

Intellectual Property

A practical overview of **intellectual property protection in the UAE:** trademarks, copyrights, patents, IP agreements, and enforcement.

CORE AREAS

TRADEMARKS

Trademarks protect brand names, logos, slogans, and other distinctive signs. In the UAE, registration through the Ministry of Economy strengthens protection against misuse or imitation.

COPYRIGHTS

Copyright protects original works such as written content, software, photographs, videos, designs, music, and other creative materials. Registration can help support ownership and enforcement.

PATENTS & DESIGNS

Patents protect qualifying inventions, while industrial designs protect the visual appearance of products. Registration should be considered before public disclosure or commercial launch.

IP AGREEMENTS

IP rights should be addressed in contracts, employment agreements, freelancer arrangements, licenses, assignments, franchises, and settlements. Ownership and usage rights should not be left to assumption.

KEY CONCEPTS

OWNERSHIP & USE

Paying for creative or technical work does not always mean owning the IP. Contracts should clearly state who owns the work, who may use it, whether it can be modified, and whether rights are licensed or assigned.

ENFORCEMENT

- Register trademarks and other registrable rights early.
- Keep evidence of creation, ownership, and use.
- Use written agreements for licensing and assignments.
- Act quickly against infringement, copying, or unauthorized use.

