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To all the Members of the AIPPI - UAE National Group

1st Circular/ 2026

New UAE Consulate Legalisation - What You Need to Know

Happy New Year, and best wishes to you all for a healthy, successful and positive 2026.

As we begin the year, we are pleased to share our **1st circular of 2026**. We hope this sets a constructive tone for the months ahead and supports you in your daily work with practical and relevant updates.

We look forward to another year of collaboration, knowledge sharing, and continued growth together. Thank you, as always, for your engagement and support, and we hope you find this circular useful as we kick off the year.

The Communication Committee is wishing you a great start to 2026.

We would like to highlight a recent development relating to document legalisation by UAE Consulates outside the UAE, which is directly relevant to Intellectual Property practice and day-to-day client work.

What's New

UAE Consulates abroad have recently introduced a new legalisation page format, which is now issued electronically.



Based on initial review and recent practical experience, this new format appears, in certain cases, to include Ministry of Foreign Affairs ('MOFA') attestation as part of the consular legalisation process.

Practical Impact

Historically, once a document legalised abroad was received in the UAE, additional attestation by MOFA within the UAE was required before the document could be used.

However, where the new legalisation page expressly reflects both UAE Consulate and MOFA attestations, a further MOFA step in the UAE may no longer be required.

In such cases, the remaining steps would be limited to:

- Translation of the document into Arabic; and
- Ministry of Justice ('MOJ') attestation of the Arabic translation.

It is worth noting that the official fees remain unchanged for the combined legalisation, amounting to no more than AED 2,300. Previously, the total cost depended on the fees paid in the home country where the document was legalised. Under the new combined legalisation process, where MOFA attestation is already included, no additional MOFA fee is payable in the UAE.

Why This Matters for the IP

This development is particularly relevant to our IP practice, as legalised documents are a core component of many IP procedures, including (but not limited to):

- Powers of Attorney for filings, renewals, oppositions and enforcement actions;

- Assignment, merger and change-of-name records;
- Evidence submitted in oppositions, cancellations, and enforcement matters; and
- Cross-border IP portfolio management and regional filings.

Given the frequency with which we handle legalised documents on behalf of clients, this update has direct implications for:

- Turnaround times on IP filings and records;
- Cost management by avoiding unnecessary or duplicate attestation steps; and
- Client expectations particularly where timelines are driven by statutory deadlines.

Conclusion

This development reflects the UAE's continued efforts to refine its processes, reduce bureaucracy and facilitate more efficient and user-friendly services. For IP matters, this translates into greater operational efficiency, improved cost control and smoother execution of client work.

That said, this update does not indicate any change in the Ministry of Economy and Tourism's approach to Power of Attorney requirements at various procedural stages. While there are ongoing discussions in this area, there has been no official decision or relaxation confirmed to date. The only formal position currently in place remains the late filing option for Powers at the time of filing new applications.

Nevertheless, the introduction of a combined legalisation process may assist in obtaining duly legalised Powers more quickly, which can be particularly helpful where statutory deadlines are tight and timely submission is critical.

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