



## **FAST-TRACK EXAMINATION OF UK TRADE MARK APPLICATIONS**

From **7th April 2008** it became possible to request an accelerated examination of any UK trade mark application filed on or after this date. The sole exception to this is applications for a 'series' of trade marks for which no accelerated examination may be requested.

The UK Trade Marks Registry will commit to examining and issuing the first examination report for all "fast-track" applications within 10 days of the filing date. This could more than halve the time normally taken for the Registry to examine and issue the first examination report.

### **Cost**

The cost of requesting a fast-track examination will be £300, in addition to the standard official filing fee of £200 for one trade mark application in one class. This will make the total official fee for one "fast-track" application in one class £500. Fees for additional classes above one will remain at £50 per class.

The Trade Marks Registry has also undertaken to refund any fast-track fee (but not the application or any class fees) if the examination report is not sent out within the timeframe outlined above.

### **What happens after the first examination report has been issued?**

If the Registry's examination report raises no objections to an application then the application will proceed to publication for opposition purposes in the Trade Marks Journal. If the Registry does raise objections

to an application then we shall need to correspond with the Registry in the normal way. Although the fast-track service relates only to the examination of the application, the Registry has committed itself to attempting to deal with all correspondence and any other procedural matters as quickly as possible.

### **Opposition**

All fast-track cases will still be subject to the full 3 month opposition period. The net result of opting for a "fast track" examination is that, for applications which do not receive any objections or oppositions, the time taken to register a mark may be reduced by around a month, i.e. from around six months to around five months.