

Intellectual Property Office of Singapore
Registry of Trade Marks

Circular No. 9/2020: Expansion of SG Patent Fast Track Programme on 1 September 2020

Expansion of SG Patent Fast Track Programme on 1 September 2020 (Circular No. 9/2020, dated 25 August 2020)

IP-savvy innovators often use multiple forms of IP protection to better protect their creations – for example, patents for the technology embedded in the product, trademarks for the brand name and logo that will be used to market the product, and registered designs for the external visual features of the product. When the portfolio of IP rights is built and managed in alignment with business strategy, it puts the company in a stronger position to commercialise its creations.

2. On 4 May 2020, the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (“IPOS”) piloted the SG Patent Fast Track programme.¹ Starting from 1 September 2020, the programme will be expanded to include the acceleration of trademark and registered design applications to support innovators in building their IP portfolio, and renamed the **SG IP Fast Track**.

The SG IP Fast Track

3. Under the SG IP Fast Track (“**SG IP FAST**”), patent applications in all technology fields which are first filed in Singapore can be granted in as fast as 6 months. This is unchanged from the current SG Patent Fast Track programme.

4. Applicants who have a successful request for patent acceleration under SG IP FAST can request for acceleration of related trademark and registered design applications. The acceleration timelines for trademark and registered design applications are as follows –

- a) Straightforward trademark applications² can be registered in as fast as 3 months; non-straightforward trademark applications can be registered in as fast 6 months.
- b) Registered design applications can be registered in as fast as 1 month.

5. Fees for requesting acceleration of trademark and design applications will not be imposed till further notice.

¹ Please refer to Registry of Patents Circular No. 2/2020.

² Straightforward trademark applications are those that do not encounter substantive objection(s) or contain only minor issues.

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6. The existing caps on acceleration of patent applications will remain.³ However, there will not be a cap on the number of trademark and registered design applications that can be accelerated.

How to qualify for acceleration

7. The applicant must have a patent application placed on SG IP FAST.

8. The trademark and registered design applications must be filed within 1 month of the applicant being notified that a patent application has been placed on SG IP FAST. The trademark and registered design applications need not be filed at the same time.

9. The trademark and registered design applications must be related to the patent application which has been placed on SG IP FAST.

10. Further conditions for trademark applications to be placed or remain on acceleration are as follows:

- a) The specification of goods and/or services in the application must be fully adopted from IPOS' pre-approved classification database.
- b) The application is not for a series mark.
- c) The application is not for a non-conventional mark (e.g. 3D shape mark).
- d) The application is not for a certification or collective mark.
- e) Objections raised by the examiner in the first Office Action ("OA") are all resolved in the first submission within 1 month of the OA.
- f) The applicant responds as directed by the Registrar in the second OA (e.g. file Form TM27⁴ to amend the application) within 2 weeks.
- g) The application must not encounter opposition during the publication stage.
- h) The applicant cannot request for Extension of Time ("EOT") during the course of examination.

11. Further conditions for registered design applications to be placed or remain on acceleration are as follows:

- a) Deficiencies raised in the first OA are all resolved in the first submission within 2 weeks of the OA.
- b) The applicant cannot request for EOT.

³ Currently, there is a cap of 5 accelerated patent applications per month, and a cap of 10 applications per year per entity.

⁴ Application to Amend a Trade Mark Application or Registration (Excluding Change of Name/Address/Address for Service).

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How to request for acceleration

12. The process of requesting acceleration of a patent application is unchanged from the current SG Patent Fast Track.⁵

13. To request acceleration of trademark and registered design applications, applicants can submit trademark applications via IP²SG or IPOS GO, and registered design applications via IP²SG. Thereafter, applicants must inform IPOS of the request for acceleration via ad-hoc correspondence on IP²SG immediately, with the subject title “SG IP FAST”. A template to make the request can be found in the list of FAQs.

14. A list of FAQs is provided at **Annex A**.

Enquiries and Feedback

15. If you have any enquiries relating to SG IP FAST, please contact:

Mr. William Kwek (William_Kwek@ipos.gov.sg)

Mr. Liu Yixin (Liu_Yixin@ipos.gov.sg)

16. We would like to hear your feedback on our patent acceleration programmes [here](#).

⁵ Applicants must file Patents Form 1 (Request for Grant of Patent) and Patents Form 11 (Request for Search and Examination Report) using IP²SG and on the same day. A document tagged as FastTrack must also be submitted with Patents Form 1 and Patents Form 11. The FastTrack Document must contain reason(s) for requesting acceleration and the technology field to which the invention relates.

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Annex A: FAQs on the SG IP Fast Track (“SG IP FAST”)

Using SG IP FAST

1. What information do I need to provide when requesting acceleration of trademark and registered design applications?

When submitting a request for trademark and design acceleration via ad-hoc correspondence on IP²SG, the following information must be provided:

- a) The application numbers of the trademark and registered design applications.
- b) A copy of the Patent Preliminary Examination Report, indicating that a patent application is placed on SG IP FAST and the patent application number.
- c) A declaration that the trademark and registered design applications, for which acceleration is sought, are related to the patent application placed on SG IP FAST.

The ad-hoc correspondence must have the subject title “SG IP FAST”.

A template to make the request can be found at **Appendix 1**. Applicants may use the template and attach it in the ad-hoc correspondence.

2. Could you explain the requirement that the trademark and registered design applications must be related to the patent application which has been placed on acceleration, to be eligible for SG IP FAST?

The applications are deemed to be related if the trademarks and registered designs are to be used in relation to the invention contained in the patent application, or related products and services. Please see below for an illustration.

Patent Application	Trademark Application	Registered Design Application
Invention relates to: Coffee machine	Potential goods or services to which the trademark is to be applied (non-exhaustive): Class 11: Electric coffee machines; Electric coffee filters; Electric coffee-making apparatus; Espresso coffee machines. Class 16: Paper coffee filters	Articles to which the registered design is to be applied: Coffee machine, coffee making apparatus, coffee filters, coffee capsules etc.

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	Class 21: Coffee cups; Coffee glasses; Coffee services; Non-electric drip coffee makers; Coffee filters not of paper being part of non-electric coffee makers. Class 30: Coffee; coffee beans; Coffee-based beverages; Coffee capsules, filled. Class 35: Retail services relating to coffee; Wholesale services in relation to coffee; Procurement services in the nature of purchasing coffee for others. Class 43: Office catering services for the provision of coffee; Coffeehouse services; Coffee shop services.	
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3. Can trademark applications filed via the IPOS GO mobile app be accelerated under SG IP FAST?

Yes, a separate request for acceleration via ad-hoc correspondence on IP²SG can be made for these trademark applications.

4. How will I know if my trademark and registered design applications are accelerated under SG IP FAST?

You will be informed via an acknowledgement letter within 4 working days from your submission of the ad-hoc correspondence on IP²SG.

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5. **I reached the annual cap for the SG Patent Fast Track programme before the launch of this expansion to trademarks and registered designs. Can I still make use of SG IP FAST to accelerate my trademark and registered design applications?**

Applicants who have already reached their annual cap for the SG Patent Fast Track programme at the launch of SG IP FAST will have 1 opportunity to request acceleration of trademark and registered design applications. The trademark and registered design applications must be related to a patent application that was placed on acceleration under the SG Patent Fast Track programme.

The annual cap for SG IP FAST will be reset at the start of every calendar year.

6. **When will SG IP FAST end?**

SG IP FAST is a pilot that will end on 29 April 2022. This was the end-date of the SG Patent Fast Track pilot programme when it was launched.

Seeking Assistance

7. **Who can I approach for advice on whether it is worthwhile to file a trademark or registered design application?**

IPOS provides [complimentary IP business clinics](#) where individuals and enterprises may seek advice from a business consultant on commercial matters related to IP.

8. **Who can I approach if I have general questions on trademark and registered design applications?**

You may send your enquiries to ipos_enquiry@ipos.gov.sg.

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Appendix 1

REQUEST FOR ACCELERATION OF TRADEMARK/REGISTERED DESIGN APPLICATION(S) UNDER THE SG IP FAST TRACK ("SG IP FAST")

<i>Note:</i> a. Please ensure that <u>all</u> fields are completed to assist us in processing your request. b. This document is to be uploaded onto IP ² SG via Adhoc Correspondence after the trademark/registered design application(s) is/are filed.		
Application Type		
<i>Note: you may cross one or more boxes.</i>		
[] Trademark		
[] Registered Design		
Details of Trademark/Registered Design applications to be accelerated		
Trademark Application Nos.		
Registered Design Application Nos.		
Details of Applicant		
<i>Note: Applicant for both trademark/registered design must be the same as that in the patent application placed on SG IP FAST.</i>		
Name:		
Address:		
Contact person:	HP:	Email:
<i>Note: where no agent is appointed, IPOs shall contact the above-named person for matters pertaining to the acceleration request.</i>		
Patent Application Placed on SG IP FAST		
<i>Note: Please attach a copy of the Patent Preliminary Examination Report indicating that a patent application is placed on SG IP FAST.</i>		
Patent Application No.:		
Association with Patent Application Placed on SG IP FAST		
<i>Note: Please briefly explain how the trademark and/or registered design application(s) is/are related to the patent application that is placed on SG IP FAST (e.g. The trademark and/or registered design application(s) is/are in relation to [state field/technology/product] claimed in the patent application placed on SG IP FAST).</i>		

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Contact Details		
<i>Note: Where an agent is appointed, IPOS shall contact the agent directly for matters pertaining to the acceleration request.</i>		
Agent Name:		
Address for Service in Singapore:		
Contact person:	Direct Line:	Email:
Statutory Declaration		
Declaration	By Person Filing the Application	
	I, the undersigned, do hereby declare that: i. The trademark and/or registered design application(s) stated herein is/are related to the patent application placed on SG IP FAST. ii. The information furnished above is true to the best of my knowledge.	
Declaration	By Agent	
	I, the undersigned, do hereby declare that: i. I have been duly authorised to act as an agent, for the purposes of this request, on behalf of the person(s) filing this form. ii. On behalf of the applicant(s), the trademark and/or registered design application(s) stated herein is/are related to the patent application placed on SG IP FAST. iii. The information furnished above on behalf of the person(s) filing this form is true to the best of the person(s)' knowledge.	
Name		
Date (DD/MM/YY)		

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