

**Middle East Intellectual Property Newsletter Vol. 114**

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**1. Important topics**

**Bahrain: Kingdom Accedes to the Locarno Agreement<sup>1</sup>**

Bahrain deposited its instrument of accession to the Locarno Agreement Establishing an International Classification for Industrial Designs with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) on July 29, 2026.

The Agreement will enter into force with respect to Bahrain on October 29, 2026.

The Locarno Agreement establishes an international classification system for goods incorporating industrial designs. Its classification system is used by intellectual property offices and applicants to categorize industrial designs in a consistent manner.

Bahrain's accession further aligns its industrial design framework with international classification practices and adds to the Kingdom's participation in WIPO-administered intellectual property treaties.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/treaties/notifications/details/treaty\\_locarno\\_79](https://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/treaties/notifications/details/treaty_locarno_79)

### **Bahrain: Trademark Registration Service Streamlined<sup>2</sup>**

Bahrain's Ministry of Industry and Commerce has introduced improvements to its electronic trademark and service mark registration service<sup>3</sup> as part of efforts to simplify administrative procedures and improve the user experience. The link is only accessible from Bahrain.

The upgraded service covers applications for registration in one class and introduces simplified procedures, electronic forms, and improvements to the digital interface. Information relating to the service has also been standardized across the Ministry's different channels to provide applicants with clearer guidance on filing requirements and procedures.

Applications continue to undergo technical and legal review before proceeding through the subsequent stages of the registration process.

The changes form part of the Ministry's wider efforts to improve service efficiency and reduce the administrative burden associated with government transactions. For trademark owners and applicants, the development should make the filing process more accessible and easier to navigate.

### **Oman: Ministry Clarifies Publication of Intellectual Property Notices<sup>4</sup>**

Oman's Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion has clarified the procedure for publishing intellectual property notices in daily newspapers.

In a circular issued through the National Intellectual Property Office, the Ministry confirmed that it does not have an exclusive arrangement with any particular daily newspaper for the publication of intellectual property notices. Applicants are therefore free to select the daily newspaper in which they wish to publish the relevant notice, provided that publication complies with the applicable procedures.

The clarification is relevant to applicants required to complete newspaper publication formalities as part of intellectual property procedures in Oman and confirms that the choice of publication is not restricted to a newspaper designated by the Ministry.

Applicants should nevertheless ensure that the selected publication and the form of the notice comply with the procedures currently in force.

### **Saudi Arabia: National Intellectual Property Policy Approved<sup>5</sup>**

On August 25, 2026, the Saudi Council of Ministers approved the National Intellectual Property Policy<sup>6</sup>, marking a further step in the Kingdom's efforts to strengthen its intellectual property framework.

The policy is intended to organize and develop intellectual property sectors across the Kingdom in line with Saudi Vision 2030 and its objective of building a knowledge- and innovation-based economy. The approval reinforces the growing role of intellectual property within Saudi Arabia's broader economic diversification and innovation agenda.

The policy sets out a comprehensive framework of principles and directions built around five key pillars: awareness and education, IP generation, IP management and registration, IP respect and enforcement, and IP commercialization and monetization.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gccbusinessnews.com/bahrain-develops-trademark-registration/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.moic.gov.bh/en/e-service>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.thearabianstories.com/2026/08/13/omans-commerce-ministry-clarifies-rules-for-publishing-intellectual-property-notices-in-newspapers/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://saip.gov.sa/ar/media-center/media-library/media-center/2996>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.uqn.gov.sa/digital?date=2026-08-28>

The new policy follows Saudi Arabia's wider efforts to develop its IP ecosystem through institutional, legislative and international initiatives. Further implementing measures will be important in determining the policy's practical implications for rights holders and businesses operating in the Kingdom.

### **UAE: New Collective Management Framework Introduced for Music Rights<sup>7</sup>**

The UAE Ministry of Economy and Tourism launched the Collective Management in Music Guide on August 11, 2026, establishing a new framework for licensing and managing copyright and neighboring rights associated with the commercial use of music.

The Guide was adopted pursuant to Ministerial Resolution No. 136 of 2026 and applies to a range of commercial users, including restaurants, cafés, shopping malls, fitness centers, hotels, airlines, radio and television broadcasters, concerts and similar events. Fees under the new framework are scheduled to take effect from the beginning of December 2026.

The Emirates Music Rights Association and Music Nation have been authorized to collect the relevant fees and administer rights. The framework is intended to standardize licensing mechanisms and fee structures while strengthening the management and protection of copyright and neighboring rights in the UAE.

Businesses that use music commercially should assess whether their activities fall within the categories covered by the Guide and prepare for the introduction of the new licensing and fee regime in December 2026.

#### Approved Annual Tariff Matrix - AED / USD / JPY (approx.)

| <b>Sector</b>                         | <b>Basis</b>                         | <b>AED</b> | <b>USD</b> | <b>JPY (approx.)</b> |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------|------------|----------------------|
| Restaurants/cafés                     | 1–50 seats                           | 1,500      | 408        | 63,600               |
|                                       | 51–100 seats                         | 2,700      | 735        | 114,700              |
|                                       | 101–200 seats                        | 4,800      | 1,307      | 203,900              |
|                                       | Over 200, per seat                   | 20         | 5.45       | 850                  |
|                                       | Annual cap                           | 6,000      | 1,634      | 254,900              |
| Restaurants/cafés with DJ, nightclubs | 1–50 seats                           | 2,500      | 681        | 106,200              |
|                                       | 51–100 seats                         | 3,500      | 953        | 148,700              |
|                                       | 101–200 seats                        | 6,500      | 1,770      | 276,100              |
|                                       | Annual cap                           | 8,000      | 2,178      | 339,800              |
| Retail/commercial complexes           | Up to 300 m <sup>2</sup>             | 1,700      | 463        | 72,200               |
|                                       | 301–700 m <sup>2</sup>               | 3,400      | 926        | 144,400              |
|                                       | Each additional 25 m <sup>2</sup>    | 60         | 16         | 2,550                |
|                                       | Annual cap                           | 20,000     | 5,446      | 849,600              |
| Large shopping centers                | First 100 m <sup>2</sup> common area | 625        | 170        | 26,500               |
|                                       | Each additional 25 m <sup>2</sup>    | 50         | 14         | 2,125                |
|                                       | Annual cap                           | 50,000     | 13,615     | 2,123,900            |
| Fitness centers                       | Up to 300 m <sup>2</sup>             | 1,700      | 463        | 72,200               |
|                                       | Annual cap                           | 6,000      | 1,634      | 254,900              |
| Hotels 1–2 star                       | Up to 50 rooms                       | 50/room    | 14/room    | 2,125/room           |
|                                       | 50–100 rooms                         | 5,000      | 1,362      | 212,400              |
|                                       | Over 100 rooms                       | 8,000      | 2,178      | 339,800              |
| Hotels 3 star                         | Up to 50 rooms                       | 120/room   | 33/room    | 5,100/room           |
|                                       | 50–100 rooms                         | 12,000     | 3,268      | 509,800              |
|                                       | Over 100 rooms                       | 18,000     | 4,901      | 764,600              |
| Hotels 4–5 star                       | Up to 50 rooms                       | 150/room   | 41/room    | 6,371/room           |
|                                       | 50–100 rooms                         | 15,000     | 4,084      | 637,100              |

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.moet.gov.ae/en/-/ministry-of-economy-and-tourism-launches-collective-management-in-music-guide-setting-fees-for-music-use-in-caf%C3%A9s-restaurants-hotels-radio-stations-tv-channels-malls-and-airlines>

|                  |                   |        |        |           |
|------------------|-------------------|--------|--------|-----------|
|                  | 100–200 rooms     | 18,000 | 4,901  | 764,600   |
|                  | Over 200 rooms    | 25,000 | 6,807  | 1,061,900 |
|                  | Annual cap        | 25,000 | 6,807  | 1,061,900 |
| Radio            | Min annual tariff | 1,700  | 463    | 72,200    |
| Television       | Min annual tariff | 1,700  | 463    | 72,200    |
| Premium aviation | Up to 50 seats    | 5,000  | 1,362  | 212,400   |
|                  | 51–300 seats      | 10,000 | 2,723  | 424,800   |
|                  | 301–500 seats     | 30,000 | 8,169  | 1,274,400 |
|                  | Over 500 seats    | 45,000 | 12,254 | 1,911,600 |

Radio and TV also carry percentage-of-income tariffs (1%-3% depending on category) in addition to the minimum floor shown above.

### **UAE: New Regulations Strengthen Measures Against Counterfeit and Fraudulent Goods<sup>8</sup>**

The UAE has introduced new executive regulations strengthening the procedures for dealing with counterfeit, fraudulent and spoiled goods. Cabinet Resolution No. 107 of 2026 implements Federal Decree-Law No. 42 of 2023 on Combating Commercial Fraud and establishes more detailed requirements governing the investigation, seizure, recall, re-export, recycling and destruction of non-compliant goods.

The new regulations apply across the UAE, including free zones, and affect businesses throughout the supply chain, including importers, exporters, manufacturers, distributors, traders, warehouse operators and transporters.

Among the key changes are stricter product recall requirements. Once officially notified, a supplier must immediately cease the sale or display of affected goods and take measures to withdraw them from markets and warehouses within 24 hours. Points of sale and other entities supplied with the goods must also be notified and instructed to withdraw them. Recall announcements are subject to specific requirements, including publication in both Arabic and English.

The regulations also establish procedures for the seizure, destruction, recycling and, where permitted, re-export of counterfeit and fraudulent goods. Suppliers generally bear the associated costs. Where counterfeit goods are considered for another permitted use rather than destruction, registered counterfeit trademarks must be removed, and the proposed use must not infringe intellectual property rights.

The new framework is particularly relevant to trademark owners and businesses involved in the manufacture, importation and distribution of branded goods in the UAE, as it provides more detailed enforcement procedures while imposing stricter compliance and supply-chain responsibilities on suppliers.

## **2. Additional topics**

### **Gaza:**

Gaza Strip extends waiver of late trademark renewal fees

<https://rouse.com/insights/news/2026/gaza-strip-extends-waiver-of-late-trade-mark-renewal-fees> (03-08-2026)

### **Pakistan:**

Pakistan welcomes Australian court's rejection of India's Basmati trademark appeal

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2654367/pakistan> (12-08-2026)

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.clydeco.com/en/insights/2026/08/uae-strengthens-measures-in-relation-to-fraudulent>

Trademark Objection in Pakistan: How to Prepare a Response Without Guesswork

<https://www.advocatesfirm.com/trademark-objection-pakistan-response-documents-deadlines/> (19-08-2026)

Fake medicine manufacturing, repackaging racket busted near Bidadi

[https://www.siasat.com/fake-medicine-manufacturing-repackaging-racket-busted-near-bidadi-3527195/#google\\_vignette](https://www.siasat.com/fake-medicine-manufacturing-repackaging-racket-busted-near-bidadi-3527195/#google_vignette) (20-08-2026)

#### **Qatar:**

Qatar's digital transformation moves from infrastructure investment to knowledge-based value creation

<https://www.qatar-tribune.com/article/249039/nation/qatars-digital-transformation-moves-from-infrastructure-investment-to-knowledge-based-value-creation> (17-08-2026)

#### **Saudi Arabia:**

Jouf University Registers Patent in AI, Biometric Verification

<https://spa.gov.sa/en/N2644027> (29-07-2026)

Saudi Arabia's new copyright law: key reforms in copyright protection and enforcement

<https://www.trowers.com/insights/2026/july/saudi-arabias-new-copyright-law> (30-07-2026)

SAIP Issues Intellectual Property Report on Esports Industry

<https://www.spa.gov.sa/en/N2645128> (31-07-2026)

Saudi Arabia shuts 18 illegal warehouses in Jeddah in enforcement raid

<https://gulfnews.com/world/gulf/saudi/saudi-arabia-shuts18-illegal-warehouses-in-jeddah-in-enforcement-raid-1.500630924> (05-08-2026)

Saudi Arabia: Final economic substance regulations for special economic zones

<https://kpmg.com/us/en/taxnewsflash/news/2026/08/saudi-arabia-final-economic-substance-regulations-special-economic-zones.html> (11-08-2026)

The hidden litigation risk after Saudi opposition proceedings

<https://rouse.com/insights/news/2026/the-hidden-litigation-risk-after-saudi-opposition-proceedings> (25-08-2026)

#### **Türkiye:**

Workshop on intellectual property crimes, public health begins in Türkiye

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkiye/workshop-on-intellectual-property-crimes-public-health-begins-in-turkiye/4012854> (29-07-2026)

Managing a Trademark Portfolio in Turkey: A Practical Guide for In-House Counsel and Foreign Associates

<https://www.aksoy-ip.com/post/managing-a-trademark-portfolio-in-turkey-a-practical-guide-for-in-house-counsel-and-foreign-associates> (30-07-2026)

Bolar Beyond Regulatory Preparation: EU Pharma Package, Türkiye's Experience, And TRIPS Compliance

<https://www.mondaq.com/turkey/patent/1825922/bolar-beyond-regulatory-preparation-eu-pharma-package-t%C3%BCrkiyes-experience-and-trips-compliance> (04-08-2026)

Strong Stance Against Trademark Squatting In Türkiye

<https://www.mondaq.com/turkey/trademark/1826636/strong-stance-against-trade-mark-squatting-in-t%C3%BCrkiyes> (05-08-2026)

Turkish Patent Office handles over 4,600 patent applications in H1

<https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-patent-office-handles-over-4-600-patent-applications-in-h1-225480> (11-08-2026)

**Türkiye & Iraq:**

Türkiye, Iraq sign five cooperation agreements during high-level talks in Ankara

<https://ilkha.com/english/latest/turkiye-iraq-sign-five-cooperation-agreements-during-high-level-talks-in-ankara-551127> (29-07-2026)

**UAE:**

UAE blocks over 14,000 illegal sports streaming sites during 2026 FIFA World Cup

<https://gulfnews.com/amp/story/technology%2Fuae-blocks-over-14000-illegal-sports-streaming-sites-during-2026-fifa-world-cup-1.500632672> (06-08-2026)

Intellectual Property in the UAE: Why Substance Now Defines Value

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/intellectual-property-uae-why-substance-now-defines-value-j8omf> (17-08-2026)

United Arab Emirates Ranks 30th in the World for Innovation: What the World Intellectual Property – WIPO Global Innovation Index Reveals

<https://infocons.org/blog/2026/08/17/united-arab-emirates-ranks-30th-in-the-world-for-innovation-what-the-world-intellectual-property-wipo-global-innovation-index-reveals/> (17-08-2026)

IPNation launches in UAE with investment from Influence Media Partners

<https://jawlah.co/en/62566> (17-08-2026)

UAEU Inventors Granted Patent for Self-Adaptive Wind Turbine, Strengthening GCC Intellectual Property Framework

<https://ajaleen.com/uae-u-inventors-granted-patent-for-self-adaptive-wind-turbine-strengthening-gcc-intellectual-property-framework/> (21-08-2026)

Beyond the Courtroom: Securing Direct Deregistration of UAE Commercial Agencies

<https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=553f0897-159c-41f1-ac35-4c1ec73eb3a9> (21-08-2026)

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