

## HOW TO REGISTER A TRADE MARK AS A COMMUNITY TRADE MARK

### What rights does a Community trade mark registration give you?

A Community trade mark (CTM) registration covers all 27 member states of the European Union\*. A CTM Registration has to be renewed every ten years. A CTM registration gives you exclusive rights to use the trade mark in the European Union. A trade mark registration can stop another trader using a mark which is either identical or similar to the registered trade mark, in relation to goods or services which are identical or similar to the registered goods and services. In certain circumstances, a trade mark registration can stop the use of an identical or similar mark on wholly dissimilar goods.

CTM registrations are vulnerable to revocation if the trade mark covered by the registration has not been used in any five-year period following the date of grant of the registration. A CTM registration can be used to claim 'priority' in relation to trade mark applications filed outside the European Union, if such applications are filed within six months of the filing date of the CTM application. This means that if a foreign trade mark application is filed within six months of the CTM application and priority is claimed, the filing date of the foreign application will effectively become that of the CTM application.

\*Member states of the European Union:

Austria	Finland	Lithuania	Slovenia
Belgium	France	Luxembourg	Spain
Bulgaria	Germany	Malta	Sweden
Czech Republic	Greece	The Netherlands	Republic of Ireland
Cyprus	Hungary	Poland	Romania
Denmark	Italy	Portugal	United Kingdom
Estonia	Latvia	Slovak Republic	

### What information do we require to file a Community trade mark application?

- Full name and address of applicant;
- Country and state, if appropriate, of incorporation of the applicant;
- Details of the trade mark to be registered;
- If the trade mark consists of a logo, a good representation of the logo, preferably by e-mail in jpeg format;
- Details of the goods and services to be sold under the trade mark;
- Details of any foreign trade mark application on which priority is to be claimed, if appropriate.

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## COMMUNITY TRADE MARK APPLICATION PROCESS (ASSUMING NO SIGNIFICANT OBJECTION)

