May 2021

**KUWAIT**
A New Era for Patent Protection

**SAUDI ARABIA**
Extra, Extra: New IP Newspaper

**UAE**
Procedural Change for Submission of POA

**oman**
Accession to the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement

**LEBANON**
Cyberspace Updates: New Policies Adopted by the Lebanese Domains Registry
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.
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
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 Téboursouk* (olive oil of Téboursouk) 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 SABA NETWORK

Head Office
Saba House
Saad Freiha Street, Hazmieh
Beirut, Lebanon
T. +961 5 454 888
F. +961 5 454 844
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
Algeria, Algeria
T. +213 23 34 11 61
F. +213 23 34 11 62
P.O. Box 86 Centre Commercial et d’Affaires
El Qods, Cheraga 16002
info@boukrami.com

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

Cyprus
Mitsis Building #2
14, Makarios Avenue
2065 Nicosia, Cyprus
T. +357 22 755 434
F. +357 22 754 037
P.O. Box 21143
1502 Nicosia
cyprus@sabaip.com

Djibouti
Saba House
Saad Freiha Street, Hazmieh
Beirut, Lebanon
T. +961 5 454 888
F. +961 5 454 844
P.O. Box 11-9421
djibouti@sabaip.com

Egypt
10 Asfa El Taymouriah Street
Corden City, CP 11451
Cairo, Egypt
T. +20 2 279 5696
F. +20 2 279 5251
P.O. Box 139, Mohamed Farid
info@sabaip-eg.com

Ethiopia
Saba House
Saad Freiha Street, Hazmieh
Beirut, Lebanon
T. +961 5 454 888
F. +961 5 454 844
P.O. Box 11-9421
ethiopia@sabaip.com

Gaza
Saba House
Saad Freiha Street, Hazmieh
Beirut, Lebanon
T. +961 5 454 888
F. +961 5 454 844
P.O. Box 11-9421
gaza@sabaip.com

Iraq
Saba House
Saad Freiha Street, Hazmieh
Beirut, Lebanon
T. +961 5 454 888
F. +961 5 454 844
P.O. Box 11-9421
iraq@sabaip.com

Jordan
36 Prince Shaker Bin Zaid Street
Al Shmeijani
Amman, Jordan
T. +962 6 464 2145
F. +962 6 464 2159
P.O. Box 840553, Amman 11184
jordan@sabaip.com

Kuwait
Jassim Ahmed Alafeedh
(In cooperation with Saba & Co. IP)
Al Hajl Building,
Al-Shuhadaa Street Kuwait, Kuwait
T. +965 2 242 3428
F. +965 2 242 7243
P.O. Box 1245, 13013 Safat
kuwait@sabaip.com

Lebanon
Saba House,
Saad Freiha Street, Hazmieh
Beirut, Lebanon
T. +961 5 454 840
F. +961 5 454 842
P.O. Box 11-9420
lebanon@sabaip.com

Libya
Saba House,
Saad Freiha Street, Hazmieh
Beirut, Lebanon
T. +961 5 454 888
F. +961 5 454 844
P.O. Box 11-9421
libya@sabaip.com

Morocco
185 Boulevard Zerkotouni
Residence Zerkotouni
Casablanca 20330
Casablanca, Morocco
T. +212 522 251 530
F. +212 522 251 603
P.O. Box 13 927
Casablanca 20032
morocco@sabaip.com

Oman
Muscat International Centre
Beit Al Faij Street
Muscat, Oman
T. +968 248 111 26
F. +968 248 111 28
P.O. Box 2027 Ruwi
Postal Code 112, Sultanate of Oman
oman@sabaip.com

Qatar
Gridco Building
C Ring Road
Doha, Qatar
T. +974 44 62 3992
F. +974 44 62 4106
P.O. Box 14035
qatar@sabaip.com

Saudi Arabia
Al Hadaf Marks Services LLC
(In cooperation with Saba & Co. IP)
Office # 1, 2nd Floor, Tower B COSI Olaya
Towers Olaya Street, Riyadh 12213,
Saudi Arabia
T. +966 11 2079596
F. +966 11 2079598
P.O. Box 61145 Riyadh 11565
saudi@sabaip.com

Sudan
Saba House
Saad Freiha Street, Hazmieh
Beirut, Lebanon
T. +961 5 454 888
F. +961 5 454 844
P.O. Box 11-9421
sudan@sabaip.com

Tunisia
Saba House
Saad Freiha Street, Hazmieh
Beirut, Lebanon
T. +961 5 454 888
F. +961 5 454 844
P.O. Box 11-9421
tunisia@sabaip.com

United Arab Emirates
Taman Arts Tower - 18th Floor
Al Arayel Street, Business Bay
Dubai, UAE
T. +971 4 553 9911
F. +971 4 566 8470
P.O. Box 42259
use@sabaip.com

West Bank
Saba House
Saad Freiha Street, Hazmieh
Beirut, Lebanon
T. +961 5 454 888
F. +961 5 454 844
P.O. Box 11-9421
westbank@sabaip.com

Yemen
Hadda Towers, Building #7
Hadda Street
San’a, Yemen
T. +967 1 420 595
F. +967 1 420 596
P.O. Box 1693
yemen@sabaip.com