

Classification of Trademarks in the Arab World

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This is a brief on the classification of trademarks in Arab countries. In principle, most Trademark Offices of our region follow the Nice classification, in its latest edition. However, some Offices impose a set of restrictions that are in compliance with the local laws. For example, class 33 and alcoholic goods in class 32 can not be registered in a number of countries of our region, including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, UAE and Yemen.

The table below sets forth basic information on the subject including answers to the following questions:

- Which Nice edition is the country adopting?
- Is the country member of the Nice Agreement?
- Is accepting class headings possible?
- Are there any classification restrictions imposed?

In various countries, an applicant can file an application claiming the whole class without specifying the particular goods/services. The Trademark Offices of these countries do not object to the use of any of the class headings as being too indefinite and not specific (such is the case for example in Egypt and Saudi Arabia). The 34 classes for goods and the 11 classes for services comprise the totality of all goods and services. Consequently, the use of class headings of a particular class constitutes a claim to all of the goods or services falling within this particular class and implicitly covers any goods directly related to the class headings (that is, covers more than the literal meaning of the class headings). In other countries from our region, such as Jordan and Sudan, the applicant must specify the goods/services in the class or else the application will not be accepted. In other words, the actual language of the goods or services specified in the registration will define the parameters of the scope of protection of a registration.

Country	Nice Edition Adopted	Member of the Nice Agreement?	Is it possible to claim class headings?
Algeria	10th	Yes (entry into force: July 5, 1972)	Yes, provided that the headings are specified. Using the phrase "all goods/services in the class" is not acceptable.
Bahrain	10th	Yes (entry into force: December 15, 2005)	Yes, provided that the headings are specified. Using the phrase "all goods/services in the class" is not acceptable.
Djibouti	8th	No	Yes
Egypt	10th	Yes (entry into force: June 18, 2005)	Yes

Gaza	8th; Class 33 & alcoholic goods in class 32 can not be registered	No	Yes, provided that the headings are specified. Using the phrase "all goods/services in the class" is not acceptable.
Iraq	7th with local sub-classification	No	Yes (an applicant can only claim class headings)
Jordan	10th	Yes (entry into force: November 14, 2008)	No
Kuwait	8th; Class 33, alcoholic goods in class 32, & pork meat in class 29 can not be registered	No	Yes
Lebanon	10th	Yes (entry into force: April 18, 1961)	Yes
Libya	8th; Class 33, alcoholic goods in class 32, as well as Christmas trees and related products in class 28 can not be registered	No	Yes, provided that the headings are specified. Using the phrase "all goods/services in the class" is not acceptable.
Morocco	10th	Yes (entry into force: October 1, 1966)	Yes
Oman	10th	No	No
Qatar	7th; Class 33 & alcoholic goods in class 32 can not be registered	No	Yes for all classes except for classes 1, 4 to 7, 10 to 14, 16 to 22, 29, and 31
Saudi Arabia	10th; Class 33, alcoholic goods in class 32, pork meat in class 29, & Christmas trees and related products in class 28 can not be registered	No	Yes, provided that the headings are specified. Using the phrase "all goods/services in the class" is not acceptable.

Sudan	8th; Class 33 & alcoholic goods in class 32 can not be registered	No	No
Syria	10th	Yes (entry into force: March 28, 2005)	Yes
Tunisia	10th	Yes (entry into force: May 29, 1967)	Yes, provided that the headings are specified. Using the phrase "all goods/services in the class" is not acceptable.
United Arab Emirates	10th; Class 33 & alcoholic goods in class 32 can not be registered	No	Yes
West Bank	8th	No	Yes, provided that the headings are specified. Using the phrase "all goods/services in the class" is not acceptable.
Yemen	8th; Class 33 & alcoholic goods in class 32 can not be registered	No	Yes

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