

Middle East IP Updates

SUDAN

The Sudan Trade Marks Office resumed operations on February 11, 2024, and is now accepting applications for trademark registrations, renewals, and recordals. The office has temporarily moved to Port Sudan, where all procedures are conducted online and paperless.

Please note that the examination and publication of new applications, as well as pending matters before April 15, 2023, will commence once the trademarks database is re-established. This delay is due to the main office in Khartoum being inaccessible.

Towards the end of February, the Trade Marks Office released an updated schedule of official fees. We will promptly provide all relevant details.

Your understanding and cooperation during this transition are greatly appreciated.

LIBYA

On February 14, 2024, the Libyan Ministry of Economy and Trade issued Resolution No. 26 of 2024, presenting the latest implementing regulation for Chapter Ten of Law No. 23 of 2010 on Trademarks.

These regulations which will be enforced starting 1 May 2024, entail:

1. Powers of Attorney (POA) for trademark prosecution hold validity for one year from signing.
2. Documents legalized outside of Libya require attestation by the Libyan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Collaboration.
3. New trademark applicants must provide company legality verification with Arabic translation thereof valid for one year.
4. Applications for trademark assignments or any other recorded procedure necessitate original documents with Arabic translations.
5. A revised fee structure features increased official fees, new charges, and detailed renewal fee categorization. Specifics will be provided by our IP team post-review.
6. Introduction of Electronic Publication system for accepted trademarks.
7. Reduction of opposition term from 90 days to 30 days.
8. Enhancement of the definition of trademark by allowing inclusion of sound/audio trademarks.
9. Adoption of 11th Edition of NICE Classification of Goods and Services.

Should you need any further details and insights into these developments in Libya, we, at Axiom Mark, are just a click away. As ever, we are committed to reach out to our stakeholders in the protection and enforcement of their Intellectual Property rights in Libya and across the globe.

LEBANON

Effective February 15, 2024, Lebanon has implemented Budget Law No. 324, altering the fee structure and duration of trademark protection under intellectual property rights.

New trademark registrations, will enjoy a 10-year protection term, down from the previous 15 years. However, trademarks registered or renewed before this law's enactment will maintain the 15-year term until their next renewal, thereafter transitioning to the new 10-year term.

Furthermore, penalty fees will be imposed for every two-month delay in services related to license agreements.

QATAR

Qatar's Ministry of Commerce and Industry has established the Grievance Committee for Patent Appeals, in line with Ministerial Decision No. 97 of 2023.

Applicants now have a window of 15 days from receiving a decision from the Patent Office to appeal before this Committee, as stipulated in Article 7 of Law No. 30/2006.

Tasked with reviewing patent application decisions and addressing objections to Patent Office rulings on applications, oppositions, and cancellations, the Grievance Committee for Patent Appeals plays a crucial role.

Qatar's proactive action highlights its dedication to fostering a strong and transparent intellectual property landscape, representing a notable advancement in resolving patent disputes.