

MYANMAR: NEW TRADE MARK REGISTRATION SYSTEM

To be launched soon, with priority for existing Registrants expected in Dec 2019 – Jan 2020

The Myanmar government has enacted new legislation to align Myanmar's trade mark regime with international norms. This includes the launch of a formal registration system, which will supersede the practice of registering Deeds of Ownership. Over the past year, the Myanmar authorities have been working to establish the infrastructure necessary to support the new registration system.

The Myanmar Department of Intellectual Property (MDIP) is expected to conduct a "soft opening" of the new registration system soon ("Soft Opening"). Some essential information relating to the Soft Opening is as follows:

1. The Soft Opening period may commence as early as December 2019 – January 2020. However, this is not fixed and may be delayed.
2. The Soft Opening period is expected to last 6 months.
3. During the Soft Opening period, the MDIP will accept only applications to re-register registrations previously filed with the Office of Registration of Deeds, on a first to file basis.
4. All applications filed during the Soft Opening will have the same application date of 1 January 2020.
5. New trademarks which have not been registered with the Office of Registration of Deeds will not be accepted for registration until after the Soft Opening period.

This information is based on latest updates, but is subject to change as implementation progresses.

If you have existing trade mark registrations in Myanmar, we recommend you take advantage of the Soft Opening so as to obtain the earliest filing date possible under the new registration system.

If you have an interest in obtaining trade mark protection in Myanmar, but do not yet hold any registrations there, we recommend you register your trade marks with the Office of Registration of Deeds as soon as possible before the Soft Opening, so that you may qualify for priority re-filing during the Soft Opening.

The new registration system marks an exciting development for brands and businesses in Myanmar. If you would like more information on trade mark protection in Myanmar, please get in touch with us.



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