

FAST-TRACKING INNOVATION: LAUNCH OF PATENT AND TRADE MARK ACCELERATION PROGRAMMES BY THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE OF SINGAPORE

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Introduction

1. On 20 May 2025, the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore ("IPOS") launched the Patents and Trade Marks Acceleration programmes.
2. The purpose of these programmes is to allow the fast tracking of eligible patent and trade mark applications with a payment of a fee.

The Acceleration Programme

SG Patents Fast

3. SG Patents Fast offers the following types of acceleration:
 - a. **SG Patents Fast 4:** The first office action will be issued within four (4) months of successful application.
 - b. **SG Patents Fast 8:** The first office action will be issued within eight (8) months of successful application.
4. Subsequent office actions will be issued within four (4) months of successful application.
5. Qualification criteria for SG Patents Fast include the following:
 - a. The patent application must not be a divisional application in Singapore.
 - b. The patent application must contain 20 or fewer claims.
 - c. Each entity, be it individual or corporate, can make up to five acceleration requests per month.
6. The acceleration fees, which are subject to change, are as follows:

	SG Patents Fast 4	SG Patents Fast 8
Search and examination	S\$1,800	S\$900
Examination only	S\$1,200	S\$600
Response to examination objections	S\$150	S\$150

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SG Trade Marks Fast

7. SG Trade Marks Fast allows applicants to receive the first examination report or publication of the subject mark within three (3) to six (6) weeks of application.
8. To qualify for the programme:
 - a. The trade mark application must be for a national trade mark application.
 - b. The application must not be for a certification or collective mark.
 - c. The request for acceleration and payment of the acceleration fee must be made when the trade mark is filed.
9. There is no limit on the number of acceleration requests, and it will automatically apply to all classes in a trade mark application for multiple classes.

	Classes that <u>fully adopt</u> pre-approved specifications from IPOS' Classification Database	Classes that <u>do not fully adopt</u> pre-approved specifications from IPOS' Classification Database
Cost for acceleration request	S\$200 per class	S\$250 per class

Commentary

10. The new acceleration programmes provide commercial flexibility to businesses. Businesses will now have greater flexibility in aligning timelines for the commercialisation of their products and the protection of their trademarks and patents.
11. The SG Trade Marks Fast will also allow businesses to use an accelerated Singapore application as a “test case”, given the short examination timeframe of 3 to 6 weeks. Businesses may then use this experience to expand their trade mark filings in other countries.
12. Businesses should be aware that applications for the acceleration do not equate to acceptance – the acceleration programmes simply speed up the registration (or rejection, as the case may be) process.
13. If you have any queries on the acceleration programmes or require any advice on intellectual property law in Singapore please do not hesitate to contact our partners Mr Tan Tee Jim, SC (tanteejim@leenlee.com.sg) or Mr. Jasper Lim (jasperlim@leenlee.com.sg).

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