

BULLETIN

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SAUDI ARABIA | CALLING STRASBOURG: JOINING THE IPC AGREEMENT



Saudi Arabia recently ratified its accession to the Strasbourg Agreement Concerning the International Patent Classification. This news follows Saudi Arabia's accession to three key World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) treaties: the Budapest Treaty, the Locarno Agreement, and Vienna Agreement.

By way of background, the Strasbourg Agreement establishes a common classification for patents for invention, inventors' certificates, utility models and utility certificates, known as the International Patent Classification (IPC).

Saudi Arabia is implementing a national IP strategy through the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property (SAIP) to help ensure that its IP regime is modern, robust, and that supports innovation locally, regionally, and internationally.

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SAUDI ARABIA | CUT A DASH: JOINING THE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON COSMETICS REGULATIONSAUDI
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As part of the ongoing national campaign to maintain the highest level of consumer protection, Saudi Arabia recently joined the International Cooperation on Cosmetics Regulation (ICCR). By becoming a member of the ICCR, the Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA) will cooperate and enhance trade with its partners on cosmetic products. Saudi Arabia, represented by the SFDA, will also be part of the global discourse on common issues on cosmetics safety and regulation, as well as enter into a constructive dialogue with relevant cosmetics industry trade associations.

Joining the ICCR will facilitate registration with SFAD, which will make entering into the local market more accessible for brand owners expanding into Saudi Arabia.

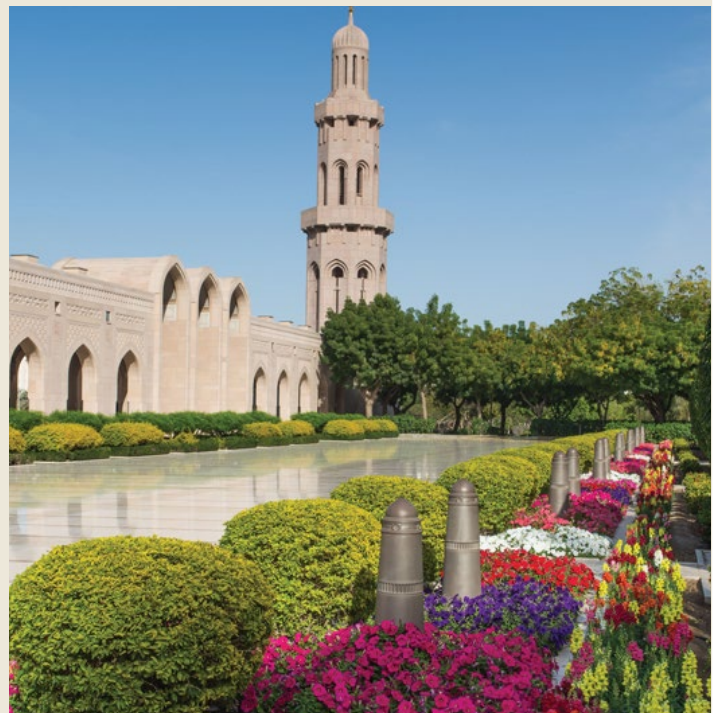
By way of background, the ICCR is an international group of regulatory authorities from Brazil, Canada, the European Union, Japan, and the United States. The ICCR provides a multilateral framework to maintain and enable the highest level of global consumer protection by working towards and promoting regulatory convergence, while minimizing barriers to international trade.

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OMAN | SAVE THE DATE: NEW DEADLINE



In order to circumvent the time barring of actions and missing any deadlines, the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) in Oman announced that right holders must attend to the necessary action for all matters that were due on or after March 24, 2020 by October 8, 2020 at the latest.



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OMAN | UPFRONT SETTLEMENT OF OFFICIAL FEES



OMAN

The Trademark Office (TMO) in Oman announced that all official fees from filing up to registration must now be settled upfront at the time of filing.

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OMAN | FEELING TAXED: NEW VAT DRAFT LAW ISSUED



Following the introduction of value added tax (VAT) in Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates, Oman issued its own draft VAT Law in early September 2020.

Once the Law is approved, the VAT will apply to goods and services at the suggested rate of three 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 (GCC) countries as outlined in the GCC VAT Framework 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.

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LIBYA | PUBLISH OR PERISH: PUBLICATION OF TRADEMARKS RESUMED



After a long respite, the Trademark Office (TMO) in Libya has resumed the publication of trademarks in the Official Gazette, with the inaugural issue being published on September 23, 2020.

The first issue of the Official Gazette listed over 200 trademarks that were published for opposition. Any party who believes it may be damaged by registration of the mark has three months from the publication date to file an opposition. It is worth noting that requests to extend the time to oppose are not allowed in Libya.

TRADEMARK PROTECTION IN LIBYA

Classification

8th edition – single class application. Class 33, alcoholic goods in class 32, pork meat in class 29, and Christmas trees and related products in class 28 cannot be registered

Search

Possible for word and device marks

Examination

On formal, absolute, and relative grounds

Opposition

3 months from publication date

Protection Term

10 years from filing date and renewable for like periods

Use

Vulnerable to cancellation if mark has not been used for 5 years from registration date

SAUDI ARABIA . OMAN . LIBYA . MYANMAR

MYANMAR | UPCOMING TRANSFORMATION OF THE LEGAL AND ECONOMIC SCENE

Given the recent trend in going paperless around the globe, the Trademark Office (TMO) in Myanmar announced that all trademark applications will be filed online as of October 1, 2020.

A soft launch of the new electronic trademark registration system was scheduled for January of this year, but has since been delayed by the authorities concerned. The new electronic trademark registration system will be accepting the re-registration of (1) marks previously registered under a Declaration of Ownership of Trademark; or (2) marks actually used in Myanmar.

It is worth noting that scanned copies of the Declaration of Ownership will be sufficient

for the re-registration process, although originals may be subsequently requested by the TMO for further review.

Proof of the use of the mark in Myanmar may be demonstrated through the submission of a copy of the publication of a Cautionary Notice in local newspapers, or advertisements or promotional materials, tax receipts, or by other means which tend to prove actual use of the mark in Myanmar.

As Myanmar stands on the verge of a major legal and economic transformation, we expect that with the proper application and enforcement of IP laws Myanmar will become more of an innovative hub in Southeast Asia.



IT'S NOT ABOUT
BEING THERE.
IT'S ABOUT
BEING AWARE.



"THE OTHER
FIELD"
EDWARD HOPPER 1966

90⁺

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

18

OFFICES

1

STOP SHOP IP FIRM

COUNSELING | PROSECUTION | ENFORCEMENT | ANTI-COUNTERFEITING

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