

Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP)



AGIP Bulletin
Newsletter - Issue 208

*UAE Implements 13th Edition of
the Nice Classification*

2026

January

AGIP Bulletin

Newsletter

Issue 208



IP

UPDATES

UAE Implements 13th Edition of the Nice Classification

Dubai – The United Arab Emirates has officially adopted the 13th Edition of the Nice Classification, with implementation taking effect on January 27, 2026.

The 13th Edition supersedes the 10th Edition previously applied by the UAE Trademark Office and introduces significant reclassifications across multiple classes.

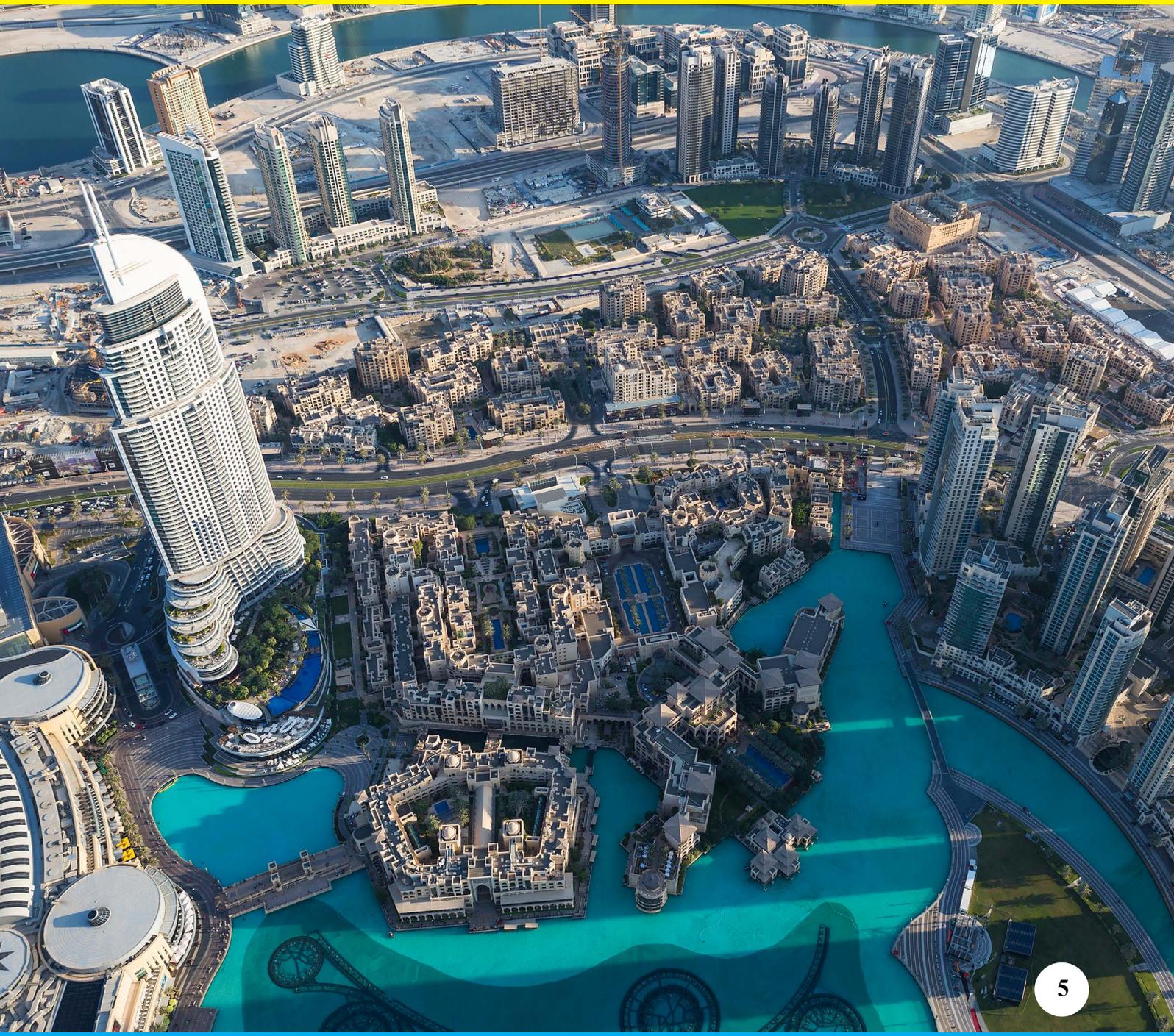
For any inquiries or further information, please contact us at uae@agip.com

UAE Issues New Plant Varieties Law

ABU DHABI - The United Arab Emirates (UAE) recently issued a new Plant Varieties Law to protect breeders' rights, boost innovation, and improve food security. The law, Federal Law No. 17 of 2009, has been replaced to bring it in line with the standards of the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV).

One of the key aspects of the new law is the establishment of a national register to grant rights for new, distinct, uniform, and stable varieties. These rights will be protected for a period of 20-25 years. The law also imposes strict penalties, including fines of up to AED 250,000 and possible jail time, for any violations. This significantly strengthens the UAE's agricultural framework.

In case of any further information or inquiries, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at uae@agip.com





Algeria Announces Updated Official IP Fees

ALGIERS - Pursuant to the amendments to Algeria's Finance Law enacted in December 2025, the official fees for intellectual property (IP) services have been revised and are now published in the Official Gazette. The new fee schedule affects services administered by the Algerian National Institute of Industrial Property (INAPI), including trademark, patent and design filings and related procedures.

The fee adjustments are the result of the Finance Law changes and aim to align official charges with current administrative and regulatory needs. Affected services include, but are not limited to, application filings, renewals, examinations and other procedural actions for trademarks, patents and industrial designs.

For more information or inquiries, please contact AGIP Algeria office at algeria@agip.com

Patent applications surge in Morocco, led by universities

RABAT - Patent applications in Morocco have seen a major increase in 2025, according to data from the Moroccan Office of Industrial and Commercial Property. The figures, recorded over the course of the year, reveal a total of 2,414 patent requests, with 338 coming from Moroccan applicants.

This national contribution marks a significant 39% rise compared to the same period in 2024. The leading role in this surge is played by universities, with 64% of all Moroccan filings originating from academic institutions. They are followed by individual inventors at 20%, and businesses at 13%, highlighting the vital role of the academic sector in driving innovation in the country.

In terms of industry focus, pharmaceutical products led the way, accounting for 27% of all patent applications, followed by biotechnology at 14%, and fine organic chemistry at 11%. This reflects the scientific direction of many of the recent innovations.

In the current year, 516 patents have already been granted, further validating the continuous growth of Morocco's applied research ecosystem. This growth is fueled by an increasing contribution from local institutions and a wider range of targeted technological fields, signaling a deepening of the country's innovation landscape.

For more information or inquiries, please contact AGIP Algeria office at algeria@agip.com





Zambia: New Trade Marks Act in Force

LUSAKA - Zambia's long-awaited Trade Marks Act (Act No. 11 of 2025) officially took effect on December 31, 2025, after the publication of Statutory Instrument No. 86 of 2025. The enactment marks a major development of the country's trademark regime, aligning domestic law with international norms and introducing new protections and procedures designed to make registration clearer, faster, and more predictable for businesses and practitioners.

The updated Act, passed by Parliament on December 26, 2023, brings several important reforms that modernize Zambia's intellectual property framework. Among the most significant changes is the formal recognition and registration of service marks, allowing service providers to obtain direct protection in service classes rather than relying on indirect or imperfect forms of cover.

Other notable features of the new Act include clearer definitions of registrable signs, strengthened grounds for refusal and invalidation, updated procedures for opposition and appeal, and provisions to support electronic filing and administration. The legislation gives explicit recognition to well-known marks, enhancing the ability of rights holders to prevent conflicting registrations and enforce their rights even in circumstances where no local registration exists.

Trademark registrations will now be granted and renewed for a period of 10 years. Existing registrations obtained under the previous legislation remain valid until their current expiry dates, after which renewal will be governed by the new Act. The new legislation significantly strengthens enforcement options, combining civil remedies, criminal offences, and border-control measures to address infringement and counterfeiting.

For more information or inquiries, please contact AGIP Africa office at africa@agip.com

ARTICLES



1,500,000 New Solar Panels
Arranged financing for \$243M in Solar Projects by end of the year

Stamp Prices To Increase
Announced plans to further increase stamp prices by 6% in July

Hackers deface government site

'Viral' vaccines early promise

Retailers show drone delivery plans

Port X-Ray finds dog in bag

Also in the News

Prices Continue To Fall

See complete analysis. Analysts forecast future prices decrease. See complete



US appeals court rules mass record collection



Less people go on vacation this year

Markets

	Price	Change	% Change
EUR/USD	1.0934	-0.0043	-0.12%
USD/JPY	115.3547	0.0	0.0%
GBP/USD	1.5254	+0.0052	+0.14%
AUD/USD	0.7654	+0.0042	+0.06%

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Protecting Middle Eastern Heritage Through IP: From Tradition to Trademark

By Amer Alnasser

Culture and Tradition

The Middle East is home to centuries-old crafts, fragrances, textiles, and culinary traditions. From Aleppo's famous soap and Egypt's cotton to Palestinian embroidery and Arabian perfumes, these traditions tell stories of trade, creativity, and identity. Today, globalization and mass production threaten to blur their origins, making IP protection crucial.

Empowering Tradition or Restricting Tradition?

When people hear about IP or any form of regulation, they often perceive it as something that restricts creativity or limits cultural exchange. But in the Middle East, culture has always been open, welcoming others to experience its art, crafts, and traditions. Visitors wearing traditional attire, enjoying local fragrances, or celebrating regional music are seen as signs of appreciation, not appropriation.

The goal of IP in this context is not to regulate or confine that openness, but to empower local artisans, preserve authenticity, and ensure that when Middle Eastern heritage inspires

the world, the communities behind it share in the recognition and benefits. In this way, IP becomes a bridge between tradition and global appreciation, not a barrier.

The Challenge – Preserving Authenticity in a Global Market

Middle Eastern designs and products inspire creators around the world, but many traditional crafts risk being copied or commercialized without recognition. For instance, patterns from Palestinian tatreez (a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity), Syrian glass art, or Omani silverwork are often reproduced abroad without credit or benefit to their original makers. The goal isn't to stop others from appreciating these arts, it's to ensure that appreciation comes with fair value.

How IP Can Protect Heritage

IP rights offer several tools to safeguard cultural identity and promote economic growth:

Geographical Indications (GIs): Origin matters. Just as Champagne represents a place and a tradition, Middle Eastern products can use GIs to anchor their identity. Today, Aleppo soap is protected under Syrian GI law and Argan oil carries Moroccan PGI (2010) status. Extending that protection internationally isn't automatic, it depends on local legal frameworks and agreements, but with better coordination



and education, communities can first secure domestic GIs, and then pursue cross-border recognition where the law allows.

Can IP protect other Middle Eastern products that do not qualify for GI protection?

Absolutely. There are several other forms of intellectual property that can help local communities and businesses expand internationally while safeguarding their heritage. These mechanisms ensure authenticity, build consumer trust, and allow traditional products to reach global markets under fair and recognized protection.

Collective Trademarks: Allow groups of artisans to promote their goods under one recognized mark. This can apply to a variety of industries such as mosaic products or local textile production.

Traditional Knowledge Databases: A Traditional Knowledge Database or registry is a structured, often digital repository in which communities, governments, or institutions document TK (traditional knowledge). The documentation is intended to serve multiple roles:

To prevent the granting of patents on TK that is already in use (i.e. presenting prior art).

To preserve and safeguard cultural heritage

and knowledge that might otherwise be lost or remain undocumented

To help patent examiners everywhere access documented TK (in languages and classifications they understand), thereby reducing wrongful patenting.

India's Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) is perhaps the most well-known example of a functioning TK database.

The Way Forward

The Middle East's cultural heritage represents a significant source of identity and economic potential. Strengthening IP systems to protect traditional crafts does not restrict cultural exchange, it ensures that local communities receive fair recognition and benefit when their traditions reach global audiences. With greater regional collaboration, awareness, and international recognition, Middle Eastern heritage can continue to flourish, in a way that is authentically preserved and sustainably shared.

Need help with getting your IP in order?

Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP) works with corporations of all sizes, from startups to Fortune 500 corporations.

Find us at: www.agip.com