructures, high-priority sectors, and government services and activities in accordance with its regulation under Royal Order (#6801) on 11/2/1439 A.H. The NCA's mandate includes the following:



Developing cybersecurity policies, governance mechanisms, frameworks, standards, controls, and guidelines; as well as circulating them with relevant stakeholders, following up on their compliance, and updating them.



Licensing individuals and non-governmental organizations to practice cybersecurity activities and operations determined by NCA.



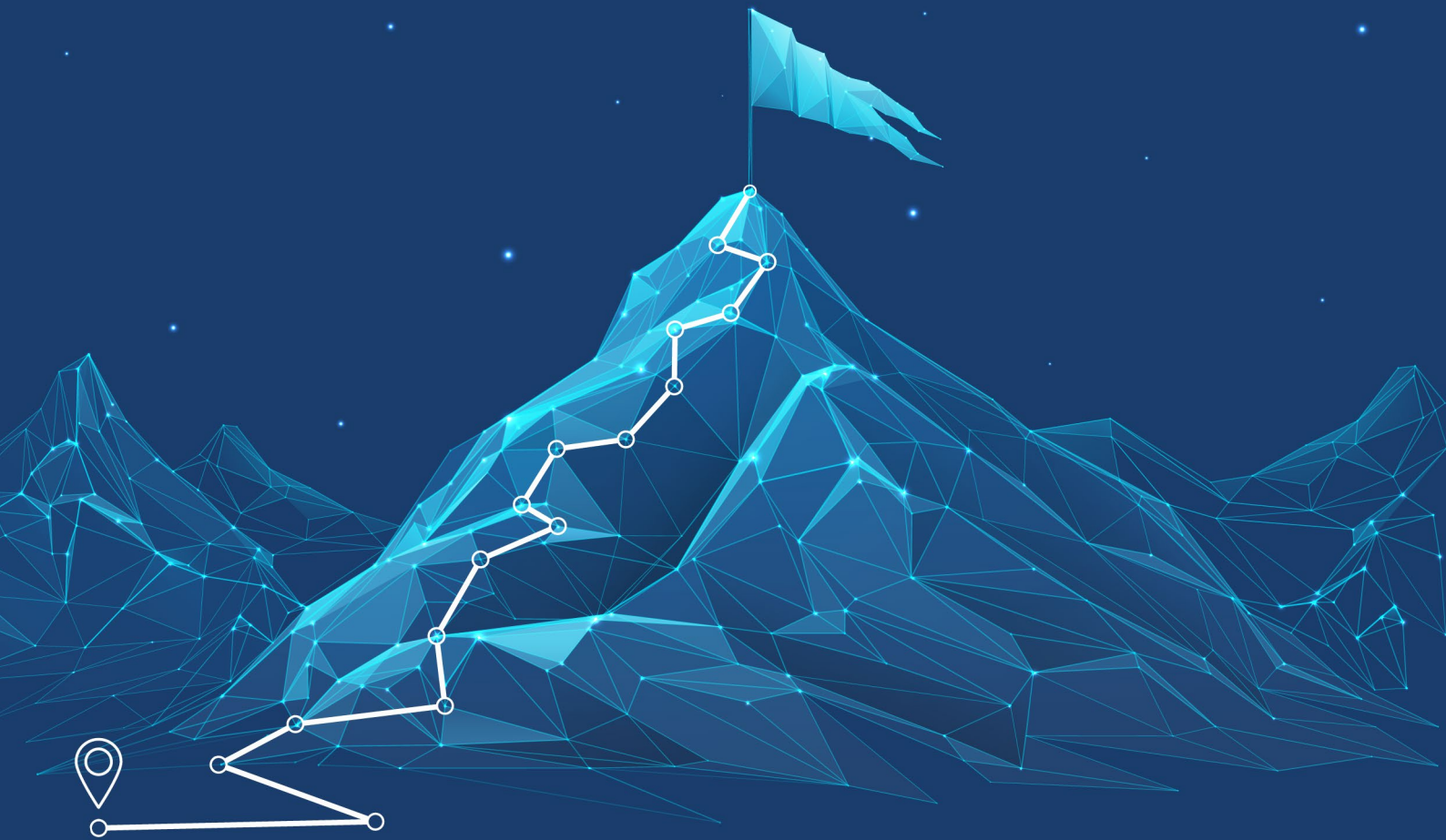
Promoting the growth of the cybersecurity sector in the Kingdom and encouraging innovation and investment in it.

[Click here to access the NCA's mandate](#)



Purpose of this Guide

This guide aims to outline the journey of investors and providers of cybersecurity services, products, or solutions in KSA, and explain the requirements and steps required for registration and licensing with NCA.





› Registration with NCA as a provider of cybersecurity services, products, or solutions in KSA

Registration as Providers of Cybersecurity Services, Products, or Solutions in KSA

Registration

Registration with NCA is a regulatory requirement to provide cybersecurity services, Products, or solutions in the Kingdom. For further information on registration and how to register, please visit NCA's website [link](#)

Registration Objectives



Create an environment to attract and incentivize domestic and international investment in the sector



Promote innovation in cybersecurity



Support startups and SMEs

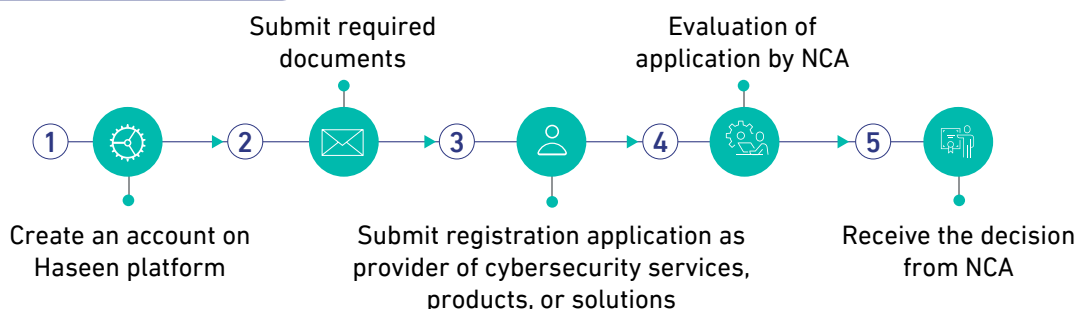


Improve services provided to national entities

Registration Requirements

- ✓ Valid commercial register (CR).
- ✓ Confirmation letter of the appointment of an official representative for the entity to NCA.
- ✓ Ownership information
- ✓ Proof of entity's national address.
- ✓ A website that outlines the provided cybersecurity services, products, or solutions

Investor's journey





› Licenses for Providing Cybersecurity Services in KSA

Licenses issued by NCA for providing cybersecurity services in the Kingdom*

Cybersecurity services requiring a license



Managed Security Operation
Center Services

The regulatory frameworks issued by NCA for licensing cybersecurity services



Regulatory Framework For Licensing Managed
Security Operations Center Services



Licensing tiers to provide MSOC Services

- 01 Tier 1:** This tier allows the service provider to provide MSOC services to all organizations, including government organizations and organizations that own, operate, or host CNIs.
- 02 Tier 2:** This tier allows the service provider to provide MSOC services to all organizations, excluding government organizations and organizations that own, operate, or host CNIs.

* Additional licenses for cybersecurity services will be issued as approved by NCA.

Licensing Managed Security Operations Center Services

Tier 1



Service Description



These are the services that the beneficiary organization receives from the service provider in order to monitor cybersecurity in its technology assets to detect cyber threats, know how they occur, and inform NCA and the beneficiary organization about it. These services include processes, staffing, related systems, etc.



Financial Application Fees

50,000
SAR



License Duration

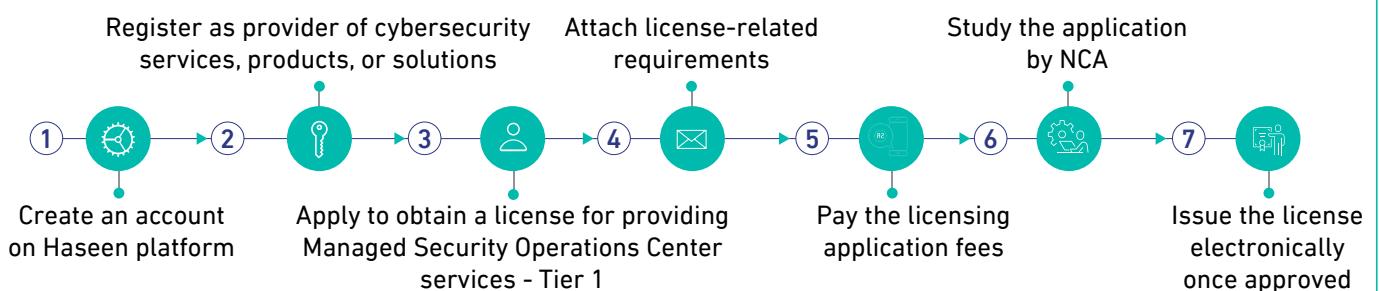
5 years

This tier allows the service provider to provide MSOC services to all organizations, including government organizations and organizations that own, operate, or host CNI.

Requirements*

- ✓ The license applicant shall be a legally established entity in the Kingdom.
- ✓ The license application form shall be filled and submitted.
- ✓ The license applicant shall provide the entity's ownership data (direct and indirect), relevant information (the articles of association, articles of incorporation, commercial registry, and a list of all controlling persons, indicating their number and the percentage of ownership owned by each of them), the organizational structure of the service provider, and the percentage of Saudization for leadership positions.
- ✓ The license applicant shall have a capital of no less than 50 million SAR.
- ✓ Provide all of the MSOC services as defined in Appendix A in the regulatory framework for licensing managed security operations center services.
- ✓ Submit a report of compliance with all technical requirements specified in the document "Technical Requirements for MSOC Service Providers" and pass the assessment conducted by the NCA.
- ✓ Employ (full-time) MSOC analysts who are Saudi citizens in accordance with Appendix E as a minimum.
- ✓ Submit a business plan according to which the service will be provided for a period of (5) years.
- ✓ Submit a report to the NCA on the cybersecurity program of the MSOC service provider.
- ✓ When the services of cloud service provider (CSP) are needed, a licensed CSP by relevant authority in KSA shall be contracted before utilizing the services.

Investor's journey



* To view all the requirements and obligations, refer to the regulatory framework for licensing MSOC services.

Licensing Managed Security Operations Center Services

Tier 2



Service Description



These are the services that the beneficiary organization receives from the service provider in order to monitor cybersecurity in its technology assets to detect cyber threats, know how they occur, and inform NCA and the beneficiary organization about it. These services include processes, staffing, related systems, etc.



Application Fee

15,000
SAR



License Duration

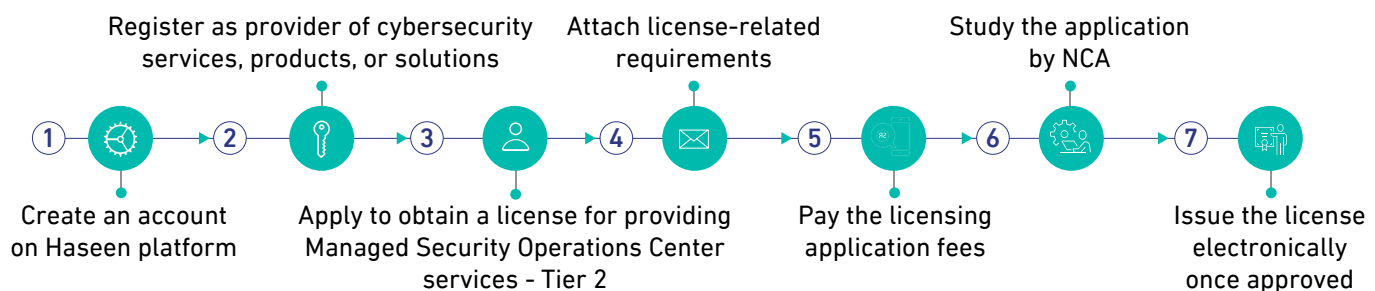
5 years

This tier allows the service provider to provide MSOC services to all organizations, excluding government organizations and organizations that own, operate, or host CNI.

Requirements*

- The license applicant shall be a legally established entity in the Kingdom.
- The license application form shall be filled and submitted.
- The license applicant shall provide the entity's ownership data (direct and indirect), relevant information (the articles of association, articles of incorporation, commercial registry, and a list of all controlling persons, indicating their number and the percentage of ownership owned by each of them), the organizational structure of the service provider, and the percentage of Saudization for each of the leadership positions.
- The license applicant shall have a capital of no less than 500 thousand SAR.
- Provide at least one of the MSOC services as defined in Appendix A in the regulatory framework for licensing managed security operations center services.
- Submit a report of compliance with all technical requirements specified in the document "Technical Requirements for Managed Security Operations Center Service Providers" and pass the assessment conducted by the NCA.
- Employ (full-time) MSOC analysts who are Saudi citizen in accordance with Appendix F as a minimum.
- Submit a report to the NCA on the cybersecurity program of the MSOC service provider.
- When the services of cloud service provider (CSP) are needed, a licensed CSP by relevant authority in KSA shall be contracted before utilizing the services.

Investor's journey



* To view all the requirements and obligations, refer to the regulatory framework for licensing MSOC services.



> FAQs

FAQs

What is the difference between the licensing tiers?

Tier 1:

This tier allows the service provider to provide MSOC services to all organizations, including government organizations and organizations that own, operate, or host CNI.

Tier 2:

This tier allows the service provider to provide MSOC services to all organizations excluding government organizations and organizations that own, operate, or host CNI.

What are the requirements for obtaining a license to provide Managed Security Operations Center services?

To know the requirements for obtaining a license to provide managed security operation center services, you can refer to the regulatory framework for licensing managed security operation center services issued by the NCA.

What are the licensing procedures?

1. Create an account on Haseen platform
2. Register as provider of cybersecurity services, products, or solutions
3. Apply for a license.
4. Attach license-related requirements
5. Pay the application fees
6. Study the application by NCA
7. Issue the license electronically

What are the fees for applying for MSOC licenses issued by NCA?

Tier 1: 50,000 SAR

Tier 2: 15,000 SAR

What is the license duration?

The validity period of the license is (5 years) to provide managed security operations center services.

What are the procedures required to apply for qualification certificates for MSOC analysts?

The NCA will announce at a later time the opening of applications for the qualification certificates for MSOC analysts, and the related procedures and requirements will be clarified then.

FAQs

What are the components that must be available in the cybersecurity program report that Managed Security Operations Centre service providers are requested to submit?

The report must be aligned with the Technical Requirements for Managed Security Operations Center Service Providers document Issued by NCA, and should include - but is not limited to - the following:

- A. Information about the cybersecurity program of a managed security operations center service provider.
- B. General procedures, related to the storage and transfer of data, and the control of access and use.
- C. Network and physical security requirements; Including encryption procedures.
- D. Procedures for reporting and verifying cybersecurity incidents.

For more examples, you can review the regulatory framework for licensing managed security operations center services.

What are the procedures followed for renewing the license?

License renewal procedures take place on Haseen platform and are the same procedures taken to obtain a license. License may be renewed (90) calendar days before license expiration date, but no later than (30) calendar days before the license expiration date, and all relevant regulatory requirements stipulated in the license regulatory frameworks and any other requirements imposed by the NCA must be fulfilled.

What are the license cancellation procedures?

The service provider who desires to cancel the issued license shall submit a written request to the NCA, including the reasons and rationales for the cancellation request; and submit any information or additional documents requested by the NCA while processing the request. After receiving the completed cancellation request from the service provider, the NCA issues its decision on the request and the service provider shall adhere to it.

Can service provider license be transferred to another entity?

The service provider shall not transfer their license without obtaining a prior written approval from the NCA. The service provider, who desires to transfer their license, shall submit a written request to the NCA, including the reasons and rationales for the transfer request; and submit any information or additional documents requested by the NCA while processing the request.

FAQs

What are the regulatory requirements related to the termination of the contractual relationship between a licensed service provider and the beneficiary?

Applying the necessary procedures for expiration or termination of the contractual relationship with the beneficiary organization in accordance with NCA decisions, which may include at least the following:

- Notifying the beneficiary of the desire to terminate the contract within a period of no less than (270) days before the date of ceasing provision of MSOC service.
- If the beneficiary is one of the entities covered by the policy; The Tier 1 service provider must also notify NCA within a period not less than (270) days before the date on which the managed security operations center services will be discontinued.

What are the subcontracting requirements imposed on licensed MSOC service providers?

The service provider may subcontract MSOC services according to the following conditions:

- Submit a written request to the NCA in accordance with the requirements determined by the NCA.
- Prohibit the subcontracted organization from commencing any work prior to obtaining the approval from the NCA on the submitted subcontracting request.
- All service provider obligations emerging from licensing in this framework toward the NCA shall be the responsibility of the main service provider. Any requirements or conditions that violate these obligations toward the NCA in the contracts between the service provider and sub-contractors shall be regarded as invalid with no legal implications by the NCA.
- Subcontracting arrangements shall be documented in the internal logs of the service provider in addition to compliance with the related instructions by the NCA.
- The service provider shall only subcontract with another service provider to provide MSOC services. In case the MSOC services are provided to the organizations in scope of the Policy, the subcontracted service provider shall be at the same license tier.
- The NCA may, at its discretion, set a cap for subcontracts for the Tier 1 service provider.
- Under all circumstances, the subcontractor shall fulfil all obligations of the service provider under this framework.

What are the obligations imposed on Managed Security Operations Center service providers?

Please refer to the regulatory framework for Licensing Managed Security Operations Center services issued by the NCA.



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> Communication Channels

Technical support on Haseen
platform



support@Haseen.gov.sa

For inquiries on the license application
status



info@nca.gov.sa



Phone Contact

8001249996