



Bahrain Adopts the 13th Edition of the Nice Classification

Effective 1 October 2026, new trademark applications in Bahrain must follow the updated classification system

The Bahrain Trademark Office has confirmed that, effective 1 October 2026, Bahrain has transitioned to the 13th Edition of the International Nice Classification of Goods and Services. The change affects how goods and services are classified in trademark applications filed in the Kingdom.

Implications for Applicants

All new trademark applications filed in Bahrain from 1 October 2026 must be prepared using the 13th Edition. Specifications of goods and services drafted under an earlier edition should be reviewed before filing, as terms may have been added, moved or reworded. Applicants who rely on templates or prior filings should not reuse earlier specifications without checking them against the current edition.

Implications for Filing Strategy

The transition affects how filing strategy is prepared as well as how applications are formatted. Brand owners with Bahrain filings in preparation should have their specifications conformed to the 13th Edition before submission. This applies in particular to applications based on priority claims or on filings made in other jurisdictions, where the original specification may have been drafted under an earlier edition and may need adjustment to reflect current terminology and class placement.

Practitioners should update filing templates, classification databases and client guidelines so that new instructions are taken on the correct basis from the outset. Early alignment reduces the risk of objections at examination and helps ensure that the scope of protection reflects what the client actually intends to cover.

Significance of Accurate Classification

Accurate classification defines the scope of protection a trademark receives. A specification that does not align with the edition in force can lead to objections, delays or narrower protection than intended. Following the 13th Edition from the effective date helps keep Bahrain filings consistent with the international standard and reduces avoidable examination issues.

Conclusion

The move to the 13th Edition of the Nice Classification is a procedural change with direct consequences for filing practice in Bahrain. Brand owners and IP practitioners should update their records and review their specifications now to keep all Bahrain filings in line with the Trademark Office's requirements.