

Middle East Intellectual Property Newsletter Vol. 111

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**1. Important topics**

**Iraq: Official Trademark Fees Increased<sup>1</sup>**

The Iraqi Ministerial Council for Economy has issued Decision No. 26038 of 2026, introducing increases to the official fees applicable to various trademark services under Law No. 21 of 1957.

The decision was published in the Iraqi Gazette (Al-Waqai' Al-Iraqiya), Issue No. 4863, on March 30, 2026, and is legally effective from the date of publication. However, the Trademark Office in Baghdad has not yet announced the date on which the revised fees will begin to be implemented and collected in practice.

Rights holders planning trademark filings, renewals, assignments, or other records in Iraq should monitor developments closely, as the updated fee schedule is expected to impact the overall cost of trademark prosecution and maintenance once the relevant administrative procedures are finalized.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.iahcoip.com/news/ip-jurisdictional-updates-in-iraq-baghdad-kurdistan-and-sierra-leone/>

Service	Old Fee (IQD)	New Fee (IQD)	Approx. USD (Old)	Approx. USD (New)	Approx. JPY (Old)	Approx. JPY (New)
Filing	200,000	300,000	\$153	\$229	¥21,900	¥32,700
Publication	200,000	300,000	\$153	\$229	¥21,900	¥32,700
Registration	250,000	350,000	\$191	\$267	¥27,300	¥38,200
Renewal	250,000	350,000	\$191	\$267	¥27,300	¥38,200
Assignment	250,000	350,000	\$191	\$267	¥27,300	¥38,200
Change of Name/Address	200,000	300,000	\$153	\$229	¥21,900	¥32,700

The table summarizes the principal official fees applicable to selected trademark services. Additional official fees may apply depending on the nature of the request.

### **Iraq: Independent Trademark Registration Now Required in Kurdistan<sup>2</sup>**

The Kurdistan Trademark Directorate has announced that trademark validations and recognitions previously based on Baghdad trademark registrations will no longer be recognized.

According to the Kurdistan Regional Government, the decision was adopted based on reciprocity following concerns regarding the treatment of Kurdistan trademark registrations by federal authorities in Baghdad. The measure applies to both existing validation certificates and pending requests.

As a result, trademark owners seeking protection in the Kurdistan Region must now pursue a separate local registration process. This requires a pre-filing search, followed by the filing, publication, and registration of a new trademark application before enforceable rights can be established within the region.

The development represents a significant procedural change for rights holders that have historically relied on Baghdad registrations to support protection in Kurdistan.

### **Jordan: Customs Seize Counterfeit Goods and Smuggled Products<sup>3</sup>**

The Jordan Customs Department has reported several enforcement operations targeting smuggled and counterfeit goods intended for distribution within the local market.

Among the seized items were approximately 31,000 counterfeit garments, alongside large quantities of diesel fuel, tobacco products, and alcoholic beverages concealed using sophisticated smuggling methods. Authorities also intercepted narcotics during a separate operation at Queen Alia International Airport.

The enforcement actions were carried out by the Anti-Smuggling Directorate in cooperation with the Customs Intelligence Directorate and other relevant authorities.

The announcement highlights Jordan Customs' continued efforts to combat illicit trade and protect the domestic market. For brand owners, the seizure of counterfeit apparel demonstrates ongoing enforcement activity against trademark infringements and unauthorized goods entering commercial channels.

### **Kuwait: Authorities Intensify Enforcement Against Counterfeit Goods<sup>4</sup>**

Kuwaiti authorities have reportedly shut down eight retail establishments as part of an enforcement campaign targeting the sale of counterfeit products.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.jahcoip.com/news/ip-jurisdictional-updates-in-iraq-baghdad-kurdistan-and-sierra-leone/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.jordannews.jo/Section-109/News/Jordan-Customs-Department-Seizes-Major-Smuggling-Quantities-Confirms-Readiness-51087>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.arabtimesonline.com/news/kuwait-shuts-down-8-stores-in-counterfeit-goods-crackdown/>

The inspections were conducted by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in coordination with relevant enforcement authorities, resulting in the seizure of counterfeit goods and the closure of businesses found to be engaged in infringing commercial activities.

According to the announcement, the campaign forms part of Kuwait's broader efforts to strengthen market oversight, combat commercial fraud, and enhance intellectual property enforcement.

The development reflects continued enforcement activity against counterfeit goods within the local market and highlights the authorities' focus on protecting consumers and rights holders from trademark-infringing products.

### **Pakistan: IPO Pakistan Launches Digital Transformation Initiative<sup>5</sup>**

The Intellectual Property Organization of Pakistan (IPO Pakistan) has announced a six-month digital transformation program aimed at modernizing trademark, patent, and copyright administration.

According to IPO Pakistan, the initiative will introduce greater automation, artificial intelligence tools, and digital services to improve examination efficiency, reduce procedural delays, and enhance transparency across the intellectual property system.

As part of the reforms, an online complaint management platform has already been launched, allowing rights holders to submit complaints electronically and monitor case progress remotely. The organization also indicated that chambers of commerce have been integrated into enforcement-related committees.

The initiative reflects Pakistan's broader efforts to modernize intellectual property administration and improve access to IP services through digital technologies.

### **Saudi Arabia: Individual Patent Filings Continue Strong Growth<sup>6</sup>**

The Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property (SAIP) has reported significant growth in patent filing activity by individual inventors during 2025.

According to SAIP's latest statistical report, individual patent applications increased by 102% compared to the previous year, rising from 2,007 applications in 2024 to 3,942 in 2025, while direct patent filings rose by 59%. The authority attributed the growth to simplified filing procedures, enhanced digital services, and increased awareness of intellectual property rights.

The report also highlighted continued participation by foreign applicants and increased engagement by Saudi companies seeking to protect their intellectual assets.

The figures reflect Saudi Arabia's ongoing efforts to strengthen its innovation ecosystem and support the development of a knowledge-based economy under the Kingdom's broader economic transformation initiatives.

### **Saudi Arabia: SAIP Preparing New Customs Anti-Counterfeiting Platform<sup>7</sup>**

The Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property (SAIP) is preparing to introduce a new electronic enforcement platform known as "Tahaqaq"<sup>8</sup> to facilitate cooperation between Customs authorities, trademark owners,

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<sup>5</sup> <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2607970/ipo-launches-digital-transformation-drive>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2642418/saudi-arabia>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=afc5dc94-dc27-488f-9135-c480eb2f86da>

<sup>8</sup> <https://tahaqaq-frontend-eservices.saip.gov.sa/>

and their representatives in relation to suspected counterfeit shipments. The platform is only accessible from Saudi Arabia.

Under the proposed system, rights holders will be able to electronically record trademarks and receive notifications when Customs identifies goods suspected of infringing registered marks. The platform is expected to support digital review of evidence, including shipment documentation and product images, allowing trademark owners to assess suspected infringements remotely.

A notable feature of the proposed framework is that importers may, under certain circumstances, retain possession of suspected goods during the verification process after providing formal undertakings that the products will not be distributed or sold pending the outcome of authenticity assessments.

SAIP has indicated that implementation will begin through a pilot phase involving a limited number of trademarks and customs ports before broader deployment. During a transitional period, the platform is expected to operate alongside the current enforcement framework before eventually replacing it.

The initiative forms part of Saudi Arabia's ongoing efforts to modernize border enforcement procedures and strengthen cooperation between enforcement authorities and rights holders in combating counterfeit goods.

#### **Türkiye: Draft Trade Secrets Law Open for Consultation<sup>9</sup>**

Türkiye's Ministry of Trade has published a draft law aimed at establishing the country's first standalone legal framework dedicated specifically to the protection of trade secrets. Comments and observations on the proposal were invited until May 15, 2026.

The draft legislation would introduce statutory definitions of trade secrets, trade secret holders, infringers, and infringing products, while setting out the circumstances under which confidential business information may be lawfully or unlawfully acquired, used, or disclosed. The proposal also establishes civil remedies, interim injunctions, damages, and criminal sanctions for violations.

Under the draft framework, information would qualify as a trade secret only where it remains confidential, possesses commercial value because of its secrecy, and is protected through reasonable measures implemented by the information holder. Businesses may therefore be required to demonstrate the existence of confidentiality safeguards such as contractual protection, access controls, cybersecurity measures, and internal compliance procedures.

The proposed legislation draws heavily from the EU Trade Secrets Directive and the TRIPS Agreement and is intended to strengthen the protection of commercially sensitive information in Türkiye. If enacted, businesses operating in the country may wish to review their confidentiality agreements, internal information governance policies, and trade secret protection strategies.

#### **UAE: Over 13,000 Pirate Websites Blocked in First Quarter of 2026<sup>10</sup>**

The UAE Ministry of Economy and Tourism has announced the blocking of 13,667 websites during the first quarter of 2026 for copyright infringement.

The enforcement activity was carried out under the InstaBlock initiative, which utilizes artificial intelligence to monitor digital content and process infringement reports in real time. The program is implemented in cooperation with government authorities and private-sector stakeholders from the media, broadcasting, and entertainment sectors.

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<sup>9</sup> <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=9d115aa8-469e-41de-89b6-acacd7c181b4>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.arnnewscentre.ae/en/news/uae/uae-blocks-13667-pirate-websites-for-copyright-infringement/>

Authorities reported a substantial increase in enforcement activity during Ramadan, with immediate website blocking actions rising significantly compared to previous years. Since the launch of the initiative in February 2025, a total of 47,667 infringing websites have reportedly been blocked.

The campaign also included awareness efforts aimed at encouraging consumers to access creative content through authorized and licensed channels.

The development demonstrates the UAE's continued emphasis on strengthening digital copyright enforcement, supporting rights holders, and protecting creative content within the country's expanding digital economy.

### **Yemen: Authorities Seize Factory Producing Counterfeit Detergent Products<sup>11</sup>**

Yemeni authorities have taken enforcement action against the production of counterfeit consumer goods bearing unauthorized trademarks.

According to local reports, inspection teams from the Ministry of Economy, Industry and Investment, working in coordination with the Yemeni Authority for Standardization, Metrology and Quality Control and the Industry and Commerce Prosecution in the Capital Secretariat, seized a factory allegedly manufacturing counterfeit detergent products bearing forged international trademarks.

The authorities reportedly traced the source of the infringing products following market surveillance activities that identified counterfeit detergent products in circulation. Acting under prosecutorial orders, officials seized and closed the facility and confiscated the products found on the premises.

The operation resulted in the seizure of substantial quantities of body, hair, and laundry detergent products, as well as trademark labels allegedly used to imitate established brands. The case has been referred to the competent prosecution authorities for further legal proceedings.

The enforcement action reflects ongoing efforts by Yemeni authorities to combat trademark infringement and counterfeit consumer goods in the local market.

## **2. Additional topics**

### **GCC:**

Clarifying The "All Goods/Services In The Class" Approach

<https://www.mondaq.com/trademark/1778216/clarifying-the-all-goodsservices-in-the-class-approach>  
(27-04-2026)

### **Iraq:**

Iraq Announces Patent for Wastewater Treatment Technology

<https://ina.iq/en/local/48278-iraq-announces-patent-for-wastewater-treatment-technology.html> (01-05-2026)

### **Kuwait:**

Kuwait generates KD 6.69m from rapid growth in intellectual property services

<https://kuwaittimes.com/article/43524/kuwait/other-news/kuwait-generates-kd-669m-from-rapid-growth-in-intellectual-property-services/> (11-05-2026)

### **Lebanon:**

Economy Ministry, Tripoli Chamber sign intellectual property cooperation agreement

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<sup>11</sup> <https://www.saba.ye/en/news3704625.htm>

<https://www.mtv.com.lb/en/news/Local/1697703/economy-ministry--tripoli-chamber-sign-intellectual-property-cooperation-agreement> (21-05-2026)

**Oman:**

Oman marks World Intellectual Property Day

<https://www.gdnonline.com/Details/1392892/Oman-marks-World-Intellectual-Property-Day> (27-04-2026)

Shura Council's team discusses role of intellectual property in supporting innovation

<https://timesofoman.com/article/172057-shura-councils-team-discusses-role-of-intellectual-property-in-supporting-innovation> (20-05-2026)

**Pakistan:**

Pakistan Remains on US Intellectual Property Protection and Enforcement Watch List

<https://propakistani.pk/2026/05/01/pakistan-remains-on-us-intellectual-property-protection-and-enforcement-watch-list/> (01-05-2026)

Two arrested for money laundering, copyright violations

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1998284/two-arrested-for-money-laundering-copyright-violations> (07-05-2026)

IP violations costing Pakistan over \$3bn annually, reveals OICCI survey

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40421137/ip-violations-costing-pakistan-over-3bn-annually-reveals-oicci-survey> (14-05-2026)

**Qatar:**

MoCI highlights stronger intellectual property protection at Doha International Book Fair

<https://www.qatar-tribune.com/article/234348/business/moci-highlights-stronger-intellectual-property-protection-at-doha-international-book-fair> (15-05-2026)

Qatar's engagement with WIPO and the evolution of global intellectual property governance

<https://thepeninsulaqatar.com/opinion/19/05/2026/qatars-engagement-with-wipo-and-the-evolution-of-global-intellectual-property-governance> (19-05-2026)

**Saudi Arabia:**

Saudi campaign backs intellectual property awareness in sports sector

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2641372/amp> (26-04-2026)

Intellectual property ownership boosts SME business value by 65%, official says

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2641427/amp> (27-04-2026)

**Türkiye:**

EU registration of Turkish geographical indications accelerates

<https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/eu-registration-of-turkish-geographical-indications-accelerates-221527> (27-04-2026)

Can The Exercise Of Patent Rights Be Limited By Allegations Of Unfair Competition?

<https://www.mondaq.com/turkey/patent/1788296/can-the-exercise-of-patent-rights-be-limited-by-allegations-of-unfair-competition> (18-05-2026)

**UAE:**

Emirates Association for Talents marks Arab Intellectual Property Day

<https://www.wam.ae/en/article/c03y674-emirates-association-for-talents-marks-arab> (08-05-2026)

Due diligence on the deal: IP considerations for M&A in the UAE

<https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=1d8d5eec-ee8a-4fb9-a655-60a2f53fa148> (11-05-2026)

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