



Afghanistan Trade Mark Attorneys
Intellectual Property & Brand Protection in Afghanistan

CLIENT BRIEFING



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A NEW ERA FOR TRADEMARKS IN THE MALDIVES

A practical guide to the Maldives Trademark Act (Law No. 19/2025), the transition from cautionary notices, and the steps brand owners should take now.

KEY DATE

11 NOVEMBER 2026

The Act is scheduled to enter into force twelve months after its Gazette publication.

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THE FRAMEWORK

What changes under the Act?

The Maldives is moving from an informal notice-based practice to a statutory registration system administered through the Maldives Intellectual Property Office (MIPO). The new regime introduces examination, publication, opposition, registration and enforcement procedures.

FIRST TO FILE

Priority will generally turn on filing. Early portfolio preparation will therefore be commercially important.

WHAT MAY BE A MARK

Words, names, letters, numerals, figurative elements, colours and combinations capable of distinguishing goods or services.

EXAMINATION

MIPO will consider formal compliance and substantive registrability, including absolute and relative grounds.

PUBLICATION & OPPOSITION

An accepted application is published. An interested party may oppose within three months of publication.

PRIORITY

Paris Convention or WTO applicants may claim foreign-filing priority within six months for the same mark and identical goods or services.

SPECIAL MARKS

The Act recognises collective marks and certification marks, subject to the statutory and procedural requirements.

Registration has practical consequences

1

10-YEAR TERM

Registration remains valid for ten years and may be renewed for successive ten-year periods. A six-month late-renewal window applies, subject to additional fees and prescribed conditions.

2

REFUSAL GROUNDS

Non-distinctive, descriptive, generic, misleading, prohibited or conflicting marks may be refused. Earlier registered or pending rights, well-known marks, copyright, designs, bad faith and qualifying prior good-faith use may be relevant.

3

ASSIGNMENTS & LICENCES

Changes of ownership and licences should be recorded and published. Recordal is important where the transaction or licence is to have effect against third parties.

4

ENFORCEMENT

The Act provides civil remedies, customs border measures and criminal sanctions for counterfeiting, including statutory fines. Detailed procedures and fees will depend upon implementing regulations.

TRANSITION WINDOW

Existing trademark owners must apply under the new system within twelve months after the Act comes into force - presently expected by 11 November 2027 - to preserve continuity under the transitional arrangements.



ACTION PLAN

Prepare now. File with purpose.

A short readiness exercise now can reduce filing pressure, expose ownership gaps and help preserve priority once the registration system becomes operational.

01

AUDIT THE PORTFOLIO

List marks used, advertised or protected by cautionary notice in the Maldives; identify core, defensive and future marks.

02

VERIFY OWNERSHIP

Check applicant names, corporate changes, assignments and licences. Resolve inconsistencies before filing.

03

BUILD THE EVIDENCE FILE

Preserve dated advertisements, invoices, distributor records, packaging, online use and prior cautionary notices.

04

MAP GOODS & SERVICES

Prepare accurate specifications and prioritise commercially important classes and marks.

05

WATCH THE REGISTER

Plan clearance searches and monitoring so that conflicting applications can be challenged during the opposition period.





NOTES

Sources and important qualifications

This briefing is a general overview as at 16 August 2026. It is not legal advice. Filing forms, official fees, classification practice and procedural detail may be affected by regulations, guidelines and MIPO practice issued under the Act. Specific advice should be obtained before relying on any deadline or taking action.

PRIMARY MATERIAL

Maldives Trademark Act, Law No. 19/2025 (official listing, Ministry of Economic Development and Trade):

<https://trade.gov.mv/en/laws-and-regulations/>

President's Office, "President ratifies Trademark Bill", 11 November 2025:

<https://presidency.gov.mv/Press/Article/35655>

TIMELINE AT A GLANCE

11 NOV 2025

Ratified and published

11 NOV 2026

Scheduled commencement

11 NOV 2027

Expected transition deadline

The final date shown follows the statutory twelve-month transitional period and assumes commencement on 11 November 2026. Confirm operative rules and dates before filing.