

Intellectual Property Office of Singapore
Registry of Geographical Indications
Circular No. 4/2022: IPOS Digital Hub Launch on 2 June 2022

IPOS Digital Hub Launch on 2 June 2022
(Circular No. 4/2022, dated 25 May 2022)

(A) Gazette of Legislative Amendments and Fee Updates

The Intellectual Property (Amendment) Act 2022, and amendments to the various IP subsidiary legislation to effect process changes and fee updates will be implemented on 26 May 2022. The legislative amendments are accessible to the public through [Singapore Statutes Online](#) from 23 May 2022.

(B) Electronic Online System (“EOS”) and Alternative Filing Modes

To support the transition to IPOS Digital Hub, IPOS has issued a Practice Direction to specify the updated practice to be adopted when using the Electronic Online System (“EOS”) and alternative filing modes provided by IPOS.

The [IPOS Digital Hub Practice Direction \(No. 1 of 2022\)](#) will take effect on 26 May 2022.

(C) Excluded Days

To facilitate users’ smooth transition to IPOS Digital Hub, the Registrar has issued [Registries Practice Direction \(No. 2 of 2022\)](#) to specify 26 to 27 May 2022 and 30 May 2022 to 3 June 2022 as excluded days (“Excluded Days”).

This means that the period from 26 May 2022 to 5 June 2022 (both dates inclusive), taking into account Saturdays and Sundays falling within that period¹, will be a period of excluded days.

Please refer to the Annex of this circular for more details. The Annex of this circular shall supersede the Annex appended to Trade Marks Circular No. 5/2022, Registered Designs Circular No. 4/2022, Patents Circular No. 4/2022, Plant Varieties Protection Circular No. 3/2022 and Geographical Indications Circular No. 3/2022 issued on 28 April 2022.

(D) Decommissioning of IP²SG and Drafts in IP²SG

IPOS’ existing e-services platform, IP²SG, will decommission on 25 May 2022 (2359 hrs) and be replaced by IPOS Digital Hub as the EOS from 2 June 2022 (1200 hrs).

¹ [Practice Direction No. 1 of 2009](#) and [Practice Direction No. 1 of 2019](#) (on hours of business and excluded days) specify that i) all Saturdays shall be excluded days for any business under the Patents Act 1994 and Rules, the Trade Marks Act 1998 and Rules, the Registered Designs Act 2000 and Rules, the Plant Varieties Protection Act 2004 and Rules, the Geographical Indications Act 2014 and Rules 2019, where the time for doing the business expires on that date and where the business was not done on that date, and ii) all Sundays and public holidays shall be excluded days for all purposes under the Patents, Trade Marks, Registered Designs, Plant Varieties Protection and Geographical Indications Acts and their respective Rules.



Please note that all draft correspondence and forms in your IP²SG draft folders and payment cart will be removed on 25 May 2022 (2359 hrs) and they will not be retrievable in the EOS. Please submit your drafts and make payment (as appropriate) via IP²SG before 25 May 2022 (2359 hrs).






EOS services and IPOS Go mobile app will be unavailable from 26 May 2022 (0000 hrs) to 2 June 2022 (1159 hrs). A calendar of the key events relating to the decommissioning of IP²SG and transition to IPOS Digital Hub is as illustrated below.

Please refer to the abovementioned IPOS Digital Hub Practice Direction (No. 1 of 2022) and Registries Practice Direction (No. 2 of 2022) for more information on the alternative filing modes and excluded days, respectively.

Calendar of Key Events

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			25 May	26 May	27 May	28 May
29 May	30 May	31 May	1 June	2 June	3 June	4 June
5 June	6 June					

Legend:

	Changes to IP legislation and fees take effect
	EOS services unavailable; Users are to file via FormSG for TM4, D3, PF1, MM2, CM6, CM7, CM8, Assent by Personal Representative, Filing of Court Order and for Written Authority Sought under Section 34 of the Patents Act
	IPOS Digital Hub launch
	Excluded Days
	Expiry of time periods or limits falling within Excluded Days automatically extended to this date

(E) Revised Effective Date of Fees for Applications through the Madrid Protocol

In line with the revised date of implementation of legislative amendments and fee updates, the revised fees for the following applications through the Madrid Protocol originally slated for implementation on 8 May 2022 will also be effective on 26 May 2022 instead:

- i. Application to register an international registration/subsequent designation of trade mark, collective mark or certification mark designating Singapore through the Madrid Protocol
- ii. Application for renewal of an international registration/subsequent designation of trade mark, collective mark or certification mark designating Singapore through the Madrid Protocol

The relevant Madrid Information Notice may also be viewed [here](#).



(F) Change in Trade Marks Journal Publication Date

Please note that there will be no publication of the Trade Marks Journal in the week of 30 May 2022.

From the week of 6 June 2022 onwards, Trade Marks Journal publication will resume publication on Fridays.

If you have any enquiries on this Circular, please send an email to ipos_enquiry@ipos.gov.sg.



ANNEX

(A) Specified Excluded Days for Expiry of Time Periods or Limits Prescribed in the IP Legislation

The expiry of time periods or limits prescribed in the IP legislation falling within the specific period of 26 May 2022 to 5 June 2022 (both dates inclusive) will be extended to 6 June 2022. This is pursuant to rule 79(2) of the Trade Marks Rules, rule 98(2) of the Patents Rules, rule 59(2) of the Registered Designs Rules, rule 69(2) of the Plant Varieties Protection Rules and rule 87(2) of the Geographical Indications Rules 2019.

This will include the non-exhaustive list of time periods or limits as follows:

- i. Response to deficiency letters or examination reports;
- ii. Filing for renewal;
- iii. Submission to requests for reinstatement;
- iv. Filing notices of opposition or requests for extension of time to file an opposition;
- v. Claiming of priority for applications filing through IPOS to register a trade mark, a registered design, a patent or a plant variety protection².

(B) Filing Dates for Applications Filed

As EOS services and IPOS Go mobile app will not be available during the period from 26 May 2022 (0000 hrs) to 2 June 2022 (1159 hrs), applications for the registration/grant of an IP (including those for which priority is intended to be claimed) can continue to be submitted via FormSG³.

From 2 June 2022 (1200 hrs) onwards, such applications can be submitted via IPOS Digital Hub.

The filing date of applications will be accorded in the usual manner when submitted via FormSG and IPOS Digital Hub⁴:

- i. If the application is lodged any time during Mondays to Saturdays, the application (including those for which priority is intended to be claimed) will be accorded a filing date of that day when the application is lodged insofar as the applicable requirements are met; and
- ii. If the application is lodged on a Sunday or Public Holiday, the application will be accorded a filing date of the next following day that is not a Sunday or Public Holiday (as the case may be) insofar as the applicable requirements are met.

For Plant Varieties Protection and Geographical Indications, the default filing mode will be FormSG, as communicated in the [IPOS Digital Hub Practice Direction \(No. 1 of 2022\)](#).

² This also applies to the filing of a patent international application through IPOS.

³ For applications filed via FormSG, IPOS will send an electronic payment link (where applicable) with payment instructions upon successful receipt of your filing. IPOS will deem that the fees are paid as directed by the Registrar unless actual payment is not made by the specified deadline in our payment instructions.

⁴ WIPO's online portal for filing and managing patent applications, ePCT remains available for transacting with Singapore as the receiving Office.

