

Trade Marks timeline

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Before you apply

You need to:

- Decide which groups of goods or services (known as 'classes') to register your trade mark in
- Check if anyone else has already registered your trade mark

2

Prepare your application

Your application must include:

- Details of what you want to register, for example the written words or slogan you want to use or an illustration
- The trade mark classes and terms you want to register

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Send your application

- When you are ready to apply, you must decide which type of application to choose.

	Fee	Each additional class
Standard application (online)	£495	£225
Right start application	£400 (£200 up front plus £200 if you go ahead with your registration)	£125 (£75 up front plus £75 if you go ahead with your registration)

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After you apply

The IPO will:

- Examine your application (within 2 weeks)
- Search for similar trade marks, and contact the holder directly if they find one
- Publish your application in the trade marks journal, providing there are no objections (2 months). If your application is not opposed, your mark will be registered 2 weeks later.

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Opposition

If someone opposes your application, you can either:

- Talk to the person making the opposition
- Withdraw your application
- Defend your application legally - you will have to pay legal costs if you do this

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When your trade mark is registered

The IP will:

- Register your trade mark around 3 months after you apply, if it has not been objected to or opposed.
- Send you a certificate to confirm your trade mark is registered.

You can then:

- Object to other people's trade marks, for example if you think they are identical or similar to yours.
- Sell, market, license and mortgage your trade mark.

Your trade mark will last 10 years – you can renew your trade mark every 10 years.