nathys&Squire

UK: Trade mark application timeline

Clearance search (optional)

This is a search of the UK and EUTM registers (as well as the registers of any other country of interest) for earlier identical or similar trade marks covering identical or similar goods/services.

Preparation of trade mark application

We will discuss the goods and/or services you wish your application to cover in more detail and will prepare specifications of these for your review.

Filing of trade mark application

Once you have agreed to the specifications of goods/services, we will file the application on your behalf.

Examination

The UK Intellectual Property Office (UKIPO) will review the application and either accept it or raise objections against the inherent registrability of the mark and/or the way in which the goods/services are specified.

Response to any official objections

At this point we will file arguments against any objections raised. There may be a number of rounds of objections, and a hearing may be requested if the objections are maintained. Further appeals are available. If the objections are upheld the application will be refused.

Publication

Following acceptance of the application, it will be published in the Trade Mark Journal allowing two months for oppositions to be lodged. This period can be extended by one month by third parties.

Third party oppositions filed

Opposition proceedings

If the opposition fails, the application will proceed to registration. The application will be refused if the opposition is successful.

No third party oppositions filed

Registration granted

Unless the application is opposed, it will be registered two - four weeks after the opposition period ends. A straightforward application typically proceeds to registration within three - four months from the filing date.

Renewal/expiry of registration

The trade mark registration must be renewed every 10 years from the filing date.