

How to Register an International Trade Mark

What rights does an International trade mark registration give you?

An International trade mark registration can cover some or all member states of the Madrid Protocol*. An International trade mark registration is renewable every ten years.

An International trade mark registration has to be based on a 'home' trade mark application or registration in a member state or territory of the Madrid Protocol.

An International trade mark registration gives you the exclusive right to use the trade mark in the member states covered by the International Registration. A trade mark registration can stop another trader using a mark which is either identical or similar to the registered trade mark in relation to goods or services which are identical or similar to the registered goods and services. In certain circumstances, a trade mark registration can stop the use of an identical or similar mark on wholly dissimilar goods.

An International Registration will be cancelled if the 'home' registration is cancelled in the five years following the date of grant of the International Registration. This is termed a 'central attack'.

Advantages of International registration system:

- Costs tend to be lower than corresponding national applications;
- One trade mark registration covers multiple countries;
- International registrations can be extended to cover new countries.

Disadvantages of International registration system:

- Registration is dependent on 'home' application of registration for five years.

Member states of the Madrid Protocol (effective 15th March 2026):

Afghanistan	Cuba	Latvia	Samoa
Albania	Cyprus	Lesotho	San Marino
Algeria	Czech Republic	Liberia	São Tomé & Príncipe
Antigua & Barbuda	Denmark	Liechtenstein	Senegal*
Armenia	Egypt	Lithuania	Serbia
Australia	Equatorial Guinea*	Macedonia	Sierra Leone
Austria	Estonia	Madagascar	Singapore
Azerbaijan	Eswatini	Malawi	Slovakia
Bahrain	European Union	Malaysia	Slovenia
Belarus	Finland	Mali*	South Korea
Belize	France	Mauritania*	Spain
Benelux	Gabon*	Mauritius	Sudan
Benin*	Gambia	Mexico	Sweden
Bhutan	Georgia	Monaco	Switzerland
Bosnia & Herzegovina	Germany	Mongolia	Syria
Botswana	Ghana	Montenegro	Thailand
Brazil	Greece	Morocco	Togo*
	Grenada		
Brunei Darussalam	Guernsey	Moldova	Trinidad & Tobago
Bulgaria	Guinea*	Mozambique	Tunisia
Burkina Faso*	Guinea Bassau*	Namibia	Turkey
Cambodia	Hungary	New Zealand	Turkmenistan
Cameroon*	Iceland	Niger*	Ukraine
Canada	India	North Korea	United Arab Emirates
Cape Verde	Indonesia	Norway	United Kingdom**
Central African Rep.*	Iran	Oman	United States of America
Chad*	Ireland	Pakistan	Uzbekistan

Chile	Israel	Philippines	Vietnam
China	Italy	Poland	Zambia
Columbia	Jamaica	Portugal	Zimbabwe
Comoros*	Japan	Qatar	
The Republic of Congo*	Kenya	Romania	
Cote d'Ivoire*	Kazakhstan	Russian Federation	
Croatia	Kyrgyzstan	Rwanda	

*Members of The Organisation Africaine de la Propriété Intellectuelle (OAPI)

** As of 1st January 2021 United Kingdom Designations cover Gibraltar regardless of the date of filing of the designation.

What information do we require to file an International trade mark application?

- Full name and address of applicant;
- Country and state, if appropriate, of incorporation of the applicant;
- Details of the trade mark to be registered;
- If the trade mark consists of a logo, a good representation of the logo, preferably by e-mail in jpeg format;
- Details of the goods and services to be sold under the trade mark;
- Details of any foreign trade mark application on which priority is to be claimed (if appropriate).

How long does it take to register an International trade mark?

- An International trade mark application is usually 'registered' around three months after filing, following a formalities examination by the World Intellectual Property Office (WIPO).
- However, the Intellectual Property Offices of each country covered by the registration have up to 18 months to raise objections to the registration.
- If no objections are raised, the registration is confirmed, but if objections are raised then we will deal with these objections through the Intellectual Property Offices concerned.