

WHAT'S  
NEW

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Dear Clients, Associates and Friends,

To spur innovation, the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS) has revised its official fees for trade mark and patent filings and renewals. Effective 1 April 2017, some official fees for fresh patent and trade mark applications will decrease, while fees to renew them will increase.

In respect of patents, the lowered filing fees include a 14% fee reduction (from SGD 1,925 to SGD 1,650) for a patent search report and a 25% fee reduction (from SGD 2,600 to 1,950) for a patent search and examination report. There will also be a new excess claim fee for applications with more than 20 claims, to encourage patent applicants to file concise claim sets.

For trademarks, it will be 30% cheaper (from SGD 341 to 240 per class) to file an application, as long as the application is filed based upon an IPOS pre-approved description of goods and/or services. International applications filed via the Madrid Protocol will also cost less from SGD 374 to SGD 341 per mark/class.

According to IPOS this is in line with Singapore's commitment to support and promote domestic innovation.

On the other hand, IPOS has increased fees for patent and trade mark renewals to discourage the hoarding of IP.

Patent renewal fees will go up 37% (from SGD 270 to 370), although patent owners who offer their patents for licensing will benefit from a 50% discount in their renewal fees.

Trade mark renewal fees will increase by 52% from SGD 250 to SGD 380 per class.

In view of the increase in renewal fees, you may wish to file renewal applications due this year before 1 April 2017 (where possible), before the increase in the official fees comes into effect.

To encourage more IP proprietors to release their non-performing IPs, fees for surrendering and cancelling IPs have also been waived.

IPOS' circular setting out the full range of fee changes may be accessed [here](#).

For more information, please contact

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