

Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP)



AGIP Bulletin

Newsletter - Issue 209

*AGIP Bahrain Delivers Expert
Lecture on IP at Gulf University*

2026

February

AGIP Bahrain Delivers Expert Lecture on IP at Gulf University

MANAMA - AGIP Bahrain delivered a specialized lecture on intellectual property at Gulf University, underscoring the importance of patent registration in protecting innovation and turning ideas into legal assets. The lecture, presented by Mr. Hamzeh Al Mubaideen, reinforced ongoing collaboration between AGIP Bahrain and Gulf University, and highlighted practical steps for students and researchers to safeguard their creative works.

In his presentation, Mr. Al Mubaideen, marketing manager at AGIP Bahrain office, explained the patent registration process, clarified common misconceptions about IP protection, and outlined best practices for documenting inventions and filing applications in Bahrain. He emphasized how early IP strategy helps inventors preserve commercial value and attract investment. The lecture included examples drawn from recent filings and interactive Q&A, giving attendees actionable guidance on protecting technological and creative outputs.

This event builds on prior cooperation between AGIP Bahrain and Gulf University, including joint efforts to file patent applications in Bahrain. The session aimed to strengthen ties between academic institutions and IP professionals, promoting a culture of innovation and legal preparedness across campus.





IP

UPDATES

Qatar Adopts 13th Edition of Nice Classification

DOHA - The Trademark Office of Qatar announced the official adoption of the 13th Edition of Nice Classification, taking effect immediately. The move updates Qatar's trademark classification framework to match the latest international standards set by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), streamlining the registration process and improving clarity for applicants.

The adoption requires all new trademark applications filed in Qatar to use 13th Edition for the classification of goods and services. Applicants are requested to submit trademark registration applications and classify goods and services in accordance with the above-mentioned edition, while ensuring the use of the approved terms contained in the current version of the classification.

For more information or inquiries, please contact AGIP office in Qatar at qatar@agip.com



Omani Trademark Office Issues New Renewal Procedure Ahead of 2026 Deadlines

MUSCAT - The Omani Trademark Office has issued new procedures for trademark owners with trademarks due for renewal in 2026. The change reflects updates in the Nice Classification and requires some rights holders to file amendment application(s) to maintain proper protection under Omani law.

For example, under the updated international framework (Nice Classification, 13th Edition), a number of items previously classified in Class 9 are now excluded. Although Oman continues to apply the 11th Edition of the Nice Classification, the Trademark Office's recent notice clarifies that applicants seeking renewals in 2026 and beyond must take action if their specifications include goods no longer recognized in more recent international versions.

Trademark owners whose registrations include goods affected by the reclassification should file an amendment application. Such amendment may require removing items that are no longer classified under the registered mark, and may consider filing these items in a new separate trademark filing under the new classification.

For more information or inquiries, please contact AGIP Oman office at oman@agip.com





New Russian Rules for Trademark Enforcement on Major Marketplaces

MOSCOW - Beginning April 2026, major Russian online marketplaces will be required to integrate with the Russian Trademark Register, enabling faster and automated trademark enforcement. This change aims to reduce removal times for counterfeit or infringing listings. However, rights holders and manufacturers must act promptly to secure their position in the Russian market.

Under the new requirements, rights holders are advised to ensure that their trademarks are properly registered in Russia and to respond swiftly to infringement notices. Registering their marks in a timely manner and engaging in prompt takedown procedures will allow brands to fully benefit from the faster enforcement mechanisms and avoid delays that could leave counterfeits visible to consumers.

There is a parallel trend that is increasing the urgency for manufacturers: many local sellers have begun registering manufacturers' trademarks under their own names to gain control over marketplace access and listings. If manufacturers have not registered their marks, a registered local seller can effectively monopolize product listings and hinder the manufacturer's direct access to key online channels. This practice can disrupt distribution, weaken brand integrity, and reduce revenue streams for legitimate producers.

For more information or inquiries, please contact AGIP Russia office at russia@agip.com

Saudi Arabia Enacts Modernized Copyright Law to Strengthen Protections and Enforcement

RIYADH - Saudi Arabia enacted a modernized Copyright Law (Royal Decree No. M/169 dated 14/08/1447 AH) that replaces the 2003 statute and introduces expanded protections, clearer rights, and stronger enforcement measures. The new law, set to take effect on August 1, 2026, aims to align the Kingdom's intellectual property framework with international best practices and support creators, businesses, and cultural industries operating in Saudi Arabia.

The updated legal framework broadens the scope of protected works, clarifies rights for authors and rights holders, and modernizes the treatment of digital and online content. It also provides enhanced enforcement tools, including clearer provisions for remedies and sanctions against infringement. Implementing regulations required to operationalize the new law are expected to be issued by the effective date, giving rights holders and organizations time to prepare for compliance and to adjust internal policies and contracts.

Key changes include expanded territorial scope and clearer definitions of protected subject matter, addressing gaps in the previous law dating from 2003. The new law provides more explicit protections for digital rights and technological measures, strengthens moral and economic rights for creators, and updates exceptions and limitations to balance public interest with creators' rights. It also introduces procedural clarifications that aim to speed enforcement actions and provide more predictable outcomes for disputes.





ARIPO Approves Comprehensive Amendments to Banjul Protocol on Marks

HARARE - The African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) has recently announced formal approval of comprehensive amendments to the Banjul Protocol on Marks. These revisions include updated implementing regulations, prescribed forms, and official fees. The changes, communicated by ARIPO's Director General, took effect on March 1, 2026, and will apply to new, pending, and existing trademark applications and registrations.

The amended framework aims to clarify procedural rules, reorganize regulatory structure, and introduce a revised fee schedule. These changes are intended to strengthen ARIPO's administrative capacity and improve service delivery. One notable change is the increase in official fees, with the paper filing fee for applications rising from US\$100 to US\$200. ARIPO states that the updated fees are necessary to support enhanced operations, faster processing times, and ensure the sustainability of regional trademark services.

In addition to the fee adjustments, the amendments also streamline procedural steps and update prescribed forms to reflect modern filing practices. Clearer timelines for examination, opposition, renewal, and cancellation procedures have also been implemented. These changes are expected to reduce ambiguity in cross-border filings and harmonize requirements across member states, providing greater predictability for rights holders and practitioners operating within the ARIPO system. To assist applicants, agents, and national offices, ARIPO has published guidance on how to adopt the new forms and procedural expectations.

For more information or inquiries, please contact AGIP Africa office at africa@agip.com



UKIPO to Raise Patent, Trademark and Design Fees by Average 25%

The UK Intellectual Property Office has announced plans to increase its fees for patents, trademarks and designs by an average of 25%, effective from 1 April 2026, pending parliamentary approval. All current fees will remain unchanged until that date.

Full fee schedules and transitional guidance will be published in early 2026 to assist IP rights holders in planning their filings around the implementation date.

In light of this, we advise our clients to review their filing strategies before the implementation date to avoid potential increases in UKIPO fees. For further information or inquiries, please contact our AGIP Europe office at europe@agip.com