



Big News for Brands in the UAE: 13th Edition Nice Classification Now in Effect

The UAE Ministry of Economy has issued Administrative Circular No. (1) of 2026, officially adopting the 13th Edition of the Nice Classification (NCL 13-2026) as the mandatory standard for all new trademark filings starting 27 January 2026.

This replaces the previous 10th Edition and brings the UAE Trademark Office into full alignment with the latest international classification system, which entered into force globally on 1 January 2026.

Why This Edition Matters

The 13th Edition places strong emphasis on functionality and intended purpose rather than just the material or general category of goods and services. It modernizes the classification system to better reflect today's innovations, emerging technologies, and evolving business models.

This update ensures greater clarity, reduces potential disputes, and supports businesses in the UAE's fast-growing, innovation-driven economy.

At Axiom Mark, your trusted intellectual property partner in Dubai, our team is well positioned to assist clients in navigating these developments. Whether you are filing new trademark applications or reassessing existing specifications, we can support you in ensuring full compliance with the revised classification framework while maintaining optimal protection.

Contact us today for expert guidance and let us help ensure that your intellectual property remains strong, compliant, and future-ready under the new Nice Classification framework.