

EU Trade Mark Application timeline

EU Trade Marks, which cover the entire EU, are administered by the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO).

The timeline below gives approximate timescale to achieve registration in a straightforward case, in the absence of objections or oppositions.

Time (months)	
0	File EU trade mark application, examination as to formalities
6-8	Examination on absolute grounds only; national search reports issue if these have been requested on application; EUIPO issue search report of EUTM register
9	Acceptance of application where no objections raised and publication for opposition purposes
12-18	Registration certificate issues
	EU Trade Mark Registrations last indefinitely provided use criteria met, with renewal fees payable every 10 years

An EU trade mark registration will cover the following EU Member States, and extends to cover new Member States as and when they join:

Austria	Estonia	Italy	Portugal
Belgium	Finland	Latvia	Romania
Bulgaria	France	Lithuania	Slovakia
Croatia	Germany	Luxembourg	Slovenia
Cyprus	Greece	Malta	Spain
Czech Rep.	Hungary	Netherlands	Sweden
Denmark	Ireland	Poland	



European Patent (opposition) appeal process

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Time (months)		
0	Written decision of the Opposition Division issued	
2	Patent proprietor and / or opponent file notice of appeal, appeal fee paid, hearing requested	
4	Party / parties file grounds of appeal Board of appeal send copies to other parties	
8	Response to grounds may be filed by other party	
48	Board of appeal summons parties to hearing	
54	Board of appeal issues provisional opinion	
56	Final submissions submitted by party / parties (1m pre-hearing)	
57	Hearing (decision on day)	
	Hearing decision issued in writing Image: Additional system Image: Additional system Image: Additional system Image: Additional system Image: Additional system Image: Additional system Patent maintained in granted form Patent maintained in amended form Patent revoked	
63	Pay re-printing fee and translate claims	
66	Publication of decision	

National re-validation deadline

This timeline is for guidance only, and the actual deadlines will vary from case to case.

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UK Patent Application timeline

The following timeline charts the events throughout the life of a patent application until the patent is granted.

Patent applications in the UK are administered by the Intellectual Property Office (IPO), formerly known as the Patent Office.

The process can take a number of years, although it is possible to accelerate the application's progress.

Time (months)		
0	File UK patent application	
6	File a search request before 6 months to get a search report before 12 months	
12	Add claims & abstract, final deadline for requesting searchFile any overseas and / or international applications	
18	The application is published	
24	Request examination and pay fee	
36 (approx.)	The application enters substantive examination, First examination report issued, Response filed within (typically) 4 month period	
	Patent granted OR Second examination report issued. Examination continues until refusal or grant.	
48	First renewal fee due (only if a patent has been granted)	
54	Earliest deadline for putting the application in order for grant	



International Trade Mark Application timeline

- An International Registration uses a national application/registration as the base and can be used to designate a number of countries worldwide. The below time line is based on an International application with a UK application/registration used as the base.
- This time line is based on the procedure for filing an International Registration under the Madrid Protocol. Please contact a trade mark attorney for an updated list of countries which may be designated under the Madrid Protocol.

Time (months)	1 1 1 1 1
0	File UK national trade mark application which will act as the basis for the International Registration. Alternatively, use an existing UK national trade mark registration as the basis.
1-2	File International application at the UK Registry who will check the application as to formalities. If everything is in order, the application will be sent to WIPO.
3	If acceptable, WIPO will issue the Registration Certificate and publish the International Registration.
5	International Registration is then sent to each designated country for examination. The designation will be treated in each case as though it were a national application and will be subject to each country's particular rules and procedures as to examination and publication.
15-21	Each national office has 12 - 18 months from the date of registration to examine and provisionally refuse the designation. If the holder has received three communications from the national offices by this stage, the designation can be presumed to be registered. Subsequent designations can be made at any point during the lifetime time of the International Registration.
	International Registrations under the Madrid Protocol last indefinitely provided use criteria met, with renewal fees payable every 10 years.



European Patent Application timeline

Time (months)		
0	File one of a German, French, and UK "priority founding" patent application	
12	File European application	
18	Application published (usually without search report)	
18-24	Search report issued and published	
24-30	File request for substantive examination (due 6m after publication of search)	
36	First renewal fee due (whilst the application is pending)	
36-48	The application enters substantive examination, First examination report issued, Response filed within (typically) 4 month period	
48	Examiner issues decision to grantORSecond examination report issued. Examination continues until refusal or grant.	
	Grant fees and claims translations into FR & DE due	
60+	Grant date starts the 9 month opposition period	
	National validation due within 3 months of grant in any of the following territories or elect for a Unitary Patent covering the countries with an asterisk (*) in a single patent:	
Albania Austria* Belgium* Bulgaria* Switzerland Cyprus Czech Rep.	Germany*GreeceLithuania*NorwaySlovakiaDenmark*CroatiaLuxembourg*PolandTurkeyEstonia*HungaryLatvia*Portugal*SpainIrelandMonacoRomania* States: Finland*IcelandMalta*Serbia States: France*Italy*North MacedoniaSlovenia*BosniaUKLiechtensteinNorth MacedoniaSlovenia*and Hz.	

It is also possible to obtain a patent covering Hong Kong, Morocco, Republic of Moldova, Tunisia, Cambodia and Georgia (and soon Costa Rica and Laos) via the European Patent system. If you are interested in patent protection in any of these territories, or protection in any European state, please contact us for more information.



International Design Protection filing strategy

Registered Designs are rarely examined, rather granted in a short space of time with their validity only being put in issue when enforced.

Registered Designs in the UK are administered by the Intellectual Property Office (IPO), formerly known as the Patent Office.

EU Registered Designs, which cover the entire EU, are administered by the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO).

Time (months)	
0	File UK or EU "priority founding" registered design application
1-3	UK or EU design is registered
6	Overseas applications filed
12-18	Overseas applications registered
60	First renewal fee due for UK or EU design
	UK & EU designs last up to 25 years with renewal fees payable every 5 years



International Patent Protection filing strategy

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Time (months)	· ·	
0	File one of a UK, French or German "pri	iority founding" patent application
12	File PCT International Application to cover 152 countries & regions	File national applications
	International search report	in non-PCT countries e.g. Taiwan, Argentina
16-17	At the 30 / 31 month deadline the "national phase" or "regional phase" must be entered by filing in individual countries and / or regions.	
	Examples are:	
30	USA Japan	Taiwanese patent
31	Australia Europe*	Argentine patent
48	USA patent V V V V V V	
96+	Japanese patent UK patent	French patent German patent

*A European patent application can become a national patent in up to 39 countries, including non-EU states in Europe.



Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) Application timeline

The following timeline charts the events throughout the life of a PCT or "international" application.

PCT applications are administered by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), although can be filed at the IPO.

The main benefit of the PCT application is to defer the costs of national patent protection until 30-31 months from the priority date (rather than 12 months).

Time (months)	 	
0	File UK patent application	
12	File PCT application	
16-17	International search report and written opinion issued	
18	Application and search report published	
18-19	File claim amendments and / or arguments without re-examination fee	
22		File amendments and / or arguments with re-examination fee
27-29		International preliminary examination report issued
30-31	At the 30 / 31 month deadline the "national phase" or "regional phase" must be entered by filing in individual countries and / or regions.	
	Proceed with national and / or regional phase app See "International patent protection filing strategy"	



UK Trade Mark Application timeline

Trade Mark registrations in the UK are administered by the Intellectual Property Office (IPO), formerly known as the Patent Office.

The timeline below gives approximate timescale to achieve registration in a straightforward case, in the absence of objections or oppositions.

Time (months)	
0	File UK trade mark application, examination as to formalities
1-2	Examination on absolute grounds only, issuance of examination report
3	Acceptance of application and publication for opposition purposes for two months (extendable by a further month)
5-7	Registration certificate issued
	UK Trade Mark Registrations last indefinitely provided use criteria met, with renewal fees payable every 10 years



Timeline for Opposition Procedure



Entire procedure approximately 2 to 4.5 years