

Annual Technical Reports On Trade Mark Information Activities in 1998

- I. The number of trade marks filed in 1998 was 16554, of which 10433 were accepted.

38% of all the trade marks filed in 1998 originate from New Zealand based applicants. The following table indicates the number of trade marks filed in New Zealand on a country by country basis.

Country Of Origin	Number Trade Marks Filed
African Regional Industrial Property Organisation	3
Argentina	9
Australia	1864
Austria	27
Bahamas	7
Belgium	57
Bermuda	14
Brazil	13
British Virgin Islands	12
Brunei Darussalam	1
Canada	120
Cayman Islands	3
Chile	5
China	44
Colombia	5
Cook Islands	14
Costa Rica	3
Cote d'Ivoire	1
Cuba	15
Cyprus	2
Czechoslovakia	1
Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea	1
Denmark	64
Dominica	1
European Community Trade Mark	2
Finland	31
France	518
Georgia	2
Germany	666
Guernsey	1
Hong Kong	63
Iceland	1
India	9
Indonesia	9
Iran	2

Ireland	42
Israel	18
Italy	186
Japan	361
Kuwait	1
Lebanon	1
Liechtenstein	25
Luxembourg	26
Malaysia	24
Malta	1
Mauritius	6
Mexico	4
Monaco	21
Netherlands	216
Netherlands Antilles	20
New Zealand	6260
Niger	2
Norway	4
Panama	22
Peru	2
Poland	3
Portugal	9
Puerto Rico	3
Republic of Korea	25
Russian Federation	4
Saudi Arabia	12
Singapore	137
Slovak Republic	1
Slovenia	3
South Africa	61
Spain	54
Sri Lanka	1
Sweden	135
Switzerland	447
Taiwan	46
Thailand	8
Turkey	16
USSR	3
United Arab Emirates	13
United Kingdom	1038
United States of America	3618
Vietnam	3
No country indicated	82
Total	16554

The 16554 trade mark applications filed in 1998 was a 6% on the number of filings in 1997. In that year 15630 applications were filed.

A total of 24093 trade marks were accepted during 1998. That figure includes 10433 applications received in 1998.

The number of trade marks registered in 1998 was 22170, a 15% increase on 1997.

- II. The Office publishes the New Zealand Patent Office Journal monthly, in paper form and on CD-ROM. This publication includes details of recently accepted trade marks. The Office also maintains an electronic database (AREV) that contains details of trade mark applications and scanned images of trade mark devices. Electronic copies of trade mark information may be downloaded from the database.
- III. The Office uses the International Classification of Goods and Services (Nice Classification). Applicants are not required to utilise predefined terms to describe either goods or services. Currently the Office uses an in-house Trade Mark Device Descriptors System to classify the figurative elements of marks. As part of the examination procedure the Office allocates the appropriate descriptors to a mark. The Office maintains an electronic database of trade marks decisions from New Zealand and overseas to assist trade mark examiners. The Office is moving to adopt the Vienna Classification for the figurative elements of trade marks. This will replace the in-house Trademark Device Descriptors System.
- IV. Manual searching of records is still an option but most searching is done through the computerised database, AREV.
- V. AREV, the Office's electronic database of trade marks and related information is used by IPONZ staff and members of the general public in the Office's Information Centre. A version of this trade mark database may also be accessed through the Office's Internet Website (www.iponz.govt.nz).

The Intellectual Property Office of New Zealand has undertaken to computerise its intellectual property functions so applicants will be able to file and search electronically.

Scoping and development for Virtual Private Network (VPN) access to search the New Zealand Trade Mark Database began in 1996. The database is called IPOL (Intellectual Property Online). The IPOL software is currently at the testing stage and is due for release in late 1999. The following Trade Mark searches will be able to be performed:

1. Find every mark for a given owner
 2. Find marks with a given word or combination of words
 3. Search for selected classes
 4. Find confusingly similar marks
 5. Search or browse the monthly Journal for any possible infringing marks.
- VI. Members of the public are able to freely access the New Zealand Register of trade marks and the AREV computer database in the Office's Information Centre. Members of the public are also able to obtain copies of any publicly available information on trade mark files that are not held in the Information Centre. In addition to these facilities members of the public may also access our trade mark database via the Internet.
- VII. Copies of the New Zealand Patent Office Journal are forwarded to the Australian, European, French, Japanese, Netherlands, Russian Federation and USA Patent Offices.
- VIII. The Office's newly established Client Services group provides assistance to a wide range of clients from school groups to foreign companies seeking information about intellectual property in New Zealand. The Office attends relevant trade exhibitions and maintains a presence in New Zealand's main centres through the regional branches of the New Zealand Companies Office.