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To all the Members of the AIPPI - UAE National Group

¹³th Circular/ 2025

Subject: UAE Issues New Trade Mark Fee Amendments – Key Highlights and What to Expect

Dear all,

We write to share with you our 12th circular for the year authored by our esteemed communication committee member and colleague Mona Saleh to share some updates about the recent decision in relation to the trademark registration agents.

The UAE Cabinet has issued Cabinet Resolution No. (102) of 2025 amending certain provisions of Cabinet Resolution No. (20) of 2020 relating to the service fees of the Ministry of Economy.

The new resolution, published recently, introduces a series of important changes to trade mark service fees and will take effect on 14 November 2025 (60 days from publication).

Below are some of the key updates and points to note.

1. New Appeal Fees

Appeals are now officially *no longer free of charge*. The new schedule introduces fees for:

- Appeals against rejections;
- Appeals against post-registration amendment decisions (previously free); and
- Appeals against opposition decisions, with fees differing depending on whether the party is the applicant or the opponent.

2. Expedited Examination – the “One Day examination”

A new one-day examination service has been introduced, allowing applicants to request expedited examination for an additional fee. Details on the process and eligibility will likely be clarified in the upcoming Trade Mark Office (‘TMO’) session but it’s a promising step toward faster turnaround options.

3. Renewal and Special Mark Fees

Renewal fees for certification and quality control marks have increased, particularly for renewals filed within the grace period.

Additionally, fees for certification and quality marks are now higher than those for standard marks reflecting their broader regulatory scope and oversight.

4. Multi-Class Applications

Despite speculation about potential simplification, multi-class filings will continue to be charged per class, even if submitted under a single application. The clarification on fees does not mean that the service will be available after the 14th; multi-class filings will only be possible once the TMO completes the new e-services portal.

5. Other Notable Changes

- Conversion from national filing to international registration (IR) now subject to new fees.
- Adding statements or evidence in opposition proceedings, previously free, now chargeable, which is separate to hearing fees.
- Appeals to the Grievance Committee (‘GC’) against cancellation decisions: A new fee has been introduced, as anticipated.
- Renewal of trade mark agency registrations: A notable increase to AED 7,500, previously free of charge.

6. SME Classification – Preferential Fees, But Clear Criteria Needed

The updated schedule also introduces a new fee category for SMEs (small and medium enterprises), aimed at supporting local businesses and encouraging broader participation in the IP system. However, further clarity is needed on how the Ministry of Economy will define and classify SMEs, as well as the documentary requirements to qualify for the reduced fees.

To be eligible, SMEs must be registered members of the National Program for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises and Establishments.

This development is of particular interest to local entrepreneurs and smaller rights holders, and additional details on the classification criteria are expected following consultations with the Trade Mark Office ('TMO') and the Ministry of Economy. The TMO is also expected to hold an information session in the coming weeks to explain the amendments and provide practical guidance on their implementation.

In addition, the updated fee schedule provides that people of determination will be exempt from official fees, reflecting the UAE's commitment to equality and inclusion. By removing financial barriers, this measure not only promotes broader participation in the intellectual property system but also encourages innovation and creative contributions from all segments of society, helping to build a more inclusive and knowledge-driven economy.

We will share further details and insights once the meeting with the TMO and the Ministry of Economy takes place.

We also encourage all AIPPI members to communicate and share any information regarding pricing and fees, to help ensure the community stays informed and prepared.

Thank you

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