CWS/ATR/TM/2019/GB/IPO

Annual Technical Report on Trademark Information Activities in 2019

Where URLs are requested below, it is preferred that either URLs which are likely to remain stable over time (three years or more) are provided, or home (main) page URLs are provided with a short explanation of how to access the corresponding information.

The expression "industrial designs" covers industrial designs and models.
Offices which issue design patents should report their design patent information activities in this series of Annual Technical Reports.

I. GENERAL OVERVIEW OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN TRADEMARK INFORMATIO ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY THE OFFICE

Outline of main policies and plans aimed at development of trademark information activities and expected time frames for their realization

The Office completed work on the EU Trade Mark Directive 2015 which will come into effect on the 14 January 2019. Business guidance covering the Directive can be found on our website at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/implementation-of-the-trade-mark-directive-2015/implementation-of-the-eu-trade-mark-directive-2015

The Office is also preparing for the end of the EU transition period which includes carrying out work to our IT systems and business processes.

New projects launched or resumed this year in the context of the policies and plans mentioned above, short description: aims, partners, tasks

See information above relating to the implementation of the EU Trade Mark Directive 2015.

Main areas of trademark information activities and related information and communication technology (ICT) practices which were in the focus of attention last year

See information above relating to the implementation of the EU Trade Mark Directive 2015.

Statistics: changes in terms of application filings and registrations with respect to previous year; trends or areas experiencing rapid changes

Domestic Filings

2016 61681

2017 75121 (increase of 22%)

2018 84064 (increase of 11.9%)

2019 90449 (increase of 7.6%)

International Registrations

2016 4029

2017 8863 (increase of 120%)

2018 13294 (increase of 38.2%)

2019 1706 (increase of 27%)

International Applications

2016 2215

2017 2618 (increase of 18.2%)

2018 2842 (increase of 8.6%)

2019 2978 (increase of 4.8%)

Other matters and useful links (URLs): annual report of the Office, news page, statistics, etc.

Our website www.ipo.gov.uk moved in October 2014 to a new Government website GOV.UK and the new web address is now: https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/intellectual-property-office

Statistics related to trade marks at the Intellectual Property Office can be accessed through the annual reports, annual reviews and facts and figures at: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics?departments%5B%5D=intellectual-property-office

II. SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES RELATED TO TRADEMARK INFORMATION CARRIED OUT BY THE OFFICE

Information and support provided by the Office to applicants regarding filing on paper and/or e-filing (instructions, seminars, etc.) - URLs

Domestic filings - information regarding filing on paper and/or e-filing can be found at: https://www.gov.uk/how-to-register-a-trade-mark

International filings – information regarding filing an International Application (can only file via paper) can be found at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protecting-your-uk-intellectual-property-abroad/protecting-your-trade-mark-abroad

Availability of the application dossier in electronic form

Trade marks can be searched by application number, owner, key phase or word at: https://www.gov.uk/search-for-trademark

Matters concerning classifying
(i) Classification and reclassification activities; classification systems used, e.g., International Classification of Goods and Services for the Purposes of the Registration of Marks (Nice Classification), International Classification of the Figurative Elements of Marks (Vienna Classification), other classification
(ii) Use of electronic classification systems and pre-defined terms of the classification applied

Information regarding classifying can be found at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/how-to-classify-trade-marks

Matters concerning processing of different types of non-traditional marks (e.g., three-dimensional, motion, hologram, color mark, etc.)

Information regarding types of marks which can be registered can be found at: https://www.gov.uk/how-to-register-a-trade-mark/what-you-can-and-cant-register

Guidance on different types of non-traditional marks can also be found at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/trade-marks-manual/the-examination-guide

Other activities

The IPO is an active participant in WIPO's Standing Committee on the Law of Trade Marks, Industrial Designs & Geographical Indications and meets with other participating offices at WIPO during Madrid Working Group.
The IPO participates in EUIPO Cooperation Projects, Convergence Projects and improving the quality of data in TMview. The IPO is also actively involved in EUIPO liaison meetings on Trade Marks and Classification.

III. SOURCES OF TRADEMARK INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE OFFICE

Main types of publications in the field of trademark information, outline of the content and medium (on paper, on CDs, online - URLs)

Trade Marks Journal is published every week on a Friday and contains accepted applications for UK Trade Marks and International Trade marks that include the UK: https://www.gov.uk/check-trade-marks-journal

Trade Marks Act 1994 makes up part of the trade mark legislation in the UK: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/trade-marks-act-1994

Trade Mark Rules: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/trade-marks-rules

Manual of Trade Mark Practice sets out guidance on the Intellectual Property Office work practices: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/manual-of-trade-marks-practice

Practice Amendment Notices (PAN) announces changes to our practice, such as how we interpret a provision of the law, or how we handle applications: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/practice-amendment-notices-pan

Official Gazettes: main types of announcements, frequency of publication, medium (on paper, on CDs, online, URL), etc.

The Trade Marks Journal is published every week on a Friday and contains accepted applications for UK Trade Marks and International Trade Marks that include the UK: https://www.gov.uk/check-trade-marks-journal

Information products (coverage, medium, etc.) available to examiners, including external documentation and databases

Examiners use the Manual of Trade Marks Practice, the Trade Marks Act 1994, Trade Mark Rules, case law and researches trade mark applications on the Internet. They also liaise with Patent Examiners if the trade mark is of a technical nature.

Information products (coverage, medium, etc.) and services available to external users; conditions of access (e.g., free of charge, subscription, etc.)

Our main office is in Newport, South Wales, where the public can file applications and discuss possible IP protection with an IPO Advisor. In addition, we also have a front Office in London where customers can file applications.

Legal status information (kind of information, coverage, medium, etc.)

The legal status is contained on the UK Register and may be searched by application number, owner, key phase or word: https://www.gov.uk/search-for-trademark

Other sources

Nothing to report

IV. ICT SUPPORT TO SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES RELATED TO TRADEMARK INFORMATION CARRIED OUT BY THE OFFICE

Specific software tools supporting business procedures within the Office: general description, characteristics, advantages, possible improvements

Acsepto – stand-alone search system used by Examiners to search for earlier Trade Marks.

Hardware used to supporting business processes of the Office

Staff access a Windows 10 desktop via Microsoft Surface Pro devices, which are connected to two 24 inch widescreen monitors via a dock.

Internal databases: coverage, updates, interlinks with external sources

UKTM – database used to process domestic applications.
MPS – database used to process International Applications and Registrations.

Establishment and maintenance of electronic search file: file building, updating, storage, documents from other offices included in the search file

New applications and amendments to existing UK Trade Marks are published to our search repository every 10 minutes and are available using our Trade Mark Number and/or Owner electronic search services. New or amended images can take up to 24 hours to appear as they are processed overnight on a daily basis.

The keyword, phrase or image search service utilises information stored in our Acsepto search tool which is updated on a daily basis.

Information relating to EU Trade Marks is updated daily and International Marks on a weekly basis from data feeds provided by the EUIPO and WIPO respectively: https://www.gov.uk/search-for-trademark

Administrative management electronic systems (register, legal status, statistics, and administrative support)

Management information is produced from UKTM and MPS.

Other matters

Nothing to report.

V. PROMOTION ACTIVITIES AIMED TO SUPPORT USERS IN ACCESS AND EFFICIENT USE OF TRADEMARK INFORMATION

Office's library (if deals with trademark information): equipment, collection management, network of libraries in the country, cooperation with foreign libraries

The Patlib Network was founded by the European Patent Office but PATLIB UK is autonomous and driven by its members and the UK Intellectual Property Office (IPO).

PATLIB UK is a network of 16 libraries around the UK that offer help and support on intellectual property as well as other business topics. They are based in local libraries and therefore open to any member of public that wishes to attend.

One of the key offerings of the network is access to support in intellectual property searching. All centres have a minimum requirement to supply assisted searches to businesses, which includes the UK trade mark database, TMview. The centres also assist with classification searching through TMclass. Many take this further however by providing lessons to guide businesses on completing basic initial searches.

Training to deliver these services has been supplied by the IPO through the IP Master Class programme as well as ongoing individual training sessions as needed.

In addition to the guided searches some Patlib centres also offer a commercial trade mark searching service. This is at a low cost and is available to anyone; it is regularly used by businesses and individuals as well as IP Professionals.

As the centres are located within local libraries they make the most of free databases such as TMview and TMclass and due to lack of funding do not pay for any additional databases or tools. Our office, through the PATLIB UK Network and the British Library, takes part in numerous exchange programmes with other patent libraries around the world as in previous years.

Publications related to different business procedures and trademark information sources available to users, for example, books, brochures, Internet publications, etc.

Our main office is in Newport, South Wales, where the public can file applications and discuss possible IP protection with an IPO Advisor. In addition, we also have a front Office in London where customers can file applications.

Cooperation with universities, technology and innovation support centres, etc.

Our Business Outreach continues to raise awareness of IP, helping businesses reach an informed decision on how to use, manage, and enforce their IP to its full potential. This is done via a portfolio of business tools including mobile and online resources, seminars, workshops/training and working with partners to deliver broader dissemination and understanding of IP: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/intellectual-property-for-business

Education and training: training courses, e-learning modules (URLs), seminars, exhibitions, etc.

We continue to communicate IP awareness to young people from primary through to secondary school. We have developed a range of curriculum-linked education resources to raise awareness of innovation, creativity and intellectual property in partnership with UK Music, Aardman Animations and the Industry Trust.

Campaigns are supported through crackingideas.com an online hub to support UK and devolved Governments' curriculums plus advice and guidance for schools on intellectual property. We have introduced a new online tool for Universities (IP Tutor) helping students and lecturers understand intellectual property rights: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ip-in-education/ip-in-education

Other activities

All marketing and PR is carried out within the External Communications team and we are achieving great coverage particularly on our social networking platforms.

VI. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF TRADEMARK INFORMATION

International exchange of trademark information in machine-readable form (e.g., Official Gazettes)

The Trade Marks Journal is published every week on a Friday and contains accepted applications for UK Trade Marks and International Trade marks that include the UK: https://www.gov.uk/check-trade-marks-journal

Trade marks can be searched by application number, owner, key phase or word at: https://www.gov.uk/search-for-trademark

Participation in international or regional activities and projects related to trademark information

The IPO is an active participant in WIPO's Standing Committee on the Law of Trade Marks, Industrial Designs & Geographical Indications and meets with other participating offices at WIPO during Madrid Working Group.

The IPO participates in EUIPO Cooperation Projects, Convergence Projects and liaison meetings on trade marks and Classification.

Assistance to developing countries

Hosted Examiners from Trinidad & Tobago, Cyprus and Vietnam and gave an overview of UK law and practice.

Other activities

The IPO provide reports to World Trade Organisation on TRIPS Agreement, TRIPS responses details work done with other offices and relate to all areas of IP, reporting on activities around technology transfer and technical cooperation.

VII. OTHER RELATED MATTERS

Nothing to report.