

Middle East Intellectual Property Newsletter Vol. 110

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**1. Important topics**

**Bahrain: Temporary Relaxation of Legalization Requirements for IP Documents<sup>1</sup>**

Bahrain has issued Ministerial Decision No. 13 of 2026, introducing a temporary measure allowing supporting documents and powers of attorney to be filed without prior legalization or authentication in industrial property matters.

The decision, effective 17 March 2026, was adopted in response to ongoing regional disruptions affecting the completion of notarization and legalization formalities.

Under this measure, applicants and rights holders may submit required documents without legalization at the time of filing, provided the reasons for the delay are stated. The duly legalized or authenticated documents must then be submitted within three months from the extension request or from the expiry of the original filing deadline, as applicable.

Failure to comply within the prescribed timeframe will result in the application being treated as if not filed. The measure applies across all industrial property rights, including trademarks, patents, utility models, and industrial designs. It also covers both applications pending formal examination and those already examined but still missing required documents.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://cwbiip.com/insights/news/2026/bahrain-temporarily-extends-deadline-filing-legalised-documents-industrial>

This temporary measure will remain in force until June 16, 2026, pursuant to Bahrain Ministerial Decision No. 13 of 2026, which introduced a three-month extension for the submission of legalized and authenticated documents relating to industrial property procedures.

### **Jordan: Authorities Shut Down Counterfeit Cosmetics Operation<sup>2</sup>**

Jordan Customs has seized an unlicensed workshop operating inside a residential apartment that was used to manufacture counterfeit cosmetics.

The operation, carried out by the Anti-Smuggling Directorate, uncovered products produced using raw materials of unknown origin and packaging prepared for distribution. Authorities noted that the facility failed to meet basic health and safety standards, posing risks to public health.

The seized goods included counterfeit packaging and finished products intended for market circulation.

Jordan Customs has coordinated with the Jordan Food and Drug Administration (JFDA) to initiate legal action against those involved.

### **Oman: Frankincense Secures International GI Protection<sup>3</sup>**

Oman has obtained international registration for Omani frankincense as a geographical indication (GI) with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), marking the first such recognition from the Gulf region.

The registration confirms the product's link to its geographical origin and ensures protection across WIPO member jurisdictions under the Lisbon system.

This development follows Oman's accession to the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement, which facilitates international protection of geographical indications and appellations of origin.

This registration strengthens the global positioning of Omani frankincense by formally linking its reputation and quality to its origin.

It also enhances enforcement against misuse of the name in international markets and supports broader efforts to commercialize national products through IP protection frameworks.

### **Qatar: Ministry Launches New IP E-Services to Expand Digital Copyright Framework<sup>4</sup>**

Qatar's Ministry of Commerce and Industry has introduced five new intellectual property e-services, bringing the total number of IP-related digital services to seven.

The initiative forms part of the Ministry's broader efforts to streamline procedures, enhance service delivery, and support digital transformation across the IP system.

The newly launched services focus primarily on copyright and neighboring rights and include:

- Registration of copyright and neighboring rights deposit certificates
- Issuance of copyright and neighboring rights certificates
- Amendments to existing registrations
- Waiver requests for deposit certificates
- "To whom it may concern" certificates

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.jordannews.io/Section-109/News/Jordan-Customs-Thwarts-Counterfeit-Cosmetics-Production-Inside-a-Residential-Apartment-50492>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.omanobserver.om/article/1188221/oman/environment/omani-frankincense-registered-as-global-geographical-indication>

<sup>4</sup> <https://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/05/04/2026/ministry-launches-5-intellectual-property-e-services-expands-total-to-7>

These services are available to a wide range of users, including authors, artists, software developers, researchers, and neighboring rights holders such as performers and broadcasting organizations.

The expansion of online services also signals a broader policy direction in the region toward digitization of IP procedures and enhanced accessibility for creative and technology-driven sectors.

### **Qatar: Adoption of Nice Classification 13th Edition Expands Trademark Filing Scope<sup>5</sup>**

Qatar has officially adopted the 13th Edition of the Nice Classification, aligning its trademark system with the latest international standards.

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has confirmed that all trademark applications must now be filed in accordance with the updated classes and terminology under this edition.

As a direct consequence, all 45 classes are now available for registration, including Class 33 (alcoholic beverages), which had previously been restricted.

This update brings Qatar's trademark framework fully in line with global classification standards, simplifying filing strategies and reducing uncertainty for applicants.

It also opens new opportunities for brand owners to seek protection in classes that were not previously available, particularly in sectors affected by prior restrictions.

Applicants should review their filing strategies and consider extending protection to newly available classes where relevant.

### **Saudi Arabia: New Copyright Law Introduces AI Exception and Stronger Enforcement Framework<sup>6</sup>**

Saudi Arabia has published its new Copyright Law in the Official Gazette (Umm Al-Qura) on 13 February 2026, following approval by the Council of Ministers. The law will enter into force approximately 180 days from publication.

The new regime replaces the previous law issued in 2003 and reflects the Kingdom's effort to modernize its copyright framework in line with digital developments and international practice.

#### **Key changes**

The law introduces several notable updates:

- **Artificial intelligence exception:** Permits the use of lawfully published works for training AI systems, subject to lawful access and necessity requirements.
- **ISP safe harbors:** Online platforms are exempt from liability where they act as neutral intermediaries and remove infringing content upon notice.
- **Stronger enforcement:** Authorities may conduct inspections, seize infringing materials, and temporarily close establishments.
- **Higher penalties:** Fines increased to SAR 1,000,000 and imprisonment up to one year, with harsher penalties for repeat offences.
- **Settlement mechanism:** Allows resolution of infringement cases through financial settlement prior to criminal referral.
- **Collective rights management:** Recognizes the role of organizations managing rights on behalf of authors.
- **Neighboring rights:** Explicit protection granted to performers, producers, and broadcasters.
- **Orphan work and accessibility:** Introduces provisions addressing unclaimed work and access for people with disabilities.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://oneworldip.com/qatar-issues-clarification-on-classes-under-nice-classification/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=306d5460-b269-4a00-90a3-98d8af2771dc>

The law also confirms that works created within the scope of employment belong to the employer, while unrelated work remains with the employee.

The new law strengthens protection for rights holders while accommodating technological developments, particularly in artificial intelligence and digital content distribution.

However, several areas remain subject to implementing regulations, including the scope of AI-related use, platform obligations, and the framework for collective management organizations.

Businesses are advised to review copyright ownership structures, licensing arrangements, and AI-related activities ahead of the law's entry into force.

### **UAE: Abu Dhabi Intensifies Anti-Counterfeiting Efforts in 2025<sup>7</sup>**

The Abu Dhabi Registration Authority (ADRA), the regulatory arm of the Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development (ADDED), has intensified its enforcement activities against counterfeit and non-compliant goods across the Emirate during 2025.

According to recent reports, authorities seized counterfeit and non-compliant products valued at more than AED 1.8 million (approximately USD 490,000) as part of broader efforts to strengthen trademark protection, consumer safety, and fair competition in the UAE market.

ADRA conducted 465 inspection campaigns targeting shops and commercial establishments during 2025, marking a 16.2% increase compared to 400 campaigns in 2024. Inspection visits also rose significantly, reaching 16,748 visits in 2025 compared to 6,665 the previous year. As a result of these inspections, authorities issued 104 violations and 294 warnings to non-compliant businesses.

In parallel, consumer protection enforcement remained active throughout the year. ADRA reported handling 31,759 consumer complaints during 2025, with approximately 83.5% resolved amicably. The authority also issued 653 violations and 459 warnings relating to breaches of consumer protection laws and regulations. Mohamed Munif Al Mansoori emphasized that inspection campaigns and complaint handling remain essential tools in combating counterfeit goods, safeguarding trademark rights, and protecting consumers from potentially unsafe products.

Alongside enforcement activities, ADRA organized 15 workshops on trademark protection, held 51 meetings with strategic partners, and conducted 14 workshops focused on consumer rights awareness. The authority also issued 25 awareness bulletins targeting investors and consumers to enhance compliance and promote greater understanding of consumer protection regulations.

The increased enforcement activity reflects the UAE's continued commitment to strengthening intellectual property protection and maintaining a secure and competitive commercial environment.

### **UAE: Ministry Introduces Temporary Flexibility for Trademark Filing Deadlines<sup>8</sup>**

The United Arab Emirates Ministry of Economy and Tourism ("MOET") has issued Administrative Decision No. (2) of 2026, introducing temporary procedural flexibility for trademark applications involving delayed powers of attorney ("POA") submissions. Under the decision, applicants may request monthly extensions following the expiry of the original 90-day deadline for submitting legalized supporting documents required for trademark procedures. The measure took effect on March 25, 2026, and remains temporary pending further guidance from the Ministry. The measure reflects the Ministry's continued efforts to improve operational efficiency and support business continuity within the UAE trademark system.

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.arabianbusiness.com/business/retail/abu-dhabi-seizes-490k-in-counterfeit-goods-as-consumer-complaints-hit-31759>

<sup>8</sup> [https://cwbiip.com/insights/news/2026/uae-grants-temporary-extension-submission-legalised-powers-attorney?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://cwbiip.com/insights/news/2026/uae-grants-temporary-extension-submission-legalised-powers-attorney?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

Under UAE practice, applicants filing trademark applications are generally required to submit a duly notarized and legalized POA within 90 days from the filing date. Historically, failure to comply with this deadline resulted in automatic rejection of the application, without the possibility of appeal.

Pursuant to the new decision, applicants who are unable to provide the required POA within the initial 90-day period may now request monthly extensions, allowing additional time to complete legalization formalities. The Trademark Office will therefore no longer automatically reject eligible applications immediately upon expiry of the original deadline.

The flexibility applies to:

- legalized POAs for foreign applicants; and
- notarized POAs for locally based applicants.

To benefit from the extension mechanism, applicants or their representatives must submit a written request to the Trademarks Department before the expiry of the current granted period. Additional 30-day extensions may continue to be granted on a rolling basis, provided requests are made in a timely manner and all other procedural requirements remain satisfied.

Importantly, the Ministry confirmed that no additional official fees will be imposed for these temporary extensions.

The relief currently applies only to trademark applications and does not extend to oppositions, patents, or other intellectual property matters. The Ministry has also clarified that the measure is temporary in nature. From a practical perspective, the decision offers welcome flexibility for applicants encountering delays in obtaining legalized documentation, particularly in cross-border matters where notarization and consular legalization procedures may require additional time. The measure also reduces the risk of losing filing dates due to procedural delays while reinforcing the UAE's increasingly business-oriented approach to intellectual property administration.

## **2. Additional topics**

### **Egypt:**

Egypt's intellectual property authority probes expanded links with Japan

<https://egyptian-gazette.com/egypt/egypts-intellectual-property-authority-probes-expanded-links-with-japan/> (02-04-2026)

Egypt, WIPO discuss intellectual property cooperation

<https://sis.gov.eg/en/media-center/news/egypt-wipo-discuss-intellectual-property-cooperation/> (18-04-2026)

Egypt intensifies crackdown on trademark counterfeiting through joint IP workshops

<https://egyptian-gazette.com/egypt/egypt-intensifies-crackdown-on-trademark-counterfeiting-through-joint-ip-workshops/> (19-04-2026)

### **Jordan:**

Jordan Records 11 Patents, 717 Trademarks in January

<https://petra.gov.jo/en/news/jordan-records-11-patents-717-trademarks-in-january> (17-04-2026)

**Pakistan:**

Pakistan proposes Free Trade Agreement with UK as trade talks expand

<https://profit.pakistantoday.com.pk/2026/04/02/pakistan-proposes-free-trade-agreement-with-uk-as-trade-talks-expand/> (02-04-2026)

Two held for making counterfeit products

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1988019/two-held-for-making-counterfeit-products> (03-04-2026)

Police Organizes Workshop On Intellectual Property Rights Awareness

<https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/police-organizes-workshop-on-intellectual-pro-2171780.html> (17-04-2026)

**Qatar:**

Ministry of Commerce and Industry Hosts Patent Specialists

<https://qna.org.qa/en/news/news-details?id=ministry-of-commerce-and-industry-hosts-patent-specialists&date=14/04/2026> (14-04-2026)

Qatar: Expanded Trademark Coverage with Class 33 Now Available

[https://www.lexismiddleeast.com/eJournal/2026-04-15\\_27/en](https://www.lexismiddleeast.com/eJournal/2026-04-15_27/en) (15-04-2026)

**Saudi Arabia:**

Up One Games bets on Saudi storytelling to build global gaming IP

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2637866/saudi-arabia> (27-03-2026)

Reforms will underpin arbitration's growing popularity in Saudi Arabia

<https://www.pinsentmasons.com/out-law/analysis/reforms-underpin-arbitration-growing-saudi-arabia> (31-03-2026)

Protecting pharmaceutical and medical device patents in Saudi Arabia: the two-step process every innovator must know

<https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=b9ee8e89-c8b8-4b1b-82cc-a2accb333d89> (21-04-2026)

**Türkiye:**

Turkish Regional Court of Appeal Issues Remarkable Decision: Cilpara v Chip-Para

<https://www.mondaq.com/turkey/trademark/1769882/turkish-regional-court-of-appeal-issues-remarkable-decision-cilpara-v-chip-para> (07-04-2026)

Counterfeits go social: Turkish advertising board targets Instagram and online marketplace sellers

<https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=67dfb33f-6a5a-4313-9fe7-4ac5de72ecc9> (20-04-2026)

**UAE:**

UAEU advances sustainable agriculture in arid regions

<https://sharjah24.ae/en/Articles/2026/04/15/gh-12> (15-04-2026)

UAE Recognized as the Top Global Improver in IP Performance in IP Index released by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce

<https://www.agip.com/News/en/news/23563> (16-04-2026)

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