Iran
Implications of the Imminent Lifting of Sanctions on IP

Cybersquatter Squashed

Qatar
Extension of Deadline
IRAN: IMPLICATIONS OF THE IMMINENT LIFTING OF SANCTIONS ON IP

Now that Iran, the P1+5 (China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, United States-plus Germany), and the European Union have agreed to a landmark comprehensive nuclear agreement, a significant impact on both the economy of Iran and global markets is expected. Not only will the energy sector be particularly affected, but it is also anticipated that the economic impact of a partial lifting of sanctions will perpetuate the energy sector into a wide range of industries, including consumer products, food and beverage, apparel, pharmaceuticals, tobacco, etc. Iran is a strong emerging market with over 80 million consumers, and is ranked second largest economy in the Middle East and North Africa region behind Saudi Arabia. The resulting boom is expected to create billions of dollars’ worth of business for both local and foreign companies.

What are the implications of the prospective lifting of sanctions on IP?

Although the US and EU sanctions programs currently in place allow individuals and entities to perform IP-related transactions, with the lifting of sanctions in Iran, many businesses will look to expand their operations into the country with a growing need for establishing tailored local IP protection strategies. Therefore, in the coming weeks and months, brand owners should start reviewing and assessing their existing trademark portfolio in the country in order to ensure that their portfolio management strategies are aligned with the overall business strategy. A trademark audit in Iran should now be a priority for different reasons including: (1) revealing significant gaps in protection so that remedial steps may be taken, (2) identifying applications and registrations that are no longer aligned with the business and determining the appropriate actions to take, and (3) uncovering potential risks, such as infringement, before they materialize. Now is also the best time to monitor the marketplace to identify third party infringements which were difficult to control during the boycott.

For any questions on any of the IP matters in Iran, please feel free to contact us.
**TRADMARKS IN IRAN**

**CLASSIFICATION**
9th edition – multiclass application, class 33 and alcoholic goods in class 32 cannot be registered

**OPPOSITION**
Within 30 days from publication date; extension of time is not possible

**SEARCH**
Possible for word marks and devices; discloses similar and identical marks

**PROTECTION TERM**
10 years from filing date and renewable for like periods

**EXAMINATION**
Formal, absolute, and relative grounds

**USE**
Vulnerable to a non-use cancellation action within 3 consecutive years from registration date

**PATENTS IN IRAN**

**EQUIVALENT SEARCH**
Granted and published patents may be searched by patent number, title, patentee name and priority/PCT number in the official gazette

**EXAMINATION**
As to form, novelty, inventiveness and applicability

**OPPOSITION**
Oppositions may be filed any time after publication

**ANNUITIES**
Due annually on the anniversary of the filing date and payable before the granting of patent. 6-month grace period for late payment with a surcharge

**PUBLICATION**
Applications are not published prior to 18 months from the filing date or the earliest priority

**PROTECTION TERM**
20 years from filing date
IRAN: CYBERSQUATTER SQUASHED

The Administrative Panel, assigned for case number D0778-2015 at the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center, issued a decision in favor of Inter IKEA Systems BV, owner of the trademark IKEA, against Omid, IkeaIran for registering the domain name <ikea-iran.com>.

The Panel found that the domain name was confusingly similar to the trademark IKEA and that the defendant had no rights or legitimate interests with respect to the domain name, which was registered and used in bad faith.

In light of the above, the Panel ordered that the domain name be transferred to Inter IKEA Systems BV in accordance with paragraphs 4(i) of the Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy and 15 of the Rules.
The Patent Office in Qatar announced that the deadline for the submission of the required documents and payment of official fees, annuities, and substantive examination fees will be extended to September 30, 2015, for patents filed before December 31, 2014.

As for new patent applications, in addition to the filling fees, the patent office will collect the second annuity fees and, if due, the third annuity fees. The substantive examination fees must be settled within six months from the date of filing.

Annuity fees for applications are payable for each one-year period between the second and twentieth anniversaries of the date of filing of the international application for PCT applications. As for non-PCT applications, the annuity fees are due before the first day of each of the one-year periods they cover. A surcharge will be levied for the late payment of annuity fees per year, provided that the payment is made within a grace period of six months.
THE SABA NETWORK

Head Office
Saba House
Said Freiha Street, Hazmieh
Beirut, Lebanon
P.O. Box 11-9421
Tel: +961 5 45 48 88
Fax: +961 5 45 48 44
E-mail: headoffice@sabaip.com

Algeria
Cabinet Boukrami
(In cooperation with Saba & Co. IP)
Centre Commercial et d’Affaires El Qods, BU 10-04B
Cheraga 16002
Algiers, Algeria
P.O. Box 86 Centre Commercial et d’Affaires El Qods,
Cheraga 16002
Tel: +213 21 34 11 61
Fax: +213 21 34 11 62
E-mail: algeria@sabaip.com

Bahrain
Bahrain Tower, Al-Khalifa Road
Manama, Bahrain
P.O. Box 21013
Tel: +973 17 21 301
Fax: +973 17 22 699
E-mail: bahrain@sabaip.com

Cyprus
Mitsis Building #2
14 Makarios Avenue
1065 Nicosia, Cyprus
P.O. Box 21143
1502 Nicosia
Tel: +357 22 755 434
Fax: +357 22 754 037
E-mail: cyprus@sabaip.com

Djibouti
Saba House
Said Freiha Street, Hazmieh
Beirut, Lebanon
P.O. Box 11-9421
Tel: +961 5 45 48 88
Fax: +961 5 45 48 44
E-mail: djibouti@sabaip.com

Egypt
10 Aisha El Taymouriiah Street
Garden City, CP 11451
Cairo, Egypt
P.O. Box 129, Mohamed Farid
Tel: +2 02 279 59686
Fax: +2 02 279 52314
E-mail: info@sabaip-eg.com

Ethiopia
Saba House
Said Freiha Street, Hazmieh
Beirut, Lebanon
P.O. Box 11-9421
Tel: +961 5 45 48 88
Fax: +961 5 45 48 44
E-mail: ethiopia@sabaip.com

Gaza
Saba House
Said Freiha Street, Hazmieh
Beirut, Lebanon
P.O. Box 11-9421
Tel: +961 5 45 48 88
Fax: +961 5 45 48 44
E-mail: gaza@sabaip.com

Iraq
Saba House
Said Freiha Street, Hazmieh
Beirut, Lebanon
P.O. Box 11-9421
Tel: +961 5 45 48 88
Fax: +961 5 45 48 44
E-mail: iraq@sabaip.com

Jordan
65 Prince Shaker Bin Zaid Street
Al Shemissani
Amman, Jordan
P.O. Box 80553, Amman 11184
Tel: +962 6 464 2145
Fax: +962 6 464 2159
E-mail: jordan@sabaip.com

Kuwait
Al Hajri Building
Al-Shuhadaa Street
Kuwait, Kuwait
P.O. Box 1245, 13013 Safat
Tel: +965 2 242 3428
Fax: +965 2 240 2243
E-mail: kuwait@sabaip.com

Lebanon
Saba House, Said Freiha Street, Hazmieh
Beirut, Lebanon
P.O. Box 11-9420
Tel: +961 5 45 48 40
Fax: +961 5 45 48 42
E-mail: lebanon@sabaip.com

Libya
Saba House, Said Freiha Street, Hazmieh
Beirut, Lebanon
P.O. Box 11-9421
Tel: +961 5 45 48 88
Fax: +961 5 45 48 44
E-mail: libya@sabaip.com

Morocco
185 Boulevard Zerktouni
Residence Zerktouni
Casablanca 20330
Casablanca, Morocco
P.O. Box 15 921
Casablanca 20032
Tel: +212 522 251 530
Fax: +212 522 251 603
E-mail: morocco@sabaip.com

Oman
Muscat International Centre
Beit Al Falaj Street
Muscat, Oman
P.O. Box 2027 Ruwi
Postal Code 112, Sultanate of Oman
Tel: +968 248 111 26
Fax: +968 248 111 28
E-mail: oman@sabaip.com

Qatar
Grieco Building
C Ring Road
Doha, Qatar
P.O. Box 14035
Tel: +974 44 42 3992
Fax: +974 44 42 4106
E-mail: qatar@sabaip.com

Saudi Arabia
Al Hadaf Marks Services LLC
(In cooperation with Saba & Co. IP)
Al-Oula Building, King Fahd Road
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
P.O. Box 61145
Riyadh 11565
Tel: +966 11 2079596
Fax: +966 11 2079598
E-mail: saudi@sabaip.com

South Sudan
Saba House
Said Freiha Street, Hazmieh
Beirut, Lebanon
P.O. Box 11-9421
Tel: +961 5 45 48 88
Fax: +961 5 45 48 44
E-mail: southsudan@sabaip.com

Syria
Adib Khair Building
Fardos Street
Damascus, Syria
P.O. Box 460
Tel: +963 11 223 6628
Fax: +963 11 222 6280
E-mail: syria@sabaip.com

Tunisia
Saba House
Said Freiha Street, Hazmieh
Beirut, Lebanon
P.O. Box 11-9421
Tel: +961 5 45 48 88
Fax: +961 5 45 48 44
E-mail: tunisia@sabaip.com

United Arab Emirates
Al Rostamani Building,
Al Ettihad Street, Deira
Dubai, UAE
P.O. Box 42259
Tel: +971 4 2959 650
Fax: +971 4 2959 651
E-mail: uae@sabaip.com

West Bank
Saba House
Said Freiha Street, Hazmieh
Beirut, Lebanon
P.O. Box 11-9421
Tel: +961 5 45 48 88
Fax: +961 5 45 48 44
E-mail: westbank@sabaip.com

Yemen
Hadda Towers, Building #7
Hadda Street
Sana’a, Yemen
P.O. Box 1493
Tel: +967 1 420 595
Fax: +967 1 420 596
E-mail: yemen@sabaip.com