



HAPPY NEW YEAR 2023

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

Gaza Strip	Administrative Circular – Ministry of National Economy
West Bank	New Power of Attorney Decision
Lebanon	Implementation of Super Legalization Fees
GCC Office	New Updates About GCC Office
SAUDI ARABIA	Entry of Hague Apostille Convention Into Effect
OMAN	Fees Reduction On All IP Services
YEMEN	Legal protection of TMs in Aden

GAZA STRIP-ADMINISTRATIVE CIRCULAR – MINISTRY OF NATIONAL ECONOMY



1. Ensuring the legal capacity of any person who reviews and follows up with the Registrar of Trademarks, and that he is the holder of the capacity or holds an authorization or power of attorney from the concerned party.
2. Anyone who interests to oppose or cancel the registration of a trademark and claims the existence of a trademark registered for him abroad and intends to protect it and is not registered in the Gaza Strip, highly recommend and advisable register it with the Registrar of Trademarks in the Gaza Strip before or after filing opposition / cancellation action .
3. Activating Item 17 of the Trademarks Fee Schedule for the Gaza Strip for any application submitted to the Trademarks Registrar for which no fee has been imposed elsewhere, such as "a request to extend the period for filing a counterstatement or Declarations under Oath or to postpone a session... or any other request."
4. Bring an electronic copy of the trademark when registering the trademark for the purposes of smart digital transformation "E-Government".

WEST BANK-NEW POWER OF ATTORNEY DECISION



A new decision related to the new general power of attorney has been issued and it will be implemented starting from January 1, 2023. That decision requires that the general power of attorney should be revoking all proper authorization, and only one agent will represent the intellectual property rights' (trademark) holders, and the agent will be granted in term of TWO months as from the revocation date of the previous Power of Attorney in order to rectify the issues of all the files of the rights' holders.

LEBANON-IMPLEMENTATION OF SUPER LEGALIZATION FEES

As per new issued decision, all legalized documents must undergo super legalization (legalization before Ministry of Foreign Affairs). The super legalization fees are LBP 50000 per document.



Pursuant to the amended GCC Patent Law and its implementing regulation, the GCC Office has announced that a list of State Members, will be published in the official Gazette. In addition, the GCC office will also publish the details about the services to be handled on behalf of the member countries.

The Official Gazette No. 69 dated 01/12/2022 indicated that the GCC Office will start accepting new patent applications on behalf of Kuwait & Bahrain as of 01 January 2023. The role of the GCC office will be confined to receiving applications and examining the same formally and substantively. Once the application is accepted, the application will be presented to the Bahraini and Kuwait national patent offices.

Further information and clarification regarding the implementation of the above and the mechanism of receiving new applications shall be shared as soon as affected.

SAUDI ARABIA – ENTRY OF HAGUE APOSTILLE CONVENTION INTO EFFECT

The Apostille Convention officially entered into effect in Saudi Arabia on December 7, 2022. From that date on, contracting parties are obliged to waive the legalization requirement for public documents issued by Saudi authorities and accept apostilles issued by Saudi Arabia's designated competent authority. Likewise, Saudi authorities must accept apostilles for incoming foreign public documents issued by the competent authorities of other contracting parties. (Attached is the original official notification issued by the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs).

OMAN-FEES REDUCTION ON ALL IP SERVICES

The Ministry of Commerce, Industry & Investment announced that there will be a reduction on the official fees for all IP-related services and transactions Oman. The reduction of the fees will be applied in the first quarter of 2023.



LEGAL PROTECTION OF TMS IN ADEN

The Ministry of Industry and Trade in the interim capital Aden has established a new independent Trademark Office, which acts independently from the Trademark office in Sana'a. Noting that, all the registrations and renewals submitted in Sana'a after February 2018 are considered as illegitimate by Aden authorities.

The Aden Trademarks Office, announces new circulars published in the latest issue No. 36 of the Trade Gazette issued in Aden which stipulated that the owners of the trademarks should register their Trademarks with General Administration to preserve the rights of the trademarks, and to avoid their being registered or used by others, noting that, the violating party (the owner of the trademark) shall bear all legal responsibility for violating this.

Accordingly, to have legal extension of your trademarks in whole Yemen (Sana'a and Aden) , it is highly recommended to renew and register your trademarks also with the Aden Trademarks Office.



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HAPPY

New Year

Baianat IP group wishes you a well-deserved downtime and a very happy new year to come.

