



Trade Mark Searches

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What is a trade mark search?

It is a search that is made in order to locate earlier marks (by which we mean registered trade marks and applications for such registrations) that are likely to interfere with the proposed use or registration of your mark.

What types of searches do we offer?

In the United Kingdom we offer three levels of trade mark search:-

Identical Search

We use the search facility on the Intellectual Property Office (IPO) website to check for any earlier marks that are identical to your own. The charge that we make is not for doing the search (because the IPO search function is quick to use and available free to all) but for providing the advice regarding the outcome of the search.

Charge per mark: £50 plus VAT

Exploratory Search

This search is a little 'broader' than our identical search and is intended to find not just identical earlier marks but also some marks that are confusingly similar as well, e.g., obvious mis-spellings. Again, we use the search facility on the IPO website to carry out this searching and the charge that we make is for providing the advice regarding the outcome of the searching.

This is not a comprehensive search and will not therefore necessarily locate all earlier marks that might be considered to be confusingly similar. It is intended to be a brief peek, a mere 'toe in the water', just to see whether there are any earlier marks that are potentially of interest.

Charge per mark: £100 plus VAT

Full Clearance Search

This is our only comprehensive search and is intended to alert you to all relevant earlier marks that have legal effect in the United Kingdom and which could therefore represent a potential problem to the use or registration of your mark. We utilise a commercial database to carry out the searching.

We have a separate information sheet explaining the extent and limitations of the full clearance search which we will provide to you if you are interested in this type of search.

Charge per mark: £500 plus VAT (up to 5 classes, £50 per additional class)

Do we offer any other searching?

Yes, we also carry out searching in other countries as well as other specialist trade mark searches. We would be happy to discuss these other searches with you in order to tailor our services to your specific needs.