

**SABA**  
INTELLECTUAL  
PROPERTY

**BULLETIN**

May 2021

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IP and SMEs:

# Taking your ideas to market



World Intellectual  
Property Day 2021  
April 26

 [#worldipday  
wipo.int/ipday](https://worldipday.wipo.int/ipday)

KUWAIT . SAUDI ARABIA . UAE . OMAN . LEBANON

## KUWAIT | A NEW ERA FOR PATENT PROTECTION



**In a long awaited move, the Kuwaiti Patent Office (KPO) has begun substantive examination of patent applications and is issuing search and examination reports.**

The process is still a little shy but is expected to increase as is the case with any new procedure. Furthermore, earlier this year, KPO published two granted patents in its January 2021 Official Gazette, making these the first two patents to be granted there. The laws and regulations in Kuwait are in place for the complete prosecution of patent applications, from filing to grant.

The news comes at an opportune time, especially following the many concerns raised by innovators on the ability to seek protection in Kuwait after the regional GCC Patent Office issued a notification to stop accepting new patent applications as of January 6, 2021.

As a recap on Kuwait and patents, in April 2016, we reported that the KPO has adopted

the GCC Patent Law and regulations as its current law and regulations. Then, in July 2016, we reported that Kuwait has acceded to the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), which entered into force in September of the same year.

This recent update indicates that the KPO is working through the existing backlog and the pending Kuwaiti patent applications will be examined soon and applicants should expect decisions to be issued and the possibility of enforcing their rights with national patents. According to local regulations, an applicant will have a non-extendable three months from the date of notification, for correcting any formality defects.

**The KPO's efforts to develop the national system and streamline the registration process will help promote local innovation and attract foreign patent applicants to register their inventions in Kuwait.**

## SAUDI ARABIA | EXTRA, EXTRA: NEW IP NEWSPAPER



**In a stop-press update, the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property (SAIP) announced the launch of its very own Intellectual Property Newspaper (IPN) on April 11, 2021.**

The IPN replaces the old publication portal for all IP matters. The IPN will exclusively be published online and will include bibliographic information and a representative drawing for all IPRs published. Important information and changes in rules concerning all IP matters will also be published by SAIP and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in the IPN.

**With this update, SAIP showcases its efforts as a self-funded agency with consolidated enforcement power and streamlined procedures.**

Such developments are a clear testament to the fact that Saudi Arabia is nurturing the right environment for the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights.

**UAE | PROCEDURAL CHANGE FOR SUBMISSION OF POA**

**The Trademark Office in the United Arab Emirates (TMO) announced that the legalized power of attorney (POA) may be submitted within 30 days from filing date.** Prior to this procedural change, the POA had to be submitted to the TMO at the time of filing. Oppositions and appeals are excluded from this update, however, and the POA must be filed upon submission.

As for the priority claim, no changes were made to the deadline. Priority documents in support of trademark applications may be submitted within a non-extendable period of three months from filing date.

**TRADEMARK PROTECTION FRAMEWORK IN THE UAE*****Classification***

10th edition – single class application.  
Class 33, alcoholic goods in class 32, and pork

meat in class 29 cannot be registered

***Examination***

On formal, absolute, and relative grounds

***Opposition***

30 days from last publication date

***Protection Term***

10 years from filing date and renewable for like periods

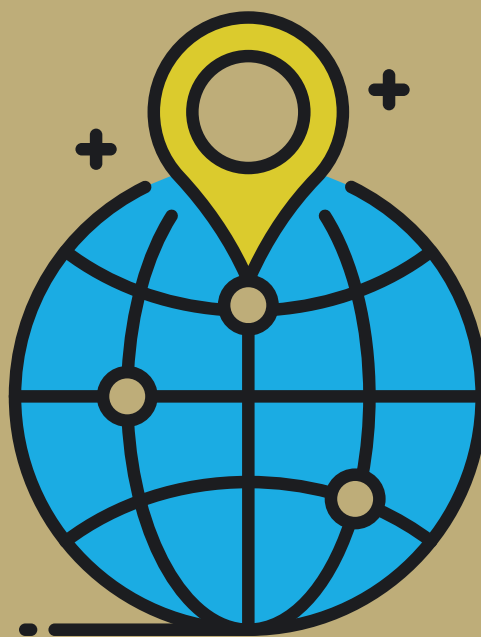
***Use***

Vulnerable to cancellation if mark has not been used for 5 consecutive years

***Filing Requirements***

POA, legalized and certified copy of priority document, if priority is claimed

KUWAIT . SAUDI ARABIA . UAE . OMAN . LEBANON

**OMAN** | ACCESSION TO THE GENEVA ACT OF THE LISBON AGREEMENT

OMAN

In its ongoing efforts to advance the intellectual property scene in the country, Oman ratified its instrument of accession to the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications. The Geneva Act will enter into force in Oman on June 30, 2021. With this update, Oman is the first country in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region to join the Geneva Act. This accession will allow Oman to protect both its appellations of origin and geographical indications.

The Geneva Act, which will cover 33 countries with Oman's accession, helps ensure that producers of quality products linked to origin are able to protect the distinctive designations of their products in multiple jurisdictions, either as appellations of origin or geographical indications. Examples of such products from the MENA region include the *Al-Saidi khanjar* (the Saidi dagger) of Oman and *huile d'olive de Téboursoúk* (olive oil of Téboursoúk) of Tunisia.

## LEBANON | CYBERSPACE UPDATES: NEW POLICIES ADOPTED BY THE LEBANESE DOMAINS REGISTRY



On February 1, 2021, the Lebanese Domain Registry (LBDR) announced a major change of its policies for the registration and renewals of the “.lb ccTLD” domain names.

**According to the new policy, the registration and maintenance of an “.lb” domain name will no longer be free, as it had been since the establishment of the LBDR in 1993.**

**The filing requirements for all new “.lb” domain name applications were revised as well, and the LBDR no longer requires the submission of a trademark certificate.**

Previously, to register an “.lb” domain name, the applicant had to file a trademark under class 35 and, once registered, submit the registration certificate along with the other required documents to the LBDR.

The current practice only requires the submission of an application form and a legalized power of attorney.

The requirement stipulating that the applicant must have a postal address in Lebanon remains unchanged by the LBDR, however.

With that in mind, it is worth noting the LBDR will continue to protect domain names registered before February 1, 2021 based on a Lebanese trademark under class 35. Moreover, the LBDR will not permit the transfer nor registration of such domain names to third parties unless the domain expired and was parked for at least 365 calendar days from the domain registration expiry date.

THE BIGGER YOU GROW,  
THE STRONGER WE GET



**90<sup>+</sup>**  
YEARS

**50<sup>+</sup>**  
JURISDICTIONS

**1**  
FIRM

COUNSELING | PROSECUTION | ENFORCEMENT | ANTI-COUNTERFEITING

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