



IPR LEGAL REGIME

1. Patent Laws and Regulations
2. Trademark Laws and Regulations
3. Copyright Laws and Regulations





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To strengthen the intellectual property protection system, TIPO advanced amendments to the design patent regime in 2025 in response to developments in digital technologies. These efforts aim to enhance design patent protection and refine relevant subordinate regulations and examination guidelines for both patents and trademarks.

1. Patent Laws and Regulations

Draft Amendments to the Patent Act

Keeping pace with the impact of digital technology and global trends in strengthening design protection, TIPO proposed a draft amendment to the Patent Act and submitted it to the Executive Yuan for review on June 24, 2025. The key revisions are as follows:

- (1) Specifying computer icons and Graphical User Interfaces (GUIs) as independent subjects eligible for design patent protection.
- (2) Introducing an application system for filing two or more similar designs under a single application.
- (3) Extending the grace period for design patents from the current 6 months to 12 months.
- (4) Allowing divisional applications for design patents within three months after the application approval decision is delivered.
- (5) Expanding the scope of ownership disputes eligible for requesting a change in the name of the rights holder.

2. Trademark Laws and Regulations

Examination Guidelines on Non-Traditional Trademarks

To align with the amendments to the Trademark Act, the revised Examination Guidelines on Non-Traditional Trademarks were promulgated on July 23 and took effect on August 1, 2025. Key revisions clarified the treatment of functional elements in trademark reproductions; specifically, the guidelines stipulate that such elements must be represented in dotted lines. Where representation in dotted lines is not feasible, these elements must be disclaimed as not forming part of the trademark to ensure registrability.

Examination Guidelines on Procedural Examination of Applications for Trademark Registration

To align with the amendments to the Trademark Act and its Enforcement Rules, the revised Examination Guidelines on Procedural Examination of Applications for Trademark Registration were promulgated on November 24 and took effect on December 1, 2025. Key revisions included expanding the scope of eligible trademark applicants to include partnerships, legally established groups without juridical personality, and businesses registered under the Business Registration Act, as well as clarifying procedural regulations regarding applicants' signature requirements.

Fee-charging Standards of Trademark

The revised Fee-charging Standards of Trademark were promulgated on June 18, 2025. In alignment with the Trademark Act to promote the Trademark Professional Capability Certification Examination, Articles 7-1 and 8 were added to stipulate the legal basis for collecting examination registration fees and the effective date of this amendment. Registration fees are calculated on a "per person, per subject" basis according to the examination format for each subject: NT\$1,200 for a written examination and NT\$2,000 for a computer-based examination.

Guidelines and Illustrative Examples for Counting Goods and Specific Retail Services

To keep pace with emerging commercial trends and address counting ambiguities arising from the rise of digital goods verified by non-fungible tokens (NFTs) and virtual products in the metaverse, TIPO amended and promulgated the Guidelines and Illustrative Examples for Counting Goods and Specific Retail Services on November 4, 2025. The updated guidelines now classify multifunctional software as a single item to prevent double counting and streamline the examination process. Additionally, for goods verified by NFTs versus those without NFT verification, the specific retail and wholesale services must be counted separately due to differences in their nature and transaction structure. Furthermore, the amendments clarify how the terms "retail," "wholesale," and "retail and wholesale" should be interpreted, establishing uniform counting standards to minimize application disputes.

3. Copyright Laws and Regulations

Regulations of Copyright Dispute Mediation

To meet the practical needs of copyright dispute mediation and facilitate the one-time resolution of copyright disputes, partial amendments to the Regulations of Copyright Dispute Mediation were promulgated on May 22, 2025. Key revisions include new provisions stipulating that the specialized agency in charge of copyright matters must notify the applicant to rectify regarding the application for mediation, the grounds for dismissing the application, the participation of third parties with a legal interest in the mediation, and the continuation of mediation proceedings.