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News

1. Important topics

Iraq: New Requirements Introduced for Patent and Industrial Design Annuity Filings[1]

The Registrar of Patents and Industrial Designs in Baghdad has introduced new procedural requirements for patent and industrial design annuity filings in Iraq.

Under the new procedure, annuity applications should generally be filed through the intellectual property agent who handled the original patent or industrial design application.

Where a rights holder appoints a different agent to handle the annuity payment, a fully legalized Power of Attorney containing the required boycott declaration must be submitted. An additional fee of IQD 100,000 (approximately USD 66 / JPY 10,400) applies to the submission and recordal of the new Power of Attorney.

The legalized Power of Attorney may be submitted within 30 days from the filing date of the annuity application.

The new requirements make continuity of representation particularly relevant when managing patent and industrial design portfolios in Iraq. Rights holders planning to transfer responsibility for annuity payments

[1] https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=d720919c-d1e3-4936-8abf-5115b22eb0e2

to a new agent should therefore allow sufficient time to prepare and legalize the required documentation and account for the additional recordal requirements.

Iraq: Trademark Protection Period Extended to 15 Years in Kurdistan Region[2]

The Trademark Office in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq has changed the term of trademark protection from 10 years to 15 years.

The new 15-year protection period applies to newly registered trademarks, pending applications once they proceed to registration, and trademark renewals.

Existing registrations issued under the previous 10-year practice will remain valid until their current expiry dates. When those registrations are renewed, however, they will benefit from the new 15-year protection period.

The change has practical implications for trademark portfolio management in the Kurdistan Region, particularly when calculating renewal dates and coordinating protection with registrations elsewhere in Iraq and the wider region.

Trademark owners should therefore review their records and renewal schedules to ensure that portfolio-management systems reflect the longer protection period.

Qatar: Online Services for Industrial Designs and Models Launched[3]

Qatar's Ministry of Commerce and Industry has introduced new electronic services for industrial designs and models, expanding the range of intellectual property procedures available through its digital platform[4]. This platform is only accessible from within Qatar.

The new services allow eligible local applicants and intellectual property agents to electronically file applications for the registration of industrial designs and models. Users can also request preliminary examination, appeal decisions relating to registration, and file objections to the acceptance of applications.

The digital system enables users to submit and manage requests, monitor their progress, and receive updates electronically. Access requires Qatar's national authentication credentials.

Applications previously submitted through the traditional paper-based system will continue to be processed under the existing procedure until completion.

The development represents another step toward the digitalization of intellectual property administration in Qatar and should simplify interactions with the Ministry for applicants and local representatives handling design portfolios.

Saudi Arabia: New Copyright Regulations Introduce Rules Relevant to AI and Digital Uses[5]

Saudi Arabia has introduced new Implementing Regulations for its Copyright Law, providing further detail on copyright protection, permitted uses, licensing, and the treatment of emerging technologies.

The Implementing Regulations were published in the Official Gazette on July 31, 2026, and supplement the updated Copyright Law, which entered into force on August 12, 2026.

The Regulations are particularly relevant to technology companies because they address the use of copyrighted works to train artificial intelligence. They set conditions for data access, record-keeping, and

[2] https://cwbip.com/insights/news/2026/kurdistan-region-iraq-trade-mark-protection-period-extended-15-years
[3] https://www.agip.com/News/en/news/23597
[4] https://ucs.moci.gov.qa/login
[5] https://www.lw.com/en/insights/saudi-arabia-new-copyright-regulations-what-ai-companies-should-know

subsequent commercial use. Companies developing or deploying AI systems in Saudi Arabia should therefore ensure copyright compliance when sourcing and using protected training materials.

The Regulations also establish a compulsory licensing mechanism for the translation of certain works into Arabic. The Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property has subsequently made a digital service available for compulsory copyright licensing applications.

The changes form part of Saudi Arabia's continuing development of its intellectual property framework and are particularly relevant to technology companies, publishers, content providers, and businesses using copyrighted material in AI-related activities.

Türkiye: Court Confirms Trademark Owners Are Not Liable for Storage Costs of Criminally Seized Counterfeits[6]

A final court ruling in Türkiye has clarified that trademark owners cannot be required to pay storage costs for counterfeit goods held by authorities following seizure in criminal proceedings.

The dispute arose after customs authorities detected 264,740 units of counterfeit toothpaste. Following a criminal complaint, the goods were seized by court order and remained in a customs anti-smuggling warehouse while proceedings and destruction procedures continued.

The customs authorities subsequently sought storage fees from the trademark owner. In June 2025, the Gaziantep 3rd Administrative Court annulled that assessment, finding that the trademark owner was the victim of the infringement rather than the owner of the counterfeit goods.

The Ministry of Trade appealed against the decision. On March 5, 2026, the Gaziantep Regional Administrative Court dismissed the appeal, making the judgment final.

The ruling draws an important distinction between goods detained under ordinary customs procedures and goods held pursuant to a criminal seizure order. Once counterfeit goods are being retained in connection with criminal proceedings, the financial burden of their storage should not be transferred to the trademark owner whose rights were infringed.

The judgment provides useful guidance to rights holders involved in customs and criminal enforcement actions in Türkiye.

UAE: New Rules Require Counterfeit Goods to Be Withdrawn Within 24 Hours[7]

The UAE has introduced new implementing regulations under its Anti-Commercial Fraud Law that strengthen procedures for removing counterfeit and other non-compliant goods from the market.

The Executive Regulations of Federal Decree-Law No. 42 of 2023[8] concerning Anti-Commercial Fraud were issued pursuant to Cabinet Decision No. 107 of 2026.

Under the new framework, suppliers must immediately stop selling or displaying adulterated, spoiled, or counterfeit goods after receiving notification from the Ministry of Economy and Tourism or another

[6] https://www.managingip.com/article/2gvaxywqvm5rybw0xiygw/sponsored-content/turkiye-rights-holders-not-liable-for-customs-storage-of-criminally-seized-counterfeits
[7] https://www.emirates247.com/business/ministry-of-economy-and-tourism-requires-withdrawal-of-counterfeit-goods-within-24-hours-under-new-regulations/5217
[8] https://www.moet.gov.ae/documents/20121/0/%D9%82%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%B1+%D9%85%D8%AC%D9%84%D8%B3+%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%88%D8%B2%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%A1+%D8%B1%D9%82%D9%85+107+%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%86%D8%A9+2026+%D8%A8%D8%B4%D8%A3%D9%86+%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%A6%D8%AD%D8%A9+%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AA%D9%86%D9%81%D9%8A%D8%B0%D9%8A%D8%A9+%D9%84%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B1%D8%B3%D9%88%D9%86+%D8%A8%D9%82%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%88%D9%86+%D8%A7%D8%AA%D8%AD%D8%A7%D8%AF%D9%8A+%D8%B1%D9%82%D9%85+42+%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%86%D8%A9+2023+%D9%81%D9%8A+%D8%B4%D8%A3%D9%86+%D9%85%D9%83%D8%A7%D9%81%D8%AD%D8%A9+%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%BA%D8%B4+%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AA%D8%AC%D8%A7%D8%B1%D9%8A.pdf/7183f578-1ded-1110-71bb-c275934bf75c?t=1789016083207

competent authority. The goods affected must then be withdrawn from markets and warehouses within a period not exceeding 24 hours.

The measure is intended to strengthen consumer protection and market oversight while providing authorities with a mechanism for rapidly removing counterfeit goods from commercial circulation.

For trademark owners, the regulations add another potentially important element to the UAE's anti-counterfeiting framework by imposing a clear timeframe for the withdrawal of identified counterfeit products following official notification.

UAE: UAE Opens Trademark Applications in Class 33[9]

The UAE Ministry of Economy and Tourism has begun accepting trademark applications covering alcoholic beverages under Class 33 of the Nice Classification.

The development represents a change in trademark filing practice in the UAE, where applications covering alcoholic beverages had historically faced restrictions.

The availability of Class 33 creates new opportunities for international brand owners seeking trademark protection in the UAE for products falling within this class. It may be particularly relevant to companies that previously relied on alternative brand-protection strategies because direct registration was unavailable.

Brand owners with existing or prospective interests in the UAE should consider reviewing their trademark portfolios to determine whether new Class 33 applications are appropriate. Businesses should also continue to take account of the separate regulatory requirements governing the importation, distribution, advertising, and sale of alcoholic beverages in the UAE.

The development relates specifically to trademark registration and should not be interpreted as changing the wider regulatory framework applicable to alcoholic beverages.

[9] https://rouse.com/insights/news/2026/uae-opens-class-33-for-alcoholic-beverage-trade-marks

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