



Singapore

IP OFFICE

Industrial Property (Patents, Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Copyright)	
Competent Authority	Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS)
Web site address	http://www.ipos.gov.sg
Address	1 Paya Lebar Link #11-03 PLQ 1, Paya Lebar Quarter Singapore 408533
Telephone	(65) 6339 8616
E-mail	IPOS_enquiry@ipos.gov.sg

MAIN IP INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS TO WHICH THE COUNTRY IS PARTY

S.No.	Signature	In Force Since
1.	Berne Convention	December 21, 1998
2.	Brussels Convention	April 27, 2005
3.	Budapest Convention	February 23, 1995
4.	Hague Agreement	April 17, 2005
5.	Madrid Protocol	October 31, 2000
6.	Marrakesh VIP Treaty	September 30, 2015
7.	Nice Agreement	March 18, 1999
8.	Paris Convention	February 23, 1995
9.	Patent Cooperation Treaty	February 23, 1995
10.	Singapore Treaty	March 16, 2009
11.	UPOV Convention	July 30, 2004
12.	WIPO Convention	December 10, 1990
13.	WIPO Copyright Treaty	April 17, 2005
14.	WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty	April 17, 2005

For more information please refer to:

https://www.wipo.int/treaties/en/ShowResults.jsp?country_id=154C

IP Rights	Main Legal Requirements	Duration	Responsible Authority
Copyright	- Originality	Life of author + 70 years	IPOS
Trademarks	- Distinctive - Not in conflict with prior signs - Not generic - Not descriptive - Not contrary to Public Order/Morality - Not identical to state symbols	10 years renewable	IPOS
Patents	- Novelty - Inventive step - Industrial Applicability	20 Years (But see grounds for possible extension: sect, 36A)	IPOS
Industrial Designs	- New worldwide	15 Years	IPOS

PATENT SYSTEM	
National Law	Patents Act (Chapter 221) https://www.ipos.gov.sg/resources/ip-legislation
Requirement of Agent for foreigners	Yes, if no address for service in Singapore
Language in which request may be filed	English
Non-Patentable Subjects	Offensive, immoral or anti-social inventions are not patentable (sect. 13.2) (a) a discovery, scientific theory or mathematical method; (b) a literary, dramatic, musical or artistic work or any other aesthetic creation whatsoever; (c) a scheme, rule or method for performing a mental act, playing a game or doing business, or a program for a computer; or (d) the presentation of information. (Part 8 of the Examination Guidelines for Patent Applications at IPOS)
Substantive Examination	Yes (Sect. 29)
Opposition System	There are grounds for revocation of a patent.
PCT international application through the national office of the country as a receiving office under the PCT	https://www.wipo.int/export/sites/www/pct/guide/en/gdvol1/annexes/annexc/ax_c_sg.pdf
PCT international application to the national office of the country as a designated office under the PCT	https://www.wipo.int/export/sites/www/pct/guide/en/gdvol2/annexes/sg.pdf

INDUSTRIAL DESIGN SYSTEM	
National Law	Registered Designs Act (Chapter 266) https://www.ipos.gov.sg/resources/ip-legislation
Language	English
Non-Registrable Subjects	Designs that are not new (sect. 5) or that are contrary to public order and morality (sect. 6), computer programs (sect. 7)
Substantive Examination	No, only formality examination (sect. 19)
Opposition System	There are grounds for revocation of a registered design.
Designs for a set of designs	Yes (sect. 11.4). However, only if the various items encompassing the design fall under the same class of the Locarno Classification.
International application through and to the national office of the country under the Hague System: Please refer also the following website.	https://www.wipo.int/hague/memberprofiles/#/result?countries=10262&datafields=9581,9579,9578,9580,9577,9586,9588,9590,9589,9592,9587,9585,9591,9593,9584,9583,9582,9645

TRADEMARK SYSTEM	
National Law	Trade Marks Act (Chapter 332) https://www.ipos.gov.sg/resources/ip-legislation
Subjects of Protection	Trademarks and services marks, certification marks, collective marks, (sect. 2 and 60 and 61)
Language	English
Term of Trademark Protection	10 years renewable (sect. 18 and 19)
Non-Registrable Subjects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Absolute grounds (sect. 7) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Generic marks (sect 7,1.d) o Exclusively descriptive marks (sect. 7.1.c) o Contrary to public order /morality (sect. 7.4.a) o Misleading (sect. 7.4.b) o Registration in bad faith (sect. 7.6) - Relative grounds (sect. 8) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Signs identical or similar to earlier signs - See other cases in sect. 7 and 8.
Substantive Examination	Yes (sect. 12)
Opposition System	Yes (sect. 13) There are grounds for revocation of a trade mark.
International application through the national office of the country as an office of origin under the Madrid System	https://www.wipo.int/madrid/memberprofiles/#/result?countries=9194&datafields=9583,9582,9584
International application to the	https://www.wipo.int/madrid/memberprofiles/#/result?countries=9194&datafields=9583,9582,9584

national office of the country as a designated office of designated country under the Madrid System	ies=9194&datafields=9584,9582,9583,9628,9595,9612,9619,9616,9618,9607,9610,9606,9621,9609,9615,9613,9611,9608,9617,9614,9620,9605,9601,9603,9600,9598,9596,9604,9602,9597,9599,9636,9633,9634,9637,9635,9640,9639,9631,9629,9630,9638,9627,9623,9626,9625,9624,9622,9593,9585,9594,9586,9589,9587,9591,9592,9588,9590
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COPYRIGHT SYSTEM	
National Law	Copyright Act (Chapter 63) https://www.ipos.gov.sg/resources/ip-legislation
Subjects of Protection	Original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic works See full list in sect. 4 (definitions)
Subjects not protected by copyright	Mere ideas are not protected by Copyright. Expression of Idea in the original work is protected as per section 27.
Foreign Copyright Holders	Singapore is a party to Berne Convention, hence works of foreign copyright holders are automatically protected.
Moral Rights	Moral Rights are protected. Protection covers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not to falsely attribute the authorship of a work or the identity of a performer of a performance; - Not to falsely represent altered work or a recording of a performance as unaltered; and - Not to falsely attribute the authorship of a reproduction of an artistic work. (Sect. 188, 189 & 190)
Economic Rights	a) In the case of a literary, dramatic or musical work: to reproduce the work in a material form; (ii) to publish the work if the work is unpublished; (iii) to perform the work in public; (iv) to communicate the work to the public; (v) to make an adaptation of the work; (vi) to do, in relation to a work that is an adaptation of the first-mentioned work, any of the acts specified in relation to the first-mentioned work. b) In the case of an artistic work: (i) to reproduce the work in a material form; (ii) to publish the work in Singapore or any country in relation to which this Act applies, if the work is unpublished; (iii) to communicate the work to the public; and (c) in the case of a computer program, to enter into a commercial rental arrangement in respect of the program unless the program is not the essential object of the rental See full list in Sect. 26

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER OFFICE IN THE COUNTRY

Some of the main Singapore Public Institutions with Technology Transfer Activities:

- A*STAR (Agency for Science, Technology & Research)
- (i) BMRC (BioMedical Research Council)
- GIS (Genome Institute of Singapore)
- IMCB (Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology)
- (ii) SERC (Science and Engineering Research Council)
- DSI (Data Storage Institute)
- ICES (Institute of Chemical and Engineering Sciences)
- IHL (Institute of Higher Learning)
- (i) NUS (National University of Singapore)
- (ii) NTU (Nanyang Technological University)
- (iii) SMU (Singapore Management University) (iv) Polytechnics

ATTORNEYS IN THE COUNTRY

Please see official list at:

https://www.ipos.gov.sg/docs/default-source/default-document-library/1-april-2019-official-register-of-patents-agents_updc5d01a77c2d0635fa1cdff0000abd271.pdf

FILING PROCEDURES

Patents

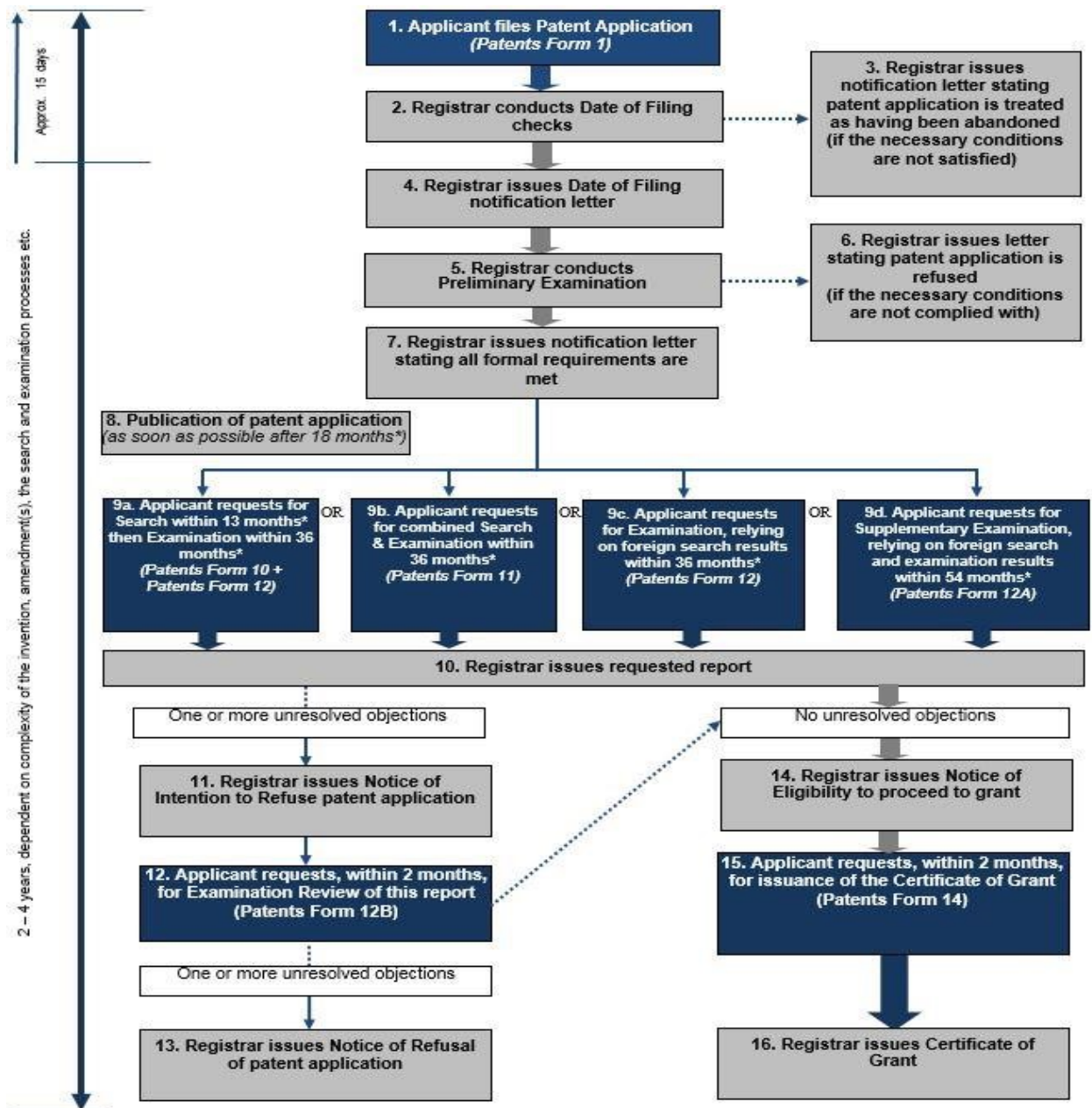
Procedures for obtaining a Patent in Singapore under the National Law

1. A complete application (respecting all requirements provided by sect. 25) is filed with IPOS.
2. If the application complies with the legal requirements a filing date is issued (sect. 26).
3. The application is published on the journal (sect. 27).
4. The application is subject to the preliminary examination (sect. 28).
5. In case of deficiencies, IPOS will indicate the reason(s) and provide time (two months) for addressing the issue(s).
6. If there are no deficiencies, or if these are amended/ corrected, the applicant can then request that the application is subjected to search and/or examination (or supplementary examination).
7. The Registrar will communicate to the applicant the findings of the examiner and indicates if there are objections (in which case it provides in writing the reasons and the timeframe for addressing the issues).
8. If there are no objections or they are resolved, the Registrar issues a notice of eligibility to proceed to the grant of a patent (sect. 29.A).
9. Once the application complies with all requirements and received a notice of eligibility for a grant of a patent, a request for issuance of grant of patent can be made. A granted patent will have a certificate issued and will be published in the Journal (sect. 35).

Additional information relating to the Procedures for obtaining a Patent in Singapore through the PCT

- The time limit for entering the Singapore national phase of a PCT application is 30 months from the priority date.
- Special Requirements of IPOS for entry into National Phase: Sect. 85-88)
 - Verification of translation of international application
 - Name and address of the inventor if they have not been furnished in the “Request” part of the international application
 - Address for service in Singapore.

Flow Chart for obtaining a Patent in Singapore



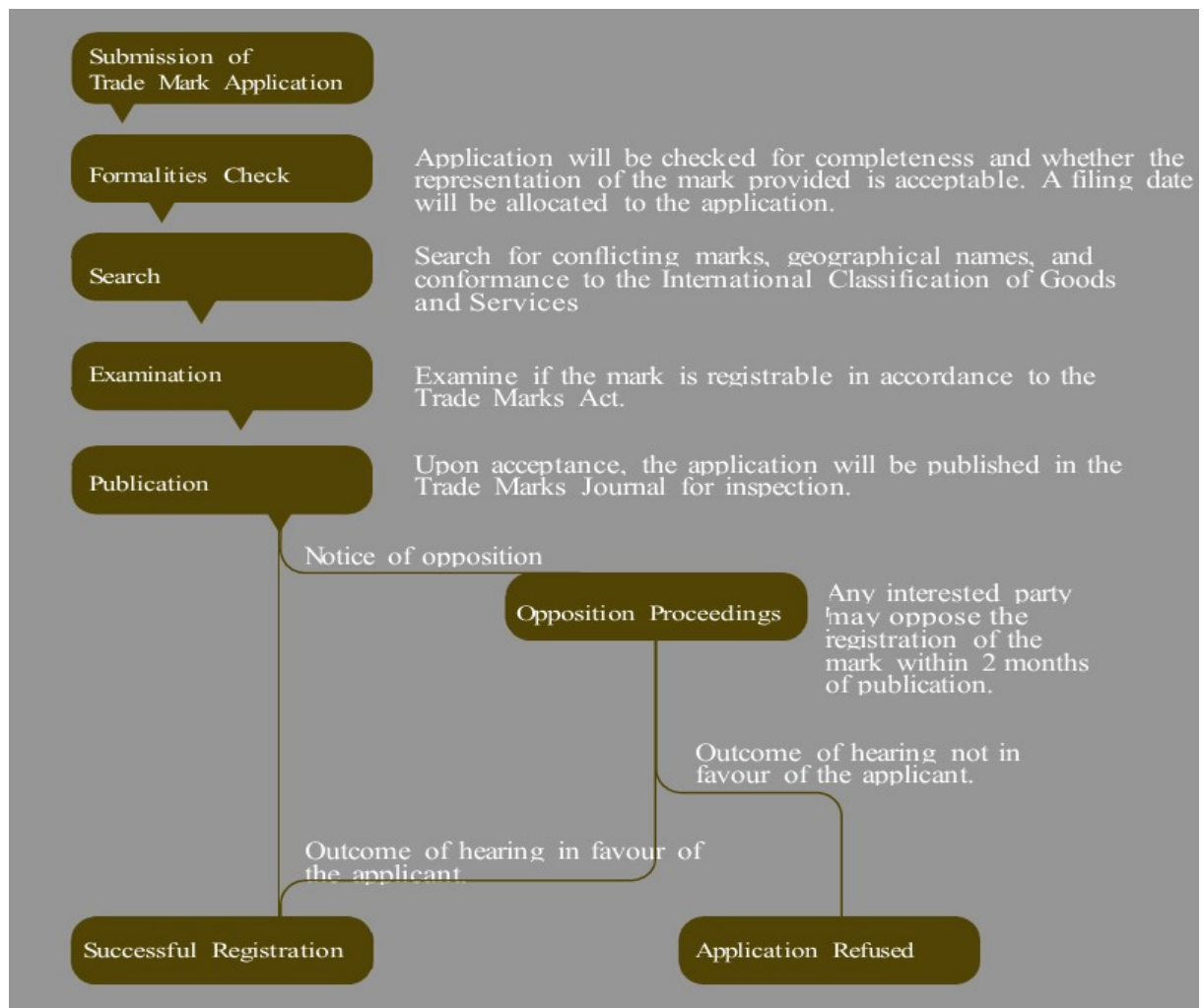
Flow chart provided by the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore.

Trademarks

Procedure for obtaining a Trademark in Singapore under the National Law

- A complete application (respecting all requirements provided by sect. 5) is filed with IPOS.
- If the application complies at least with the requirements, a filing date is issued.
- The application is processed for formality and substantive examination (sect. 12).
- In case of deficiencies or objections, IPOS will indicate the reasons and providing time (4 months) for addressing the issues.
- If there are no deficiencies or objections, or if these are amended/corrected, the application is published (sect. 13) for two months in the official gazette to allow third parties to file oppositions against its registration.
- If no oppositions are filed, or if they are unsuccessful, IPOS issues a certificate of registration (sect. 15).

Flow Chart for obtaining a Trademark in Singapore



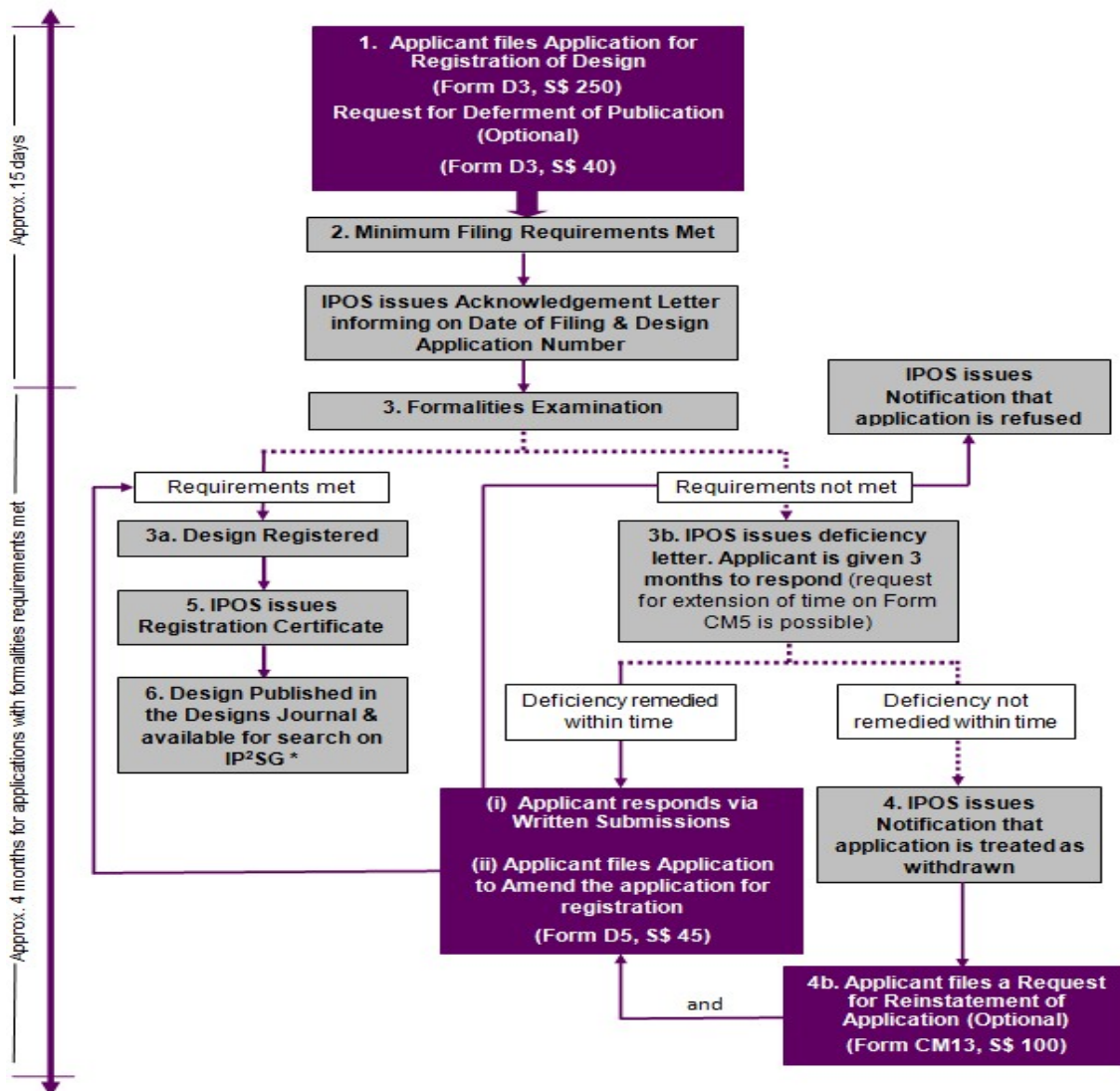
Flow chart provided by the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore.

Industrial Designs

Procedures for obtaining a Registered Design in Singapore under the National Law

- An application (respecting all requirements provided by sect. 11) is filed with IPOS.
- The application is processed for formal examination (sect. 17).
- In case of deficiencies, IPOS will indicate the reason(s) and provide time (three months) for addressing the issue(s).
- If there are no deficiencies, or if these are amended/corrected, the registration is granted, the certificate is issued and the registration is published in the Journal (sect. 18).

Flow Chart for obtaining an Industrial Design in Singapore



* If there is a request to defer the publication, the design will be published and available for search after the expiry of the 18-month deferment period.

Flow chart provided by the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore.