THE RECENT REFORM OF LEGAL REGIME AND EXAMINATION PRACTICE IN THAILAND

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THAILAND



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CHANGES TO SUBSTANTIVE/PROCEDURAL PROVISIONS

Expand the definition of MARK



Sound 32 applications until now (P)

Scent

Hologram

Moving mark

Invented word

Spell out distinctiveness requirements clearly

Stylized letter or numeral

Invented device

Picture having no direct reference to the character or quality of the goods, and not being a picture of a map or geographical site

Shape which is not the natural form of the goods or a shape which is not necessary to obtain a technical result of the goods or a shape which does not give value to the goods

Sound having no direct reference to the character or quality of the goods or sound which is not the natural sound of the goods or sound which does not result from the functioning of the goods

Conflicting Mark

Identical mark: same class or different class of the same character

(not using the word "related goods")

Similar mark: same class or different class of the same character + public might be confused or misled as to the ownership or origin of the goods

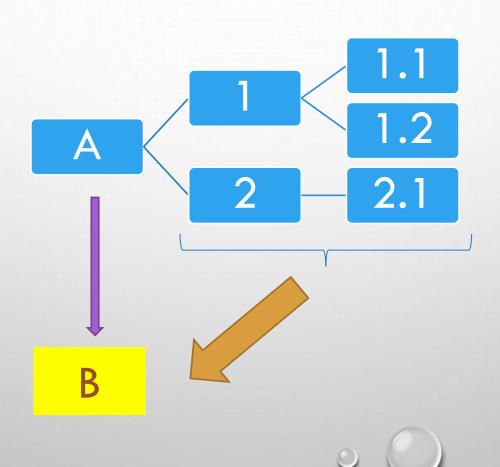
(not using the word "related goods")

Using packaging or utensils bearing others' registered trademark

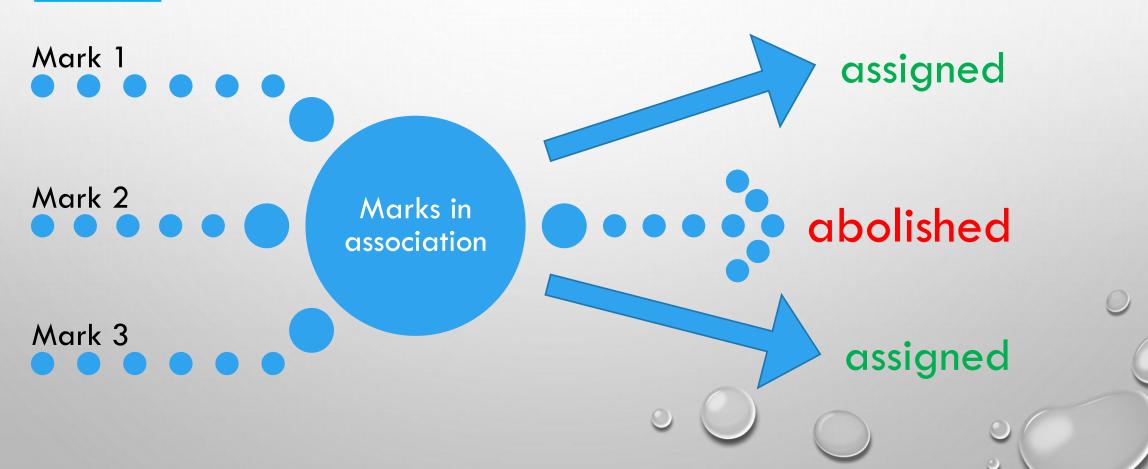
Mislead public into believing that the goods belongs to the others

Imprisonment not exceeding 4 years or fine not exceeding 400,000 Baht or both

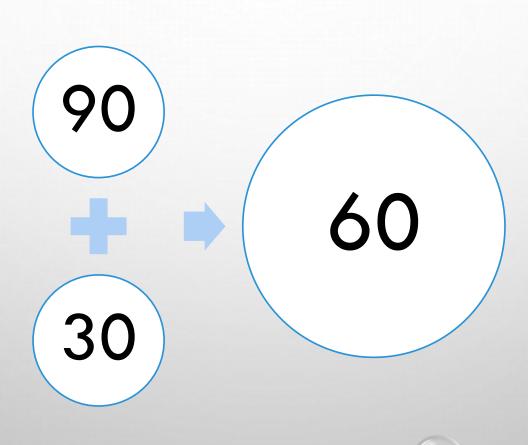
Assignment of a mark does not automatically terminate the license agreement



Madrid



Time limit to respond to office's actions



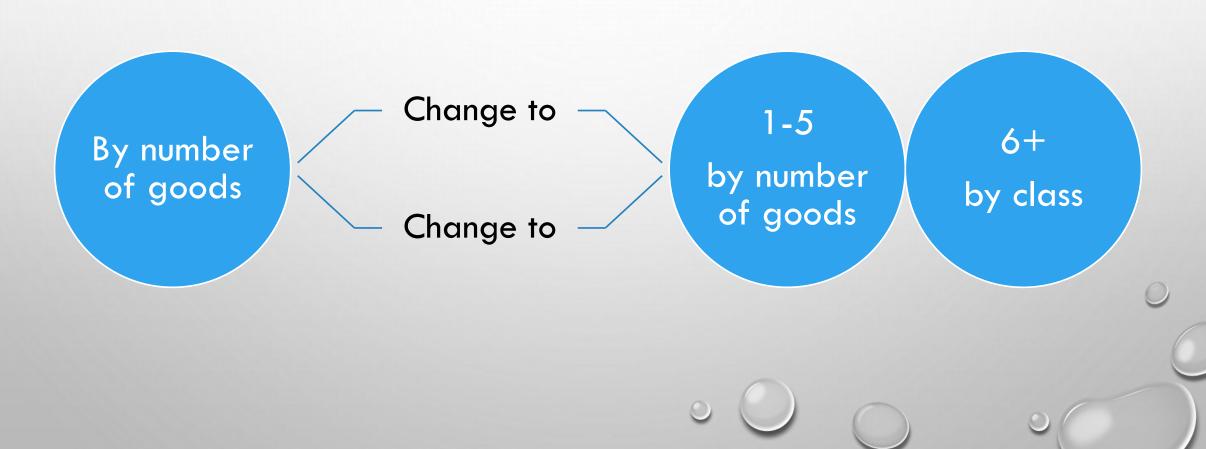
Madrid

Single-class application



Multi-class application

Madrid



3 m. pre

6 m. post

+20%





Assistance Examiner

- Vienna Code assignment
- Translation + Transliteration
- Conflicting marks (similarity)

Examiner (Registrar)

- Details in the form (formality check)
- PoA
- Distinctiveness
- Prohibitions
- List of goods/services
- Priority request
- Any special circumstances

Examiner (Registrar)

- Publish applications
- Issue a certificate

Examiner (Registrar)

- Changes
- Record of licenses
- Assignment
- Renewal
- Cancellation
- Revocation
- Resurrection



Assistant Examiner

Vienna Code Assignment

Assign to every mark

Translation/
Transliteration

All foreign language must be translated

Chinese word mark
must provide
Mandarin and
Teochew
pronunciations

Conflicting

Marks

Goods of the same or different class having the same characters

Issue a report



Examiner

EXAMINATION PROCEDURE

Distinctiveness

Personal name and company's name must be stylized.

Letter and number must be stylized.

Geographical name not accepted

Prohibition

Royal family's

Well known mark

Gl and certain marks prescribed by the Minister



Examiner

Changes

PoA/ Notarization

Official Records

Assignment

Assignment contracts

Deed of Merger + Official Record

Licensing

Contract having quality control clauses

No registration = null and void

Renewal

Class changes

Name and address must be accurately filled





Formality

Require clear description of goods/service; class heading not allowed

Black and white mark still covers all colors

Single color mark not allowed

Agent can be anyone having an address in Thailand



Formality

Fee for recording a license payable in 2 parts

Fees payable in 2 parts for national filing only

Partial assignment of an application not available

No re-grouping of partially assigned registered mark



Substantive

Letter of consent not available in case of conflicting mark

No concept of standard character

1-3 un-stylized letters not accepted

Word mark of descriptive nature tends to be rejected



Substantive

List of things commonly used in trade cannot prove secondary meaning

Well known mark no longer listed; consideration based on genuine fact

Prohibited geographical names must be known to Thai people in general

Refusal on changes, assignment, licensing, renewal cannot be appealed to the TM Board



RECOMMENDATIONS

Consult list of goods from DIP's website

Unfortunately it is available in Thai only, need local agent

Avoid un-stylized letter and descriptive words

Other peculiar practices exist, need to consult local agent

Fail to react to refusal on renewal has severe penalty

has severe penalty Mark will be revoked



END

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS