



# UAE Legal Reform – 2021

As part of its 50th Anniversary, the UAE announced some of the broadest changes to its legal landscape in years. It also introduced major practical changes, not least the change of the working week for the public sector to Monday-Friday (a move we expect the private sector will follow) and the Dubai Attorney General confirming that bounced cheques are no longer a criminal offence.

This table summarises some of the key laws that have been announced. We will be publishing a series of LawNow articles analysing these laws for release during Q1 2022.

| Law title and citation         | Subject matter  | What law does it replace?   | Date that the law comes into force  |
|--------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Federal Decree-Law No. 30/2021 | Combating narcotics and psychotropic substances   | Federal Decree-Law No. 30/2021 on combating narcotics and psychotropic substances       | 2 January 2022  |
| Federal Decree-Law No. 31/2021 | New Penal Code  | Federal Law No. 3/1987 on the Penal Code  | 2 January 2022  |
| Federal Decree-Law No. 32/2021 | New Commercial Companies Law  | Federal Law No. 2/2015 on Commercial Companies  | 2 January 2022  |
| Federal Decree-Law No. 33/2021 | New Labour Law  | Federal Law No. 8/1980 on the Regulation of Labour Relations                            | 2 February 2022   |
| Federal Decree-Law No. 34/2021 | Fight against rumours and cybercrime  | Federal Decree-Law No. 5/2012 on Combatting Cybercrimes                                 | 2 January 2022  |
| Federal Decree-Law No. 36/2021 | New Trademarks Law  | Federal Law No. 37/1992 on Trademarks   | 2 January 2022  |
| Federal Decree-Law No. 37/2021 | Commercial Register   | Federal Law No. 5/1975 on the Commercial Register                                       | 6 months from the day following the date of publication (26 September 2021):<br>27 March 2021   |
| Federal Decree-Law No. 38/2021 | Copyright and neighbouring rights   | Federal Law No. 7/2002 on copyright and related rights                                  | 2 January 2022  |
| Federal Decree-Law No. 43/2021 | Goods subject to the non-proliferation controls   | Federal Law No. 13/2007 on commodities subject to the monitoring of imports and exports | 2 January 2022  |
| Federal Decree-Law No. 44/2021 | Establishment of the Emirates Data Office   | None.   | The day following the date of publication. <i>Note: the issuance date is 20 September 2021.</i> |
| Federal Decree-Law No. 45/2021 | New Data Protection Law   | None.   | 2 January 2022  |
| Federal Decree-Law No. 46/2021 | Electronic transactions and trust services  | Federal Law No. 1 of 2006 on Electronic Transactions and Commerce                       | N/A   |
| Federal Decree-Law No. 47/2021 | Unified general rules for work in the United Arab Emirates  | None.   | 2 February 2022   |
| Cabinet Decision No. 90/2021   | Implementing Regulation of Federal Law No. 8 of 2019 on medical products, the pharmacy profession and pharmaceutical facilities | None.   | The day following the date of publication. <i>Note: the issuance date is 28 September 2021.</i> |

If you have any queries about these changes and how they might impact your business, please get in touch.



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