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Qatar - Establishment Patent Appeals Committee

In line with the continuous efforts of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to enhance the government services it provides and in accordance with Ministerial Decision No. (154) of the year 2018 dated 1/5/2018,

Patent Appeals Committee has been established to handle appeals related to patent registration and compulsory licensing decisions. This proactive measure aims to ensure transparency, fairness, and an effective mechanism for addressing concerns. The committee, reflecting the ministry's commitment to innovation and intellectual property governance, will review and resolve appeals, providing a fair platform for parties dissatisfied with patent decisions.



Qatar - New Updates Regarding Payment Annuity Fees for Patent

The Intellectual Property Department at the ministry of commerce and industry has issued a new directive concerning the payment of annuity fees. According to the new policy, applicants have the option to abstain from paying annual fees if three years pass without a decision being made by the office on their application.

This exemption lasts until the office renders a decision to accept the application and grant the patent. In such instances, all outstanding annual fees must be settled.

Libya - Circulates New Measures Pertaining to the Trademark Registration

The Ministry of Economy and Trade in Libya announced new measures in relation to the trademark registration process effective as of 14 February 2024.

The key points of the circular are outlined as follows:

- One-year validity period for the legalized power of attorney.
- Local attestation and legalization of official supporting documents up to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in Libya is must to confirm the authenticity of the legalization of Libyan consulates abroad.
- Mandatory submission of the applicant's Extract from the Commercial Register or any equivalent document altogether with the Arabic translation thereof of one-year validity period.
- All documents pertaining to the transfer of the ownership or any other recordal procedures should be in original form and duly legalized altogether with the Arabic translation thereof.

Sudan - Important Announcement: Resumption of Trademark Operations

The Registrar General of Intellectual Property (RGIP) at the Sudan Ministry of Justice has announced the resumption of trademark activities effective from 11th February 2024. Despite challenges in Khartoum, RGIP has relocated its office to Port Sudan, ensuring continuity of services.

All trademark agents, attorneys, and concerned individuals are advised of the resumption and that the temporary office in Port Sudan now accepting applications for new filings, renewals, mergers, assignments, and other related matters.

However, due to the main office in Khartoum remaining inaccessible, processing of applications and pending matters before 15th April 2023 will be deferred until the database is retrieved. Additionally, an amended list of official fees was promulgated on 29th February 2024, with details to be provided shortly.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation during this transition period.



Saudi Arabia - Extending the Protection Period of Design

In accordance with the amended Patent and Industrial Design Law, effective as of October 3rd, 2023, the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property has prolonged the safeguarding duration for industrial designs from ten to fifteen years for all designs submitted in 2013 and onwards. Consequently, the 11th annuity fees for active designs filed in 2013 must be settled before May 23, 2024, to benefit from the extension of the protection period.

Lebanon - Circulates New Regulations Pertaining to the Intellectual Property Registration

New regulations have announced in relation to the intellectual property registration in accordance with the Law No. 324 effective as from 15 February 2024.

The key points of the circular are outlined as follows:

- Revised official fees for the Intellectual Property Rights Registration has announced.
- The term of protection of trademarks has been officially shortened from 15 to 10 years.
- Renewals for newly registered trademarks must be processed after a period of 10 years from the registration date.
- Penalty fees will be imposed for every two-month delay in any services associated with license agreements.
- The new regulation will be applied on all of the new and pending applications.



Meet One World IP Representatives at the INTA Annual Meeting 2024 in Atlanta

We are pleased to announce that ONE WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY representatives will be attending the INTA Annual Meeting 2024 in Atlanta, Georgia.

Our team will be available at Booth **Number 543** to connect with you and discuss how we can support your intellectual property needs in the MENA region.

Please reach out to us now at events@oneworldip.com to schedule a meeting with our representatives.

We look forward to seeing you in Atlanta!