



## **Bahrain Accedes to the Locarno Agreement for the International Classification of Industrial Designs**

The Kingdom of Baharin has taken a significant step in strengthening its intellectual property framework by enacting Law no. (21) of 2026, approving its accession to the Locarno Agreement establishing an international Classification for Industrial Designs.

Originally signed in Locarno on October 8, 1968, and amended on September 28, 1979, the Agreement provides a uniform framework for classifying industrial designs into internationally recognized classes and subclasses, and establishes a standardized international classification system for industrial designs. Administered by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the Agreement organizes industrial designs into internationally recognized classes and subclasses, facilitating the registration, administration, and search of design rights across jurisdictions.

By joining the Agreement, Bahrain aligns its industrial design protection regime with internationally accepted standards, enhancing the efficiency and consistency of design registration procedures. The adoption of the Locarno Classification is expected to benefit rights holders, businesses, and practitioners by providing a common framework for the identification and categorization of industrial designs.

Bahrain's accession reflects the Kingdom's ongoing commitment to modernizing its intellectual property system and strengthening its integration into the global intellectual property landscape. The move is also expected to support innovation, encourage investment, and improve the protection and management of design assets within the country.

The accession further demonstrates Bahrain's efforts to harmonize its legal and regulatory framework with international best practices, reinforcing its position as a jurisdiction that values the protection of intellectual property rights and the promotion of innovation-driven economic growth.