

Obtaining an RFC in Mexico

A general overview of the process of obtaining your Mexican tax ID. The first step in tax compliance. To get started with our help, book a consultation at facturafacts.com.

What the RFC is

- The RFC (Registro Federal de Contribuyentes) is your tax identification number with the SAT, Mexico's tax authority. Almost every formal financial step in Mexico depends on it: invoicing, opening bank or brokerage accounts, declaring rental income, signing utility contracts, and buying property.

Who needs one

- Anyone earning income in Mexico: employees, freelancers, landlords, business owners.
- Foreigners who own rental property, operate an Airbnb, or run a business in Mexico.
- Residents who want to comply with invoices and formal requirements (renting, schools, notaries).

What you will need

- Valid passport (and, for foreign residents, your residence card or the immigration document that proves your status).
- Your CURP (for foreigners it is generated as part of the process).
- Proof of address in Mexico (utility bill or bank statement; rules for foreigners without local bills are flexible but ask first).
- A registered email and phone number for SAT notifications.

The process, step by step

- Book an appointment at your nearest SAT office (many trámites can also be started online, but first-time registrations for foreigners usually require an in-person visit).
- Attend with your original documents plus copies; the registration itself is free and usually issued the same day.
- Download your constancia de situación fiscal - this is the document banks, platforms and notaries will ask for.
- Decide your tax regime and register in it (a common second step that many people miss - being registered without a regime means you still cannot invoice or declare correctly).

Common pitfalls

- Registering with a wrong regime, or not registering in any regime at all.

- Letting the SAT's recorded activity (obligaciones) be incomplete, which blocks e-invoicing.
- Ignoring SAT notices sent to your registered email - fines accumulate silently.
- For foreigners: differences between resident and non-resident taxation have major consequences; get advice before your first declaration.

How FacturaFacts helps

We handle RFC registration from start to finish - appointment, paperwork, regime selection and your first filings - in English or Spanish. Book a consultation at facturafacts.com/booking.

Disclaimer: This guide is general information for educational purposes and is not personalized tax advice. Rules, rates and procedures change; confirm your specific situation with a tax professional before acting. Last updated: September 2026.