Trade marks in Switzerland still at a high

Trade marks in Switzerland continue to be popular. More than 17,000 applications for trade marks were received by the Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property (IPI) in 2019, which is slightly more than the previous year. There are now more than 500,000 trade marks in force nationally. Applications for design rights, on the other hand, have remained stable, while the number of patent...

Fit for the digital age – modernised copyright rules to come into force on 1 April 2020

The revised Copyright Act strengthens the rights of creative artists and cultural industries, as well as facilitating research. The Federal Council put into force the revised act, which adapts the applicable law to technological developments, as of 1 April 2020. Further information can be found in the Federal Council's media release (only available in German, French and Italian).

Greater efficiency in the fight against counterfeiting

Whether it is counterfeit watches or handbags, it should soon be easier for the Federal Customs Administration (FCA) to destroy fake products in small consignments. A new procedure aims to reduce the administrative effort by giving the authorities more leeway for their checks. These checks are essential – the importation of small consignments from Asia into Switzerland increased sixfold between...
Institute Council of the IPI

The Federal Council has elected Corina Eichenberger-Walther as President of the Institute Council of the Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property within the framework of the elections of the extra-parliamentary commissions and federal management bodies. Also elected to the Institute Council is Prof. Dr. Oliver Gassman, while the other members of the council were re-elected for the...

02.09.2019 | Media release, Law and policy, Indications of source

Better international protection for Swiss quality products

The agreement between Georgia and Switzerland on the protection of geographical indications and use of the indication of source “Switzerland” comes into force on 1 September 2019. It protects well-known Swiss indications and contributes to maintaining the long-term reputation of Swiss quality products. Key points at a glance: The agreement lists protected designations. This means that, in...

22.05.2019 | Media release, Indications of source, Law and policy

Geographical indications - Swiss producers should benefit from a simple international protection system

Bündnerfleisch, Formaggio d'alpe ticinese or the designation “Swiss” for watches - geographical indications offer an important competitive edge in the global market. This is why it should in future be possible for Swiss producers to obtain protection for such indications in all member states of the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement via a simple, cost-effective application procedure. The Federal...

30.04.2019 | Media release, Law and policy, Law enforcement

The measures introduced to combat “Swissness” misuse yield results

Successful measures in the fight against misuse of “Swissness” and fewer offences in Switzerland. The Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property (IPI) reports a positive result for the year 2018. The key points at a glance: In 2018, the IPI did not have to initiate any criminal proceedings in Switzerland. In the 78 interventions led by the IPI, all of the companies involved were...

17.04.2019 | Media release, Patents

Lower annual fees for Swiss patents
From 1 July 2019, new annual fees will apply to Swiss patents and supplementary protection certificates (SPCs). The Federal Council approved the amendment to the IPI Fee Ordinance on 17 April 2019. As a result, a Swiss patent will be less expensive over its entire maximum term of validity. The annual fees will continue to increase in line with the term of the patent. However, they will now...

14.02.2019 | Media release, Trade Marks

**More than half a million trade marks in Switzerland**

Almost 1,000 trade marks were applied for at the Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property (IPI) in 2018. As a result, there are now more than 500,000 trade marks in force for the first time in Switzerland. Registering a trade mark protects companies from free-riders, although trade marks are not the only thing that companies and private individuals can apply to register. This is also...

08.11.2018 | IPI, Media release

**Two new IPI executive board members**

The Institute Council of the Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property (IPI) has appointed Jürgen Horwath and Iwan Guler as new members of the IPI Executive Board. Mr Guler, whose appointment comes into effect in April 2019, follows in the footsteps of Ueli Buri, who has been selected as the new Data Protection Commissioner of the Canton of Bern. Jürgen Horwath will become an executive...