

Fast-track examination of UK trade mark applications

It is possible to request an accelerated examination of a UK trade mark application. The sole exception to this is applications for a 'series' of trade marks for which no accelerated examination may be requested.

Background

The UK IPO has committed to examining and issuing the first examination report for all "fast-track" applications within 10 days of the filing date, although the UK IPO normally issues its examination reports within 15 days or so of the date of filing, and so the time saving is not substantial.

Cost

The official fee for requesting a fast-track examination is £300, in addition to the standard official filing fee of £200 for one trade mark application in one class. This makes 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 UK IPO 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 UK IPO's examination report raises no objections to an application then the application will proceed to publication for opposition purposes in the UK Trade Marks Journal. If the UK IPO does raise objections to an application then we shall need to correspond with the UK IPO 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 normal two-month opposition period, which is extendible by one month upon request by the opposition deadline.

Need advice?

Please do not hesitate to contact us for more detailed advice at: email@carpmaels.com.

Carpmaels & Ransford is a leading firm of European patent attorneys based in London. For more information about our firm and our practice, please visit our website.

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