



IP Updates 2024

A comprehensive summary of the most notable IP updates and developments in 2024:



TRADEMARKS

• KSA

New policy for rejected trademark applications, where applicants have the option to file a complaint against the rejection decision.

• Qatar

Qatar has Joined Madrid Protocol for International Trademark Registration.

• Libya

- New executive regulations of Trademark Law.
- Online publication of trademark applications.
- New requirements and measures for filing trademark applications, including the need for a legalized Power of Attorney (POA) and company registration document. The required documents must be original and legalized by the Libyan Consulate in the applicant's home country.
- The trademark office resumed receiving new applications as of September 2, 2024.

• Yemen

The Trademark Office of Sana'a has resumed the renewal of US and Swedish trademarks.

• UAE

Release of new patent and design regulations.

• Lebanon

New trademark regulations concerning the structure of intellectual property rights and the duration of trademark protection, which has been shortened from 15 to 10 years.



PATENTS

• UAE

- Release of new patent and design regulations.
- Implementation of new patent examination procedures, where the examiner may issue a "Fee Amendment Order".

• China

Implementation of new rules for patent examination and protection.

• Sudan

The Patent Office has resumed limited operations, accepting new patent applications. However, subsequent procedures such as registration, examination, and submission of supporting documents will commence soon.

• KSA

Saudi Arabia has signed a Cooperation Agreement with the Japan Patent Office.

• Bahrain

- Bahrain has signed a Patent Prosecution Highway Agreement with China.
- Bahrain and the USA have signed an Agreement on the Fast-Track System for Technical Examination of Patents.

- **Qatar**

Establishment of a patent grievance committee.

- **India**

The Patents (Amendment) Rules, 2024 and Patent (Second Amendment) Rules, 2024 have come into force, leading to a 10% reduction in renewal fees and a reduction in the deadline for filing a Request for Examination (RFE) from 48 months to 31 months from the earliest priority date.



DOMAIN NAMES

- **Jordan**

Implementation of a new Domain Names Policy: Domain names will be suspended if renewal fees are not paid within 30 days from the date of expiry. Other parties can electronically object to the Registry's decision to accept a domain name registration within 30 days.

- **Kuwait**

The first phase of .KW registration, known as the Sunrise Period, has been launched.



LAWS & REGULATIONS

- **UAE**

A new Law on Combating Commercial Fraud has been introduced, strengthening UAE's legislation and protecting consumers.

- **KSA**

Implementation of a new Commercial Registration Law and Trade Name Law.



FEES

- **Algeria**

The VAT rate for IP services has been increased to 19%.

- **Qatar**

- Certain official fees for IP services, including patents and industrial designs, have been reduced.
- The Qatari Patent Office has announced that it will now accept annuity payments for all years, including for pending applications that have not yet been granted.

- **Russia**

Increase in official IP fees.



OTHER IP ISSUES

- **Qatar**

New guidelines for POA: The document must bear the seal and authentication of the issuing notary. It must also include identification information such as number and authentication date, with the notarized document.

- **Lebanon**

The IPO has extended all deadlines that were scheduled to expire on September 23, 2024 and onwards, until further notice.

- **Yemen**

The Sana'a Trademark Office has adopted the 12th Edition of the Nice Classification and launched new online services.

- **KSA**

WIPO Member states have adopted the Riyadh Design Law Treaty.

- **Oman**

The National Center for Intellectual Property has been established.

- **UAE**

The launch of a new IP Ecosystem has been announced.

- **Iraq**

The 11th Edition of the Nice Classification will be adopted in 2025.