Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP)

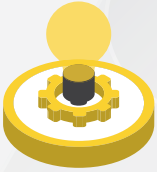
# IP Updates

**A comprehensive summary of the most notable IP updates and developments over the last year**



## TRADEMARKS

- **KSA**
  - Major change to the trademark registration process, where the e-filing system no longer allows selecting class headings upon filing trademark applications.
  - Adoption of the 12th Edition of the NICE Classification.
- **South Sudan**
  Although the Intellectual Property Bill has not been passed into law, it became possible to reserve trademarks, where a third party will not be able to register a similar mark once the Bill becomes law.
- **Libya**
  The Trademark Office resumed its full activities after a suspension.
- **UAE**
  New procedures for trademark renewal allow trademark applications to be renewed without a legalized POA.



## DESIGNS

- **Kuwait**
  Publication of patents and industrial designs became in electronic format and through the official patent online platform of the Patent Office.



## PATENTS

- **UAE**
  New patent and design regulations introducing new charges applicable to academic and SME entities, and allowing a grace period of 90 days for the submission of legal documents and Arabic translations following the filing of an application.
- **China**
  Release of the Revised Patent Examination Guidelines and Implementing Regulations of the Patent Law.
- **GCC**
  - Introduction of the "WIPO Publish" search system to search for patents granted by the GCCPO.
  - GCCPO started accepting new filings (Paris Convention applications), and performing formality and substantive examination pertaining to Qatar
- **KSA**
  - KSA has officially joined the Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) pilot program with the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore.
  - SAIP has been appointed as an International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authority under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT/ISA/IPEA).
- **Lebanon**
  The Patent Office resumed its operations after suspension.

- **Kuwait**
  New patent annuities procedures, where the annuities of national/ local applications (Paris route) became due at the beginning of each year subsequent to the year in which the application was filed.




## DOMAIN NAMES

- **Oman**
  Renewal fees will be deducted automatically for the .OM domains unless instructed otherwise by the Registrar.



## LAWS & REGULATIONS

- **KSA**
  New amended Patent and Industrial Design Law

- **Pakistan**
  - The Trade Marks (Amendment) Act 2023, which amends the Trade Marks Ordinance 2001, has brought significant changes to trademark practices in Pakistan.
  - Adoption of New Industrial Designs Rules.

- **Qatar**
  Adoption of the GCC Trademark Law and its implementing regulations.



## FEES

- **Syria**
  Increase in trademarks and designs official fees.

- **UAE**
  Reinstatement of the official fees for all zero-rated services affected by the previous Cabinet Resolution No. (20) of 2020, including annuities, publications, assignments, amendments, restorations, and more.

- **Bahrain**
  New official fees of patent and utility model registration for individuals.

- **Oman**
  Reduction in publication official fees.

- **Egypt**
  Increases in official fees of patent examination.



## OTHER IP ISSUES

- **China**
  China has officially joined the Hague Convention Abolishing the Requirement of Legalization for Foreign Public Documents (Apostille Convention)

- **KSA**
  KSA joined the Hague Convention Abolishing the Requirement of Legalization for Foreign Public Documents (Apostille Convention)

- **Gaza**
  IP applications should be filed through an authorized IP agent or a legal practitioner, duly recognized by the Trademark Office in Gaza

- **Oman**
  Establishment of the National Center for Intellectual Property.