

## Early trademark examination and registration of straightforward applications

The length of time required for registering a national trade mark application is usually between three and four months from the time of payment of the filing fee. From the point of view of the trade mark applicant, however, this situation is particularly unsatisfactory if there are no apparent grounds for refusal of the registration.

In order to make allowances for this fact, the Institute examines straightforward applications within a maximum of 10 working days following filing and registers the trade mark after payment of both the filing fee and any necessary additional class fees. However, only applications whose list of goods and services consist entirely of terms accepted by the Institute's e-trademark ("Standard classes" or "Search help") and/or the classification tool (<http://wdl.ipi.ch>) are eligible for an early trade mark examination.

For the examination of these applications, the examiners have a very narrow timeframe within which they have to consult a specific [selection of databases](#). The sign can be registered if, within the specified time period:

- no formal grounds for refusal can be ascertained;
- no relevant results in the databases can be found;
- the graphic used or the figurative element of the sign makes it distinctive.

Due to the very narrow timeframe, applications for the registration of collective, certification and geographical marks as well as applications for a trademark with acquired distinctiveness through use are examined according to ordinary trade mark examination procedures from the outset.

If a request is made for an expedited examination and the sign can be registered as a trade mark under the requirements of an early trade mark examination, the express fee will be waived. Applications which are assessed as not being eligible for registration within the defined timeframe are examined according to the ordinary or expedited ("Express") trade mark examination procedure respectively.

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