



Qatar Lifts Restrictions on NICE Classification Classes, Opens Class 33 for Registrations

In a significant development for intellectual property rights, Qatar has officially opened Class 33 for trademark registration, marking a major shift in the country's trademark framework and bringing it closer in line with international standards. As reported by Axiom Mark IP earlier, Qatar Trademark Office has adopted the 13th Edition of the NICE Classification, effective February 2026. A recent circular issued by the Qatar Trademark Office confirmed that all 45 classes under the Nice Classification are now fully available, including the previously restricted Class 33.

Historically, trademark registration in Class 33, covering certain beverages, was not available in Qatar.

With the latest clarification, these limitations have been lifted, allowing brand owners to seek direct and comprehensive protection for beverage-related products without relying on indirect filing strategies in other classes.

The opening of Class 33 is expected to expanded protection for brands as beverage companies can now register trademarks directly in the appropriate class. This also means reduced need for workaround filings in unrelated classes.

The development underscores Qatar's ongoing efforts to strengthen its legal and commercial environment as part of its economic diversification strategy. By fully implementing the Nice Classification system, the country is positioning itself as a more attractive destination for international brands and investors.

This decision to allow trademark registrations in Class 33, therefore, represents a milestone in its intellectual property evolution. For businesses in the beverage sector, the change opens the door to clearer, more robust brand protection in one of the Gulf's key markets.

We at Axiom Mark IP advise brand owners to review their trademark portfolios and consider new filings to take advantage of the expanded scope and avoid potential conflicts.