

ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORTS ON TRADEMARK
INFORMATION ACTIVITIES IN 1998

1. Evolution of registration activities

Changes were experienced in terms of the number of application filings and grants compared with the previous year as follows:

1997 : 871 Registrations and applications
1998 : 812 Registrations and applications.

There was a slight increase in the registration of local trademarks especially under classes 5, 30 and 31.

II. Matters concerning the generation, reproduction and distribution of secondary sources of trademarks information

Due to lack of funds and personnel, the department does not produce a trade mark gazette. The main type of announcements of the office in the field of trademark information was applications. These are made in the Uganda Gazette which is published weekly.

III. Matters concerning classifying, reclassifying and indexing of trademark information

Under the current law, service marks are not registerable.

However, trademarks are and they are registered using the international classification of goods and services for the purposes of the Registration of Marks [Nice Classification] and Schedule III of the Trademark Rules.

There was no use of electronic classification systems to check classification symbols as furnished by an applicant and no obligation for him/her to use pre-defined terms of the classification applied.

IV. Trademark manual search file establishment and upkeep

Each application is allocated a file and a file number. Any matter in connection thereto e.g. renewal, opposition, etc. is filed onto it. All the files are stored in the physical form in filing cabinets. Any documentation from other offices concerning a particular file is also placed on the same file.

V. Activities in the field of computerised trademark search systems

An inhouse data base has been created using Microsoft Access and the data entry is ongoing. There is only one work station, a Compaq Desk top computer with an HP Laserjet 4000 printer. Only one staff is employed to enter the data which is a bit slow. The system has yet to be designed to generate statistics.

VI. Administration of trademark services available to the public

Planning for the department is done by the Ministry Finance Committee. An office is available, manned by two clerks and a secretary. Filing and other clerical work is undertaken by them while the legal officers handle the registration and adjudication of trademark issues. Save for the data base, there is no automation in the office.

On security of files, only one paper file is kept for each Trademark application. No back ups are available.

Information: Trademark information that is received via the mail is available to the public for perusal on request. There was no official announcement or advertisement as to the availability of these services. The office received a substantial amount of trade mark information from other trademark offices but did not send out any as it has no publications of its own as yet.

VIII. Matters concerning education and training including technical assistance to developing countries

No advertising or seminars or visits were undertaken due to lack of funds. No training courses were held.

IX. Other relevant matters

A new law is in the offing which will allow for the registration of service marks. The department hopes to become autonomous by the year 2000. Plans have been made to fully automate the services of the office when it becomes independent. Funds have also been budgeted for publications, seminars, additional staff etc.. It is envisaged that when the office becomes autonomous, most of the shortcomings it now has will be addressed.