



SINGAPORE ADJUSTS ITS PATENT AND TRADE MARK FEES

The Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS) has recently announced that it will lower its fees for trade mark applications and patent search and examination application with effect from 1 April 2017.

However and although there will be a decrease in the application fees, there will be an increase in the official fees in respect of the renewal and maintenance of granted patents and registered trade marks. This will also take effect from 1 April 2017. The reason provided for this increase, is that it will serve as a means of discouraging the “hoarding” of registered IP rights.

Nevertheless and although the relevant official fees will rise, proprietors of granted patents who have registered to licence their granted patents as of right will still enjoy a 50% discount off the official fees for renewals.

Be that as it may, we would strongly advise any prospective and intended renewals to proceed now rather than later, and such instructions should certainly be carried out **before** 1 April 2017 where possible.

Further details on the impending fee changes are set out below.

TRADE MARK APPLICATION FEES

The Singaporean Registry will reduce its fees for filing marks if the applicant uses its “pre-approved” list of items of goods and services.

Matter	Current Fees	Revised Fees
Filing a trade mark application in Singapore using the pre-approved items (per class basis)	SG\$341	SGD\$240
Application to register an international registration through the Madrid Protocol (per class basis)	SG\$374	SG\$341
Filing of a transformation application in relation to an international registration/subsequent designation cancelled at the request of the Office of Origin (per class basis)	SG\$374	SG\$341

TRADE MARK RENEWAL FEES

Although there are fee reductions for patent search and examination fees and trade mark filing fees after 1 April 2017, the Registry will increase the official fees for the renewal and maintenance of granted patents and registered trade marks. As for the changes to the official fees for trade marks, please see below.

Matter	Current Fees	Revised Fees
Application for renewal of trade mark registration (per class basis)	SG\$250	SGD\$380
Late application for renewal of trade mark registration (per class basis)	SG\$370	SG\$560
Application to restore a trade mark to the register (per class basis)	SG\$400	SG\$610

Application for renewal of an international registration/subsequent designation of trade mark designating Singapore through the Madrid Protocol	SG\$270	SG\$380
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PATENT EXAMINATION FEES

Fee reduction in this respect will commence on 1 April 2017 for each request for a search and examination report, and will also apply to a request for either a search report or a supplementary search report. There will also be a further discount on the official fees payable to request for a search and examination report in situations where a report under the Patent Co-operation Treaty (PCT) has already been established by IPOS acting either as the International Searching Authority (ISA) or the International Preliminary Examining Authority (IPEA), for patent applications entering national phase into Singapore.

As for the impending changes to the official fees for patents, please see below.

Matter	Current Fees	Revised Fees
Request for search report/supplementary search report	SG\$1,925	SGD\$1,650
Request for search & examination report	SG\$2,600	SG\$1,950
Request for search & examination report where the international search report/international preliminary examination report has been established by IPOS (under the Patent Co-operation Treaty (PCT))	SG\$2,600	SG\$1,650

INCREASE IN EXCESS CLAIM FEES

Currently, excess claim fees of SGD20 per claim in excess of 25 claims are charged at the time of payment of the grant fee. From 1 April 2017, the excess claim fee will increase to SGD40 per claim in excess of 20 claims payable during the examination stage. In addition, if at the grant stage there are extra claims added for which excess fees were not paid, the same charge will be levied on these extra claims at this stage. There will however be no refund if the number of claims is reduced at the grant stage.

Matter	Current Fees	Revised Fees
Request for search & examination report	-	SGD\$40 per claim in excess of 20 claims
Request for examination report	-	SGD\$40 per claim in excess of 20 claims
Payment of fee for grant of patent	SG\$20 per claim in excess of 25 claims	SGD\$40 per claim in excess of 20 claims

PATENT RENEWAL FEES

Matter	Current Fees	Revised Fees
from 8th to 10th year of the patent	SG\$270	SGD\$370
11th to 13th year of the patent	SG\$350	SG\$520
14th to 16th year of the patent	SG\$490	SG\$670

17th to 19th year of the patent	SG\$600	SG\$820
from 20th year of the patent	SG\$710	SG\$970
after 20th year of the patent	SG\$950	SG\$1,200

PAYMENT OF ADDITIONAL FEES & RENEWAL FEES FOR RESTORATION OF PATENT

Matter	Current Fees	Revised Fees
from 8th to 10th year of the patent	SG\$570	SGD\$670
11th to 13th year of the patent	SG\$650	SG\$820
14th to 16th year of the patent	SG\$790	SG\$970
17th to 19th year of the patent	SG\$900	SG\$1,120
from 20th year of the patent	SG\$1,010	SG\$1,270
after 20th year of the patent	SG\$1,250	SG\$1,500

PAYMENT OF RENEWAL FEE AFTER ENTRY IS MADE IN REGISTER TO EFFECT THAT LICENCES UNDER PATENT ARE TO BE AVAILABLE AS OF RIGHT

Matter	Current Fees	Revised Fees
from 8th to 10th year of the patent	SG\$135	SGD\$185
11th to 13th year of the patent	SG\$175	SG\$260
14th to 16th year of the patent	SG\$245	SG\$335
17th to 19th year of the patent	SG\$300	SG\$410
from 20th year of the patent	SG\$355	SG\$485
after 20th year of the patent	SG\$475	SG\$600

Business innovators and brand owners will thus enjoy these cost savings through the lowered application fees, and these are in line with IPOS' ongoing efforts to make IP protection more affordable for them.

We hope the above update is useful. Do let us know if you require more information or have any queries regarding how these changes may affect your IP portfolio in Singapore and we would certainly be pleased to assist you further in this regard.



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