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Vanuatu

A new trade mark law is now in effect in Vanuatu. Previously it was only possible to base a trade mark application on an existing UK national right. Now it is possible to base an application upon existing rights in any member state of the European Union. Not only does this include national rights within EU member states, but also rights obtained under any treaties to which an EU member state may be a party. Therefore applications can be based on Community Trade Marks and International Registrations covering any EU member state.

Service marks are now also registrable.

Kuwait

Kuwait adopted amendments to its Trade Mark Law on 2 November 2008. It has extended its classification to include classes 42-45 of the Nice Classification of Goods and Services.

Jordan

Jordan adopted the 9th Edition of the Nice Classification of Goods and Services on 14 November 2008. This will replace the prior national classification system, which was equivalent to the Seventh Edition of the Nice Classification.

Montenegro

The term for revalidating Serbian Intellectual Property rights in Montenegro has been extended until 28 May 2009.

European Community Trade Marks

With effect from 1 January 2009 four national offices have decided to opt out of the Community Search system; Ireland, Portugal, Sweden and the United Kingdom. This leaves twelve Offices in the system for national search requests; Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Greece, Spain, Lithuania, Hungary, Austria, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic and Finland. The fee for national searches for marks filed in 2009 has therefore been reduced from €192 to €144.

If you require further advice please contact your attorney or e-mail HallMark at info@hallmark-ip.com.