

Middle East Intellectual Property Newsletter Vol. 88

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News

1. Important topics

UAE: Ras Al Khaimah Authorities Seize AED 23 million (USD 6.26 million) Worth of Counterfeit Goods in Major Raid¹

In a decisive action against the counterfeit trade, Ras Al Khaimah authorities have confiscated over 650,000 fake items valued at approximately AED 23 million (USD 6.26 million) during a raid on two warehouses. The counterfeit goods included a wide range of beauty and personal care products.

The operation, led by the Ras Al Khaimah Police's Criminal Investigation Department, was initiated following a tip-off from the Economic Development Department. The warehouses, under suspicion for housing fake goods, were put under surveillance before authorities moved in to seize the items.

Three individuals have been arrested in connection with the illegal operation and have been referred to the prosecution for further legal proceedings. Col. Omar Al Oud Al Tineji, who oversees the Criminal Investigations and Investigative Affairs Department, underscored the rapid formation of a task force following the tip-off, leading to the successful raid.

Brig. Ahmed Said Mansoor, Acting Director General of Police Operations, reiterated the commitment of Ras Al Khaimah Police to safeguarding national security and the economy. He emphasized the ongoing efforts to combat activities that threaten the well-being of residents and the economic stability of the nation.

This seizure is part of a broader crackdown across the UAE on counterfeit goods. Dubai authorities, for example, have reported seizing millions of dirhams' worth of fake products in recent years, reflecting the extensive scale of this illegal trade. Enhanced legislation in 2021 has intensified the penalties for manufacturing and distributing counterfeit items, underscoring the UAE's resolve to address this significant issue.

UAE: E-commerce Giants Commit to Rigorous Product Safety Standards²

Major e-commerce platforms in the UAE are stepping up their efforts to ensure that all products sold online, especially those from third-party sellers, are genuine and safe for consumers. Eleven leading companies, including Amazon, Noon, Sharaf DG, Eros, Nikai, and Samsung, have signed a Compliance Pledge with the

¹ <https://www.thenationalnews.com/news/uae/2024/08/21/ras-al-khaimah-police-seize-650000-counterfeit-items-worth-dh23-million-in-raid/>

² <https://www.khaleejtimes.com/business/uae-major-firms-pledge-to-sell-safe-genuine-products-online-tighten-checks-on-third-party-sellers?refresh=true>

UAE's Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology (MoIAT) to tighten inspections and enhance consumer protection.

This pledge marks a significant step towards raising the bar for online shopping standards in the UAE, ensuring that all items meet the necessary safety and quality regulations.

Nilesh Khalkho, CEO of Sharaf DG, emphasized the importance of ensuring product authenticity from third-party sellers on e-commerce platforms, highlighting the need for safety and reliability. He explained that the company requires ESMA (Emirates Authority for Standardization and Metrology) certificates before listing products and conducts thorough checks at their fulfillment centers to verify that only authorized items are delivered to consumers. Khalkho also urged shoppers to prioritize product safety and authenticity over low prices, encouraging greater consumer awareness.

This collective commitment from the UAE's top e-commerce firms is expected to create a safer and more trustworthy online shopping experience for consumers across the country.

Saudi Arabia: Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property Introduces Mandatory Certification for IP Agents³

The Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property (SAIP) has rolled out a new mandate requiring all intellectual property (IP) agents to obtain a professional qualification certification before they can be licensed to practice. This move follows a recent decision by the SAIP Board of Directors to update the licensing rules governing IP service providers.

The newly implemented certification requirement is designed to ensure that individuals offering IP services in Saudi Arabia possess the necessary expertise and skills to meet the country's high standards. This includes providing IP-related services on behalf of others before the authority. The certification process will cover a comprehensive range of knowledge, skills, and practical applications, equipping IP agents with the tools needed to perform their roles with professionalism and competence.

The introduction of this certification is part of SAIP's broader effort to strengthen the IP landscape in Saudi Arabia, ensuring that it aligns with international best practices. By requiring this certification, SAIP aims to build a highly skilled workforce that can effectively support the country's growing intellectual property needs.

The requirement is also in line with SAIP's regulatory responsibilities, which include overseeing the protection, enforcement, and advancement of intellectual property rights in the Kingdom. The authority's role in licensing activities related to intellectual property is a critical component of its mission to foster a robust IP ecosystem that supports innovation and economic growth.

Prospective IP agents interested in offering services in Saudi Arabia are encouraged to pursue this certification to comply with the new regulations and ensure they are equipped to provide high-quality, compliant IP services. The certification process is a key step in ensuring that IP agents are not only knowledgeable but also fully prepared to navigate the complexities of intellectual property law and practice in Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia: Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property and King Saud University Launch Advanced Diploma Program in IP⁴

The Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property (SAIP) has partnered with King Saud University to launch an advanced diploma program in intellectual property (IP). This initiative is aimed at cultivating skilled professionals in the field of IP, thereby enriching the workforce with experts who can contribute to the growing demands of the market.

³ <https://www.saip.gov.sa/en/news/2593/>

⁴ <https://www.saip.gov.sa/en/news/2636/>

The inaugural program was officially introduced with a special session for the first cohort of students, attended by H.E Dr. Abdulaziz bin Mohammed Al-Swailem, CEO of SAIP. During the session, Dr. Al-Swailem encouraged the students to pursue excellence and innovation in their studies, emphasizing the critical role they will play in shaping the future of intellectual property in the Kingdom.

This advanced diploma program offers a comprehensive curriculum that bridges theoretical knowledge with practical application. It covers a broad spectrum of IP-related topics, including copyright, patents, trademarks, plant varieties, geographical indications, industrial designs, and layout designs of integrated circuits. Additionally, the program addresses international organizations, IP management, enforcement, and dispute resolution.

Kuwait: First Half of 2024 Sees Surge in IP Activity with 25 Patents Granted⁵

Kuwait has granted 25 patents in the first six months of 2024, according to the latest data from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The country recorded a total of 3,714 patent-related transactions during this period, which includes applications, grants, examinations, and renewals.

January saw the highest activity, with 1,254 transactions, followed by February with 1,046 and March with 884. The remaining months, including June, May, and April, saw fewer transactions but maintained steady activity.

Patent renewals dominated the landscape, accounting for 81.8% of all transactions, totaling 3,039 renewals. January led this category with 1,170 renewals, indicating a strong focus on maintaining existing intellectual property rights in the country. Patent applications made up 9.1% of the total transactions, with 339 applications filed in the first half of the year. The highest number of applications was recorded in May, with 71 submissions.

Patent grants and publications were less frequent, constituting just 0.67% of the total transactions, with 25 patents granted. May was the most active month for patent grants, with eight patents issued. Patent examinations accounted for 8.37% of the total transactions, with 311 examinations conducted. June was the most active month in this category, with 72 examinations completed.

This data highlights Kuwait's ongoing efforts to bolster its intellectual property framework, with a significant focus on renewing and protecting existing patents while also encouraging new innovations through patent applications and examinations.

2. Additional topics

Iraq:

Intellectual Property Law in Iraq: Navigating the Legal Landscape

<https://mgz.com.tw/2024/08/25/intellectual-property-law-in-iraq-navigating-the-legal-landscape/>
(2024.08.25)

Kuwait:

Intellectual Property Rights Under Kuwaiti Law

<https://kuwaitlawyer.net/intellectual-property-rights-under-kuwaiti-law/> (2024.07.29)

Kuwait:

KISR Obtains New Patent in Nanofluid Technology

<https://kuwaittimes.com/article/17247/kuwait/other-news/kisr-obtains-new-patent-in-nanofluid-technology/> (2024.07.30)

⁵ <https://timeskuwait.com/kuwait-grants-25-patents-in-just-six-months/>

Oman:

Applications for Trademark Registration in Oman Up by 11% in 2023

<https://timesofoman.com/article/148487-applications-for-trademark-registration-in-oman-up-by-11-in-2023> (2024.08.06)

Pakistan:

What Are the Steps Involved in Trademark Registration in Pakistan?

<https://hamzaandhamzaa3.wordpress.com/2024/07/30/what-are-the-steps-involved-in-trademark-registration-in-pakistan-2/> (2024.07.30)

Pakistan:

Farukh Stresses the Need for Agriculturalists to Prioritize Intellectual Property Rights

<https://radio.gov.pk/04-08-2024/farukh-stresses-need-for-agriculturalists-to-prioritize-their-intellectual-property-rights> (2024.08.05)

Pakistan:

What Is the Impact of International Treaties on Trademark Registration in Pakistan?

<https://hamzaandhamzaa3.wordpress.com/2024/08/19/what-is-the-impact-of-international-treaties-on-trademark-registration-in-pakistan/> (2024.08.19)

Pakistan:

Pakistan Champions Intellectual Property Protection in Agriculture

<https://www.urdupoint.com/en/business/pakistan-champions-intellectual-property-prot-1854117.html> (2024.08.16)

Pakistan:

IPO Pakistan Strengthens Ties with PIPRA

<https://www.app.com.pk/business/ipo-pakistan-strengthens-ties-with-pipra/> (2024.08.16)

Pakistan:

Intellectual Property in Pakistan: Protecting Creativity and Innovation

<https://mgz.com.tw/2024/08/27/intellectual-property-in-pakistan-protecting-creativity-and-innovation/> (2024.08.27)

Qatar:

MOCI Issues 11,680 Commercial Licenses in the Second Quarter

<https://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/02/08/2024/moci-issues-11680-commercial-licences-in-second-quarter> (2024.08.02)

Qatar:

Justice Ministry Holds Courses on Legal Protection of Intellectual Property

<https://www.gulf-times.com/article/688033/qatar/justice-ministry-holds-courses-on-legal-protection-of-intellectual-property> (2024.08.05)

Qatar-Bahrain:

Forging Ahead: Intellectual Property Frameworks in Qatar and Bahrain Driving Innovation and Efficiency

<https://www.mondaq.com/patent/1499524/forging-ahead-intellectual-property-frameworks-in-qatar-and-bahrain-driving-innovation-and-efficiency> (2024.07.30)

Saudi Arabia:

Understanding Intellectual Property Laws in Saudi Arabia

<https://baticfirm.com/understanding-intellectual-property-laws-saudi-arabia/> (2024.08.05)

Saudi Arabia:

Saudi Arabia Deploys Mystery Shoppers to Check Intellectual Property Rights Compliance

<https://www.wam.ae/en/article/b4r4bh1-saudi-arabia-deploys-mystery-shoppers-check> (2024.08.19)

Türkiye:

Turkey with Patent - 4th National Universities Patent Competition Applications Continue

<https://www.turkpatent.gov.tr/haberler/patentle-turkiye-4-ulusal-universiteler-patent-yarismasinin-basvurulari-devam-ediyor> (2024.08.22)

Türkiye:

Pioneers of Industrial Property Meet at TURKPATENT: "PATLIB 2024 Conference"

<https://www.turkpatent.gov.tr/haberler/sinai-mulkiyetin-onculeri-ankarada-bulusuyor-patlib-2024-konferansi> (2024.08.22)

UAE:

Intellectual Property Regulations in the UAE

<https://www.middleeastbriefing.com/news/intellectual-property-regulations-in-the-uae/> (2024.07.29)

UAE:

CNIPA and UAE Sign Agreement to Enhance IP Cooperation

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