Recent Amendments to Trademark Laws and Trademark Examination Guidelines

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The JPO enhanced its online procedures for trials in order to conduct oral proceedings without being affected by COVID-19 infections, as well as to respond to changes in the structure of our society including the advancement of digitalization. Based on the decision of the chief administrative judge, concerned parties can undergo oral proceedings from anywhere in Japan through this online web conference system without appearing at the JPO trial court directly.
Revising JPO’s System: Review of the Affixation for Seals (Signature) in Procedures
(Effective on January 1, 2022)

• Changes of operating procedures (e.g. digitalization) to address the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic
• Reviewing the necessity of seals (signatures) for about 800 procedures filed with the JPO for which affixation of a seal was previously required
• Abolishing of the requirement for seals (signature) except for certain procedures

Procedures Requiring Affixation of Seals
(Signatures)

Examples:
• Procedures for changing the name of the applicant
• Procedures for registering trademark right transfers
Revising JPO’s System: Fee Structure  
(Effective on or after April 1, 2022)

### Trademark registration fees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fee type</th>
<th>Fee before revision</th>
<th>Fee after revision</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Application for trademark registration</td>
<td>¥28,200/classification</td>
<td>¥32,900/classification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application for renewal fee</td>
<td>¥38,800/classification</td>
<td>¥43,600/classification</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### International application fee for trademark registration (Individual fee)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fee type</th>
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<th>Fee after revision</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual fee (the amount equivalent to registration fee)</td>
<td>¥28,200/classification</td>
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</table>
Revising JPO’s System: Strengthening Regulations on the Import of Counterfeit Goods from Overseas (To go into effect by November 21, 2022)

**Image of Legal Revision**

- **Overseas**
  - **Business operators**

- **Japan**
  - **Import**
  - **Transfer, etc.**
  - **Business operators**
  - **Individuals**

**Acts that will be clearly recognized as IP rights infringement after the legal revision**

**Acts that were determined to comprise IP rights infringements before the legal revision**

*Individuals who are not business operators are exempt from penalties for infringements.*
Revising JPO’s System: Abolishing the System to Make Fee Payments in Two Stages for International Trademark Applications / Revising the Method to Send Certified Copies of Trademarks Registration Decisions (To go into effect by May 21, 2023)

Before revision

Foreign applicant

Office of Origin (foreign IP office)

Application

WIPO International Bureau

First payment in two stages

Notification of designation

Examination at Office of designated country (JPO)

WIPO International Bureau

Notice of payment record

Office of designated country (JPO)

Foreign applicant

Second payment in two stages

After revision

Foreign applicant

Office of Origin (foreign IP office)

Application

WIPO International Bureau

Lump-sum payment of fees

Notification of designation

Examination at Office of designated country (JPO)

WIPO International Bureau

(1) Certified copies of decision of registration (international mail)

(2) Statement of Grant of Protection (electronic data)

Integrated into electronic notice through WIPO

Foreign applicant
Thank you very much!

Japan Patent Office