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To all the Members of the AIPPI - UAE National Group

Subject: -9th Circular/ 2022

Dear All,

We trust you are well.

We write to share some updates around new procedures for Patent & Design registration in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA).

- **United Arab Emirates**

The Patent Office in the UAE recently held a workshop to discuss changes pursuant to the introduction and publication of the new Industrial Property Law (Federal Law No. 11/2021) and Implementing Regulations (Federal Law No. 6/2022).

Some key takeaways from the workshop that affects applicants at the time of filing and during prosecution are the following:

	Previous Procedure/Requirement	Current Procedure/Requirement
POA	Legalized	Notarized
Arabic translation of supporting documents	Required	Not required
Claims	N/A	Must be limited to 50 claims for patents, whereas utility models must be limited to 10 claims



Convert a patent application into a utility model application and vice versa	Not formalized	Possible
Post-grant amendments	N/A	Possible, if the scope of the claims remains within the allowed scope
Protection term	20 years from filing date for patents, 10 years from filing date for utility model	20 years from filing date for patents and utility models
Renewal grace period	3 months for late payment with a surcharge	12 months from the due date. The first 3 months are without surcharge and the remaining 9 months will be subject to a surcharge

The workshop provided a platform to address several changes to expect under the new law and regulations but also to confirm some of the procedures that were being implemented albeit not clearly recited in the previous law. The Patent Office also made reference to an upcoming plan to introduce expedited examination, which is expected to be implemented soon. Many of these changes will become apparent with the filing, examination, and prosecution of upcoming cases.

- **Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**

More recently, KSA joined the Hague Treaty effective December 07, 2022. This treaty of 1961, also known as the Apostille Convention, is intended to simplify the procedure through which a document, issued in one of the contracting states, can be certified for legal purposes in all the other contracting states. Henceforth, notarization and legalization of documents required for trademark and patent filings in KSA will change, at least among members of the Hague Treaty.

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