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01. USPTO announces Cancer Moonshot Expedited Examination Pilot Program

**PERTAINING TO
METHODS OF
TREATING A CANCER
USING
IMMUNOTHERAPY**

To further accelerate innovation in the health and medical fields, the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) has published a Federal Register Notice announcing a new program: The Cancer Moonshot Expedited Examination Pilot Program. Beginning on February 1, 2023, the new program expedites examination for a broad scope of technologies to prevent cancer and cancer mortality, in support of President Biden's Cancer Moonshot. Patent applications pertaining to the qualifying technologies will be advanced out of turn for examination and will be reviewed earlier (accorded special status) ... [Read more](#)

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02. Public Notice regarding Pre/Post Grant Opposition Hearings in Patents

**IN TIMELY DISPOSAL
OF LONG PENDING
APPLICATIONS**

All the stakeholders are hereby informed that due to large number of pending patent applications awaiting disposal with or without pre-grant oppositions as well as post-grant opposition matters against the grant of patents, the practice of giving four weeks' time from the date of hearing intimation/notice is dispensed with and the earlier practice of 10 days' time from the date of hearing intimation/notice, which is also prescribed under rule 129 of the Patents Rules, 2003 (as amended), will be followed by all the Controllers of Patents with immediate effect. It has been decided keeping in view the public interest involved in timely disposal of long pending applications/matters and also the benefits of Patent rights conferred upon the applicants under Chapter VIII of the Patents Act, 1970 (as amended). ... [Read more](#)

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03. New Plant Variety Rights Act and Regulations will commence on 24 January 2023

FARM-MADE SEED FROM THE COVERAGE OF THE NEW RIGHTS

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The Plant Variety Rights Bill recently passed its third reading on 16 November 2022, and received Royal Assent on 18 November, becoming the Plant Variety Rights Act 2022 ("the new Act").

- *Plant Variety Rights Act 2022 — New Zealand Legislation*
- *The Plant Variety Rights Regulations 2022 will be available on the New Zealand Legislation website from 22 December 2022.*

The new Act creates a new, modern Plant Variety Rights (PVR) regime that meets responsibilities to Māori under the Treaty of Waitangi. In addition, it allows New Zealand to meet international trade obligations under the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific...[Read more](#)

04. Mauritius Joins the PCT

THIS WILL BE THE 157TH MEMBER OF THE PCT UNION

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On December 15, 2022, the Government of Mauritius deposited its instrument of accession to the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) with WIPO's Director General. The PCT will enter into force for Mauritius on March 15, 2023.

The accession of Mauritius to the PCT will make it the 157th member of the PCT Union.

As from March 15, 2023, applicants and inventors in Mauritius will be able to file patent applications under the PCT as a means of seeking patent protection in PCT Contracting States.

Likewise, starting from March 15, 2023, foreign innovators and companies will be able to use the PCT System to seek patent protection for their inventions....[Read more](#)

05. New rules on submitting evidence to the EUIPO

REQUIREMENTS WITH E-COMMUNICATION THROUGH THE USER AREA.

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From 1 February 2023 new requirements will apply when submitting annexes on data carriers, such as USB flash drives, pen drives or similar memory units.

The changes are part of the recently published Decision No EX-22-7 which stipulates several changes on the EUIPO's rules on submitting evidence on data carriers, including: Only unlayered PDFs (i.e. standard, static PDF files) are acceptable. Encrypted, executable and/or compressed files are not acceptable; 20 Mb is the maximum size of each individual file saved on the data carrier. The changes are intended to reduce delays and to align, where applicable, the requirements with...[Read more](#)

06. Revisions to Part I of the Patent Examination Guidelines Come into Effect on December 1, 2022

AN ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE MAY BE ACCEPTED

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TIPO has made revisions to Part I of the Patent Examination Guidelines regarding procedural examination and patent rights management. Main revisions are as follows:

I. Chapter 1 - Procedures for Filing Patent Applications and Related Patent Matters Electronic signatures are on the rise. As the documents submitted for patent applications are primarily governed by private law, an electronic signature may be accepted as long as both parties can agree to the validity thereof. TIPO has therefore revised "1.2.4 Signatures for Electronic Documents" to relax requirements for signature formats. The signee only needs to provide a form of signature (whether it be a signature, stamp, or electronic signature) that matches ... [Read more](#)

7. Public Consultation for an Intangibles Disclosure Framework to Increase Transparency and Commercialisation of Intangibles

**INCLUDE
TECHNOLOGIES, BRAND
RECOGNITION, DATA,
TRADE SECRETS, & IP**

The Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA) and the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS) have launched a public consultation for an Intangibles Disclosure Framework (Framework) to help businesses disclose and communicate their intangibles. The public consultation exercise will run from 14 December 2022 to 28 February 2023.

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A public-private initiative supported by the Ministry of Finance, the Framework was developed by the Intangibles Disclosure Industry Working Group which comprises representatives from the accounting, valuation, legal and finance sectors... [Read more](#)

8. PPH pilot program between the Japan Patent Office (JPO) and the National Institute of Industrial property of Brazil (INPI)

**JPO AND THE INPI
WILL START PCT-PPH
IN THIS PILOT
PROGRAM**

On 1 January 2022, the JPO and the INPI will start PCT-PPH in this pilot program. This will allow applicants to file a PPH request with the INPI based on international work products (Written Opinion (WO) and International Preliminary Examination Report (IPER)) produced by the JPO as well as to file a PPH request based on international work products produced by the INPI. The INPI will accept up to 100 PCT-PPH requests in addition to 700 normal PPH requests (total numbers from the INPI's all PPH partners including- the JPO, max. 150 for each IPC section) annually, increasing the total acceptable number to ... [Read more](#)

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9. New Upgrades to TIPO's Digital Services – Online Certificates for Patents and Trademarks Available from 2023

**REDUCE THE COST OF
PRINTING AND
MAILING PAPER
COPIES**

To ensure TIPO offers more comprehensive digital services that better align with global trends, TIPO plans to offer online certificates for patents and trademarks from January 2023. The paperless process will make it more convenient for right holders to obtain and save their certificates, as well as reduce the cost of printing and mailing paper copies – a beneficial step towards achieving sustainable development goals of conserving energy and reducing carbon emissions.

For the applicant's convenience, TIPO will not make online certificates mandatory for all. The applicant may choose either an online or paper certificate when requesting their patent.... [Read more](#)

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10. Twelfth Edition of the Nice Classification

**COME INTO FORCE IN
NEW ZEALAND ON 1
JANUARY 2023**

The Twelfth Edition of the International Classification of Goods and Services (Nice Classification) will come into force in New Zealand on 1 January 2023. Specifications of goods and services for trade mark applications filed after 1 January 2023 must be filed in accordance with this version of the Nice Classification. We are currently updating our guidelines and system to reflect these changes. For more information on the Nice Classification, and what's changing in this edition, please see the WIPO website:

- *Nice Classification overview*
- *Nice Classification database*
- *File downloads, revisions and explanatory notes....[Read more](#)*

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11. Belize Joins the Madrid System

EXPAND PROTECTION OF YOUR REGISTRATION

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Belize is the latest country to join the Madrid System, expanding the global coverage of WIPO's International Trademark System to 129 countries. The Government of Belize deposited its instrument of accession to the Madrid Protocol on November 24, 2022. Belize is the 113th member of the Madrid System. This accession further strengthens the Madrid System's status as a truly global option for trademark protection in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Madrid Protocol will enter into force in Belize on February 24, 2023. Starting February 24, 2023....

Brand owners in Belize will be able to seek protection of their trademarks in any of the other 128 [Read more](#)

12. JPO Conducted Design-Training Program for MyIPO Examiners on International Registration of Designs and on Graphic Images

DESIGN CLASSIFICATION IN RELATION TO GRAPHIC IMAGES

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The Japan Patent Office (JPO) conducted a two-day, online, design-training program for members of the Intellectual Property Corporation of Malaysia (MyIPO) on November 29-30, 2022. Around 10 design examiners attended from the MyIPO. The training program was led by a JPO expert in charge of international cooperation in the design field, as well as by a JPO design examiner who is highly experienced in design examination. During the program, the trainers shared their respective knowledge and experiences in the field of design....[Read more](#)

13.U.S. Copyright Office Concludes Study on Best Edition Requirements

**REQUIREMENT
SHOULD BE MADE
MORE EFFICIENT AND
EASIER**

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Today the U.S. Copyright Office published the results of its study on the advisability of modifying the Copyright Act's best edition requirement to apply only to mandatory deposits for the Library of Congress (under section 407 of the Act) and not to registration deposits for the Copyright Office (under section 408 of the Act). The study was undertaken in response to a request from Senate Judiciary Intellectual Property Subcommittee Ranking Member Thom Tillis.

After consideration of public comments, consultations with the Library of Congress, and analysis of the best edition requirement's policy objectives, as well as the practical operation of the relevant sections of the Copyright Act, the Office concludes that statutory amendments are not warranted at this time...[Read more](#)