

BULLETIN

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UAE

Revised Official Fees

KUWAIT

Updated Patent Fees

BAHRAIN

VAT Rate Applied on IP Matters

TUNISIA

Increase in Official Fees

YEMEN

Increase in Publication Fees



UAE | REVISED OFFICIAL FEES

Pursuant to Cabinet Decision no. 51 of 2019, the United Arab Emirates announced a revision in the official fees for all services offered by the Ministry of Economy, including those related to intellectual property matters.

The revised fees for intellectual property matters affect trademark registration and renewal fees, which have been reduced up to 27 percent of the previous rates. The new fees entered into force on July 7, 2019.

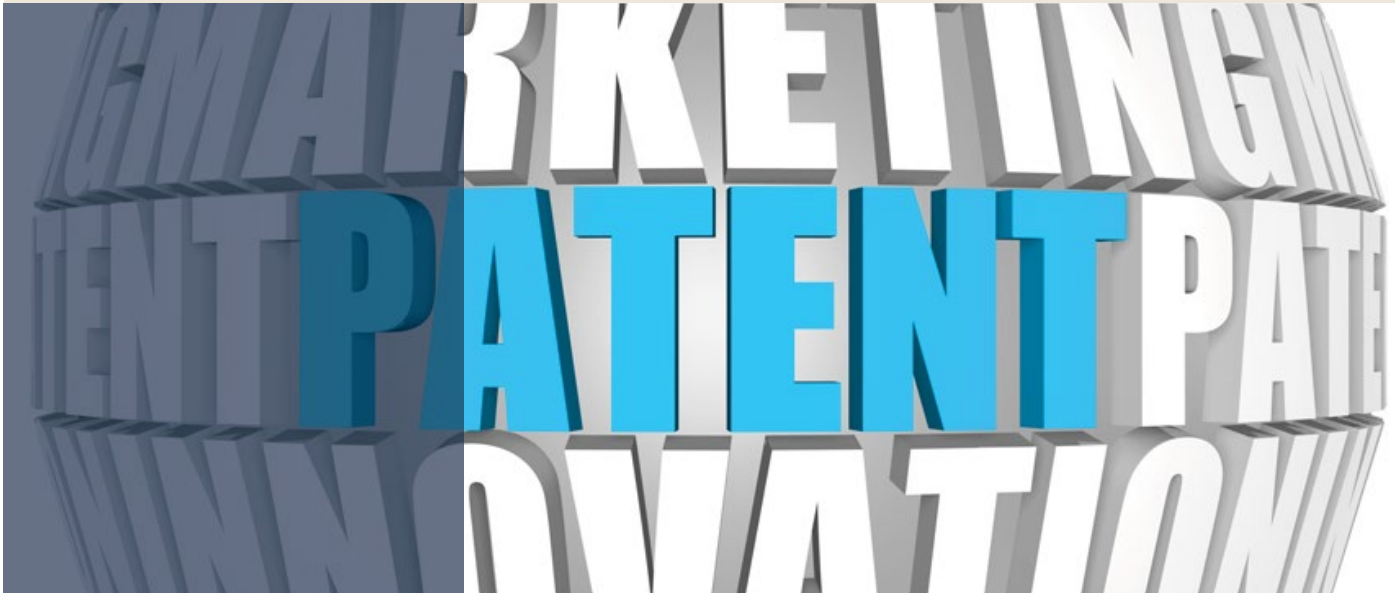
This update follows the Cabinet's recent decision to amend the fees for more than 1,500 government services in an effort to decrease the cost of doing business and bolster the competitiveness of the UAE. According to the aforementioned decision, the changes will be applicable to the services of three main ministries: the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Economy, and Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization.

These recent developments are part of the UAE's efforts to move from service-based revenues to a taxed-based revenue system following the introduction of VAT in January 2018. This will undoubtedly further enhance the business environment, empower entrepreneurs, and encourage the creation of new investment opportunities in the country.

UAE



KUWAIT | UPDATED PATENT FEES



KUWAIT

In an effort to promote innovation in the country, the Patent Office in Kuwait announced an update in the fees for all patent related matters. As per Ministerial Decree no. 287 of 2019, the new fees entered into force on July 21, 2019.

As a recap on patents in Kuwait, in April 2016, we reported that the Patent Office in Kuwait adopted the GCC Patent Law and regulations as its national law and regulations. Then, in July 2016, we reported that Kuwait acceded to the PCT, which entered into force on September 9, 2016.

It is worth noting that the Patent Office in Kuwait delegated its Receiving Office functions to the International Bureau. Furthermore, the Patent Office in Kuwait listed the Egyptian Patent Office and the European Patent Office as the competent International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authorities, for international applications filed by nationals and residents of Kuwait.

The applicable time limit for national phase entry under both Ch. I and Ch. II is 30 months from the earliest priority, with the possibility for restoration of the right of priority under PCT Rule 49ter.2 for both “unintentional” and “due care” requests.

BAHRAIN | VAT RATE APPLIED ON IP MATTERS

BAHRAIN

Starting July 1, 2019, professional charges in Bahrain will be subject to five percent Value Added Tax. This comes after the release of the VAT regulations in the country and the publication of the VAT Law in January 2019.

Each member state of the GCC is now expected to establish its own separate national legislation concerning the VAT and the detailed compliance requirements and set of rules will be outlined in the respective legislation. We expect the remaining GCC countries, namely Kuwait, Oman, and Qatar, to follow suit and adopt the VAT.



TUNISIA | INCREASE IN OFFICIAL FEES



TUNISIA

Following the recently published and implemented increase in industrial design fees in Tunisia, sources at the Patent and Trademark Office (INNORPI) alluded to an upcoming increase in the official fees for all trademark and patent matters.

The new fees, which are expected to increase by 100 percent for trademarks and 30 percent for patents, will be published in the Official Gazette and will enter into force on the date of publication. Despite this update, the official fees for European patent validation will remain unchanged.

It is worth noting that there has not been an increase in official fees in Tunisia since 1999.

YEMEN | INCREASE IN PUBLICATION FEES



YEMEN

The Patent and Trademark Office in Yemen announced an increase in the official publication fees of trademark, patent, and industrial design applications. The new rates will apply to all applications filed on or after August 8, 2019.

By way of background, trademark, patent, and industrial design applications are published in the Official Gazette upon acceptance. Oppositions may be filed within 90 days from publication date.

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