

LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANIES

	THE QUOTA COMPANIES “SOCIEDADE POR QUOTAS” (SQ)	THE SHARES COMPANIES “SOCIEDADE ANÓNIMA” (SA)
NUMBER OF SHAREHOLDERS	As a rule, the SQ must have a minimum of two and a maximum of thirty members, all of whom must be equity partners; it is possible for this type of company to have just one holder of the entire registered capital	Minimum of three shareholders who may be national or foreign individuals or companies
CAPITAL	It depends on the members to stipulate the adequate capital which is the sum of the nominal capital of the quotas; the capital must always be expressed in the national currency	No minimum capital is set forth in the commercial legislation, but the amount must always be suitable for the pursuit of the company object and must always be expressed in the national currency
	The quotas are always nominative, in the sense that the names of those who hold them must be stated in the company statutes	The capital is divided into shares, which may be bearer, nominative or book-entry
LIABILITY	The members are not liable to the creditors of the company, only to the company itself; each member is liable for the payment of their own contributions and, on a subsidiary basis, is jointly liable with the others for the payment of the contributions of the other members	The liability of S.A. shareholders vis-à-vis third parties is limited to the amount of their shareholdings
INTERNAL STRUCTURE	The SQ have company bodies to carry out the necessary functions: a deliberative body (the General Meeting), and an executive or administrative body (the Board of Directors). There may also be a Supervisory Board or Sole Supervisor, which is governed by the applicable S.A. provisions	As companies, the SA have company bodies to carry out the necessary functions: a deliberative body (the General Meeting), an executive or administrative body (the Board of Directors), and a supervisory body (the Supervisory Board or Sole Supervisor)

THE DECISION REGARDING THE TYPE OF COMPANY TO SET UP DEPENDS ON VARIOUS FACTORS, INCLUDING THE DEGREE OF SIMPLICITY OF STRUCTURE AND OPERATING, THE AMOUNTS OF CAPITAL TO BE INVESTED AND CONFIDENTIALITY ISSUES AS REGARDS THE OWNERSHIP OF THE SHARE CAPITAL