November 2018

KUWAIT
Trademark renewal going online

BAHRAIN
New value added tax

SAUDI ARABIA
IP authority pressing onwards

TURKEY
Country insights
Applications for trademark renewal can be submitted electronically at the Trademark Office in Kuwait as of September 2018.

The new process involves uploading the supporting documents to the online portal. Online publication in the official gazette is expected at a later stage.

What you need to know about renewal of trademarks in Kuwait:

- **Protection Period**: 10 years from filing date and renewable for like periods
- **Filing Requirements**: Scanned copy of the legalized POA and a simple copy of the certificate of registration
- **What you need to know**: Grace period of 6 months
BAHRAIN | NEW VALUE ADDED TAX

Following the recent introduction of value added tax in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, VAT is expected to be introduced in Bahrain as of January 1, 2019. The VAT will apply to goods and services at the standard rate of five percent, with some limited exceptions on basic food items, healthcare, and education.

By way of background, the VAT Law is based on the common principles agreed by all Gulf Cooperation Council countries as outlined in the GCC VAT Agreement. Each member state of the GCC is expected to establish their own separate national legislation concerning the VAT and as such the detailed compliance requirements and set of rules will be outlined in each respective legislation.

We expect the remaining GCC countries, which include Kuwait, Oman, and Qatar to follow suite and introduce the VAT.
In September 2018, the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property participated in the 58th meeting of the World Intellectual Property Organization. This is the first time SAIP attends as a high-level delegation in the WIPO general assembly. The authorities concerned announced the upcoming launch of the Academy of the World Intellectual Property Organization in Saudi Arabia - a clear indication of SAIP’s commitment to the protection of intellectual property in the country.

Since then, SAIP has signed a memorandum of understanding with the South Korean Intellectual Property Office to increase bilateral cooperation. Accordingly, the MOU foresees joint activities in the exchange of information on the policies, strategies, and plans related to automation systems.

On the local front, SAIP has been actively involved in the investment and invigoration of Saudi Arabia’s knowledge economy. SAIP has offered workshops on innovation and entrepreneurship, IP training sessions, and presentations on various aspects relating to enforcement of IP rights. Saba IP and our local affiliate in Saudi Arabia were selected to participate and present in these seminars.

These are but a few major highlights of high profile events in Saudi Arabia that are indicative of the country’s drive and motivation to develop its own innovation and economic systems. Saba IP, as one of the most active IP firms in the region, is also committed and very active in that area to increase awareness of IP rights in the region and for the region.
With a transcontinental location straddling both Asia and Europe, Turkey occupies a regional location of increasing economic significance and importance. Turkey’s largely free-market economy is driven by its industry and, increasingly, service sectors. The automotive, petrochemical, and electronics industries have risen in importance and surpassed the traditional textiles and clothing sectors within Turkey’s export mix.

Turkey’s annual GDP growth averaged seven percent over the past year. The country’s GDP is US$2.173 trillion, while the GDP per capita is US$26,900. The GDP composition is 6.7 percent for agriculture, 31.8 percent for industry, and 61.4 percent for services.

Following the adoption of Law no. 6769 on the Protection of Industrial Property Rights in January 2017, Turkey now maintains a relatively comprehensive regulatory and legislative system for the protection of trademarks, patents, designs, copyright, and trade secrets. The Law, which includes provisions on the protection of patents, integrated circuits, industrial designs, trademarks and trade names, ensures that Turkey’s IP framework is better suited to the needs of IPR owners, and is more harmonized with global practice.

The main changes in the Law include the enforceability of co-existence agreements and letters of consent, which will enable the applicants to overcome a relative grounds rejection with the prior right owner’s consent. As for oppositions, the Law makes a clear distinction between well-known trademarks registered in Turkey and those which are not. This means that the owner of an unregistered well-known trademark will, therefore, be able to oppose applications for a mark identical or similar to a well-known trademark, for the same or similar goods and services. Furthermore, the Law introduces a new opposition ground: the defense based on non-use. This stipulates that if the owner of the opposed application can claim that the opposing party has not used its trademark for more than five years with a valid reason after its registration date. In such a case, the Turkish Patent and Trademark Office will request the opposing party to provide substantial evidence regarding the use of the trademark. If they are not provided, the opposition will be rejected.
Turkey follows 11th edition of the Nice classification and multiclass applications are acceptable. Trademark examination is performed on formal, absolute, and relative grounds, and oppositions may be filed after 2 months from publication date. The protection term for a trademark is 10 years from filing date and is renewable for like periods.

On the patents front, it is possible to file patent applications in Turkey via PCT national stage entry or claiming Paris Convention. In line with expected PCT Rules, patents are protected for a period of 20 years, from the international filing date. Annuities are due annually on the anniversary of the international filing date and payable as of nationalization of the application in Turkey. A one year grace period is observed for late payment along with a surcharge.

Turkey remains a country with high aspirations that welcomes foreign investments. A healthy balance between the latter and local development is bound to be beneficial for the country’s own growth.
# THE SABA NETWORK

## Head Office
Saba House
Said Frehia Street, Hazmih
Beirut, Lebanon
T. +961 5 45 48 88
F. +961 5 45 48 44
P.O. Box 11-9421
headoffice@sabaip.com

## Algeria
Cabinet Boukrami
(In cooperation with Saba & Co., IP)
Centre Commercial et d’Affaires El Qods
10th floor, BU 10-04 B, Cheraga 16002
Algiers, Algeria
T. +213 2 34 11 61
F. +213 2 34 11 62
P.O. Box 86 Centre Commercial et d’Affaires El Qods, Cheraga 16002
algeria@sabaip.com

## Bahrain
Bahrain Tower, Al-Khalifa Road
Manama, Bahrain
T. +973 17 210 301
F. +973 17 224 699
P.O. Box 21013
bahrain@sabaip.com

## Cyprus
Mitsis Building #2
14, Makarios Avenue
1065 Nicosia, Cyprus
T. +357 22 755 434
F. +357 22 754 037
P.O. Box 21143
1302 Nicosia
cyprus@sabaip.com

## Djibouti
Saba House
Said Frehia Street, Haymih
Beirut, Lebanon
T. +961 5 45 48 88
F. +961 5 45 48 44
P.O. Box 11-9421
djibouti@sabaip.com

## Egypt
10 Aisha El Taymouria Street
Garden City, CP 11461
Cairo, Egypt
T. + 20 2 279 59686
F. + 20 2 279 53334
P.O. Box 129, Mohamed Farid
info@sabaip-eg.com

## Ethiopia
Saba House
Said Frehia Street, Haymih
Beirut, Lebanon
T. +961 5 45 48 88
F. +961 5 45 48 44
P.O. Box 11-9421
ethiopia@sabaip.com

## Gaza
Saba House
Said Frehia Street, Hazmih
Beirut, Lebanon
T. +961 5 45 48 88
F. +961 5 45 48 44
P.O. Box 11-9421
gaza@sabaip.com

## Iraq
Saba House
Said Frehia Street, Hazmih
Beirut, Lebanon
T. +961 5 45 48 88
F. +961 5 45 48 44
P.O. Box 11-9421
iraq@sabaip.com

## Jordan
56 Prince Shaker Bin Zaid Street
Al Shemissani
Amman, Jordan
T. +962 6 464 2145
F. +962 6 464 2150
P.O. Box 86053, Amman 11184
jordan@sabaip.com

## Kuwait
Al Haji Building
Al-Shuhada Street
Kuwait, Kuwait
T. +965 2 262 3628
F. +965 2 262 3628
P.O. Box 1245, 13013 Safat
kuwait@sabaip.com

## Lebanon
Saba House
Said Frehia Street, Hazmih
Beirut, Lebanon
T. +961 5 45 48 45
F. +961 5 45 48 42
P.O. Box 11-9420
lebanon@sabaip.com

## Libya
Saba House
Said Frehia Street, Hazmih
Beirut, Lebanon
T. +961 5 45 48 88
F. +961 5 45 48 44
P.O. Box 11-9421
libya@sabaip.com

## Morocco
185 Boulevard Zerkououi
Residence Zerkououi
Casablanca 20120
Casablanca, Morocco
T. +212 2 522 251 530
F. +212 2 522 251 603
P.O. Box 13 922
Casablanca 20032
morocco@sabaip.com

## Oman
Muscat International Centre
Bid Al Fajaj Street
Muscat, Oman
T. +968 2 48 111 26
F. +968 2 48 111 28
P.O. Box 2027 Ruwi
Postal Code 112, Sultanate of Oman
oman@sabaip.com

## Qatar
Grinoalo Building
C Ring Road
Doha, Qatar
T. +974 44 32 3106
P.O. Box 14035
qatar@sabaip.com

## Saudi Arabia
Al Nadaa Marks Services LLC
(In Cooperation with Saba & Co., IP)
Office # 1, 2nd Floor, Tower B GOSI Olaya
Towers Olaya Street, Riyadh 11565
Saudi Arabia
T. +966 11 207596
F. +966 11 207598
P.O. Box 61143
saudi@sabaip.com

## Sudan
Saba House
Said Frehia Street, Hazmih
Beirut, Lebanon
T. +961 5 45 48 88
F. +961 5 45 48 44
P.O. Box 11-9421
sudan@sabaip.com

## Tunisia
Saba House
Said Frehia Street, Hazmih
Beirut, Lebanon
T. +961 5 45 48 88
F. +961 5 45 48 44
P.O. Box 11-9421
tunisia@sabaip.com

## United Arab Emirates
Tamani Arts Tower - 18th Floor
Al Kageel Street, Business Bay
Dubai, UAE
T. +971 4 553 9911
F. +971 4 566 8470
P.O. Box 12259
uae@sabaip.com

## West Bank
Saba House
Said Frehia Street, Hazmih
Beirut, Lebanon
T. +961 5 45 48 88
F. +961 5 45 48 44
P.O. Box 11-9421
westbank@sabaip.com

## Yemen
Hadda Towers, Building #7
Hadda Street
Sana’a, Yemen
T. +967 1 420 593
F. +967 1 420 596
P.O. Box 1403
yemen@sabaip.com