

Understanding Examination and Refusal Procedures in the IP Office of the Republic of Korea

Madrid System Webinar

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Geneva July 29, 2020

How to use GoToWebinar







Structure of the Webinar

- Presentation: Understanding Examination and Refusal Procedures in the Republic of Korea
- Interactive questions during the webinar
- Q & A session
- Presentation slides available for download
- Recording will be uploaded on the Madrid Webinar page
- Short survey to provide feedback



Statistics

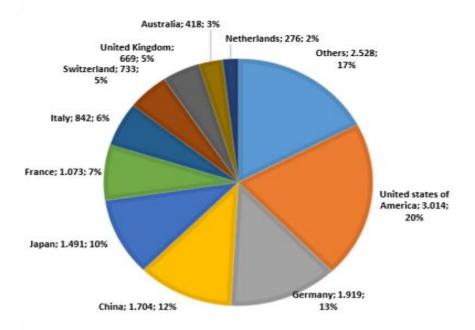


Int'l Applications & Registrations : KR



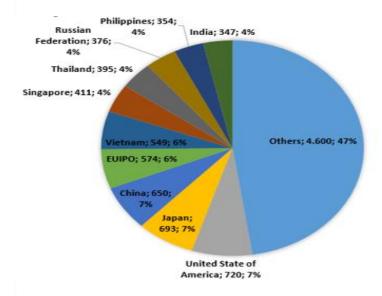


Country of Holder's KR designations





KR Holders' Top Designated Country





Question 1

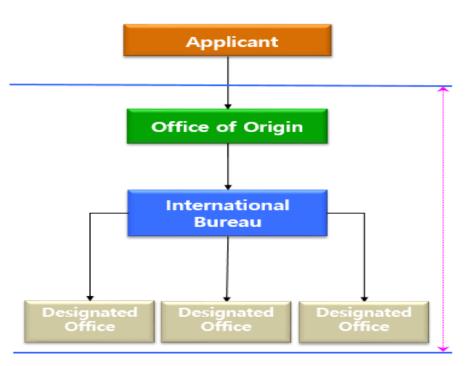
- Which country is the top filer through the Madrid protocol to the Republic of Korea in 2019?
 - The United States
 - China
 - **E**U



How to Avoid Provisional Refusals



Main Roles of Each Office



Office of Origin

- ✓ Formal requirements (Mark, G&S, Entitlement to file, etc.)
- Certifying Int. Application based on Basic Requirement

International Bureau

- ✓ Examination of Int. Application (Formality, NICE classification, Fee)
- √ Translation (E/F/S)
- ✓ International Registration

Designated Office

- ✓ Substantive examination
- ✓ Grant/Refusal of trademark protection in their own territory

Examination by Office of Origin

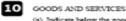
Basic requirement

Mark on Int. Application: <u>identical</u> <u>with the mark</u> of National App./Reg.

 ✓ G&S on Int. Application: not broader than G&S on National App./Reg.



Examination by Office of Origin



(a) Indicate below the goods and services for which the international registration is sought. Please use fout "Courier New" or "Times New Roman", size 12 pt, or above

Class	Goods and services
09	Computer operating programs, recorded;
	Computer software, recorded;
	Computer game program.
16	Inking ribbons; Calenders.
38	Information about telecommunication.

e.g. EM, CN, PH, GB, US, JP

(b) The applicant wishes to limit the list of goods and services in respect of one or mace designated Contracting Parties, as follows:

Please use fout "Courier New" or "Times New Roman", size 12 pt, or above

Contracting Party Class(et) or list of goods and services for which protection is sought in this Contracting Party

US 09 Computer operating programs, recorded.

JP 16. 38

(a) Lists of goods and services

- Nice classification (11th edition)
- Semicolon (;) between each goods
- Goods of the international < Goods of the basic

 Using the alphabetical list of goods and services of International Classification, or WIPO electronic tools (G&S manager)

(b) Limitation of goods and services

 Limitation of some of G&S to some of the designated countries

In US: limited to "computer operating program

recorded" in class 09

In JP: limited to class 16, 38

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If the space provided is not sufficient, check the box and use a continuation sheet

Examination by Office of Origin

Г	(a) INSTRUCTIONS TO DEBIT FROM A CURRENT ACCOUNT							
	The International Bureau in hereby instructed to debit the required amount of fees from a current account opened with the International Bureau (of this box is checked, it is not necessary to complete (b)).							
l	Eolder of the account: Account number:							
L	Mentity of the party giving the instructions:							
Γ	(b) AMOUNT OF FEES (see Fee Calculator: www.wipe.intimedridien/fees/calculator.jup)							
	Basic Sec. 653 Switce frames if the reproduction of the mark is in black and white only and 903 Swits finnes if there is a reproduction in color. (For international applications) field by applicants whose commy of origin is a Least Developed Country, to accordance with the first artibilized by the United Nations (www.migo.lastMetwine.country), of Switz finnes of the reproduction is in black and white only and 90 Switz finnes if there is a reproduction in color.)							
	Complementary and supplementary fee:	il.						
	Number of designations for which complementary fee Total amount of the sagisticities Complementary fee complementary fee							
ı	x 100 Swim fisses =	¥.						
	Number of classes of goods and services beyond Total amount of the those Supplementary See supplementary See	١						
	x 100 Series france							
ı	Designated Contracting Farties Individual fee Designated Contracting Farties Individual fee	Į١,						
ı		¥						
ı								
ı	Total individual fees							
ı		Ш						
H	GRAND TOTAL (Swits franct)	╣.						
ı	(c) METHOD OF PAYMENT	Ш						
ı	Identity of the party effecting the payment: 130 major make	Ш						
ı	Payment received and acknowledged by WIPO	Ш						
	Payment made in WIPO bank account BAN No. CESI 0485 5048 7808 5100 0 Credit Suitos. CH-211 Genera 70 Swith BKC: CRESCH2280A	٢						
	Payment made to WIPO potal account							
_		_						

In case of holders having a current account opened with the IB (the IB will debit the fee)

Basic fee

- Mark in black and white: 653 CHF (least developed countries: 65 CHF)
- Mark in color: 903 CHF (least developed countries: 90 CHF)

Complementary and supplementary fee (the designated countries, non-available individual fee)

- Complementary fee: 100 CHF for each designated country
- Supplementary fee: 100 CHF for each class in excess of 3 classes

Individual fee (instead of complementary/supplementary)

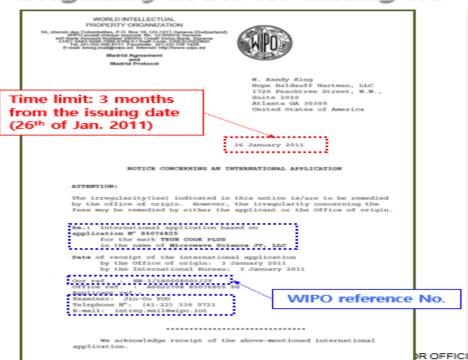
- Fee amounts depended on each country
- * see the website (www.wipo.int/madrid/en/fees)

Remittance to WIPO's bank account or postal account

- Indicating the bank account of the remitter and the date when the payment was made

Examination by the IB(WIPO)

Irregularity notice for missing fee



Geneva, 26 January 2011 Annex to the irregularity notice concerning the international application based on the national application or the national registration No 85076855 Our ref.: NN-I/S80008001/JY Office ref. : A0022708 85076855 00 Applicant ref.: Swiss France Basic fee where no reproduction of the mark is in color (Protocol application): 653.00 Individual fee (Protocol application): CN 310.00 Individual fee / supplementary fee (Protocol application): CN 620.00 Individual fee (Protocol application): EM 1,311.00 Individual fee / supplementary fee (Protocol application): HM 452.00 Individual fee (first part): JP 140.00 Individual fee / supplementary fee (first part): JP 428.00 Individual fee (Protocol application): KR 1,165.00 Total due: 5,079,00 Missing fee To date, your payment is: - payment 11/0001947 on 18/01/2011 3,142.00 Balance in our favour 1,937.00 <PAYMENT-INFO>

Examination by the IB(WIPO)

Irregularity notice based on Rule 13

- Broad and incorrect terms for the NICE classification purposes
 - ✓ Reply via Office of origin to the IB
 - ✓ Time limit: 3 months from the issuing date
- If failing correction, the terms will be registered as appearing with the special indication made by IB
 - e.g. "herbal tea (the terms considered too vague by the International Bureau Rule 13(2)(b) of the Common Regulations)"

Broad terms from applicants

IRREGULARITY(IES) CONCERNING THE INDICATION OF GOODS AND SERVICES: TO BE REMEDIED BY THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

The International Bureau considers that the following term(s)
of the list of goods and/or services is are too vague for the
purposes of classification (Rule 13);

- (1) "herbal tea" (class 30)
- (2) "flavoring syrups and powders for beverages" (class 30)
- (3) *office and institutional coffee supply services* (class 43)

The International Bureau suggests therefore the following:

- (1) "non-medicinal herbal tea" (class 30)
- (2) "flavorings, other than essential oils, for beverages" (class 30) Kindly note that the terms "syrups for beverages" and "syrups and other preparations for making beverages" belong to class 32 in WIPO for the Nice Classification purposes. (See the position S/1129 of the 9th edition of the alphabetical list of the International Classification of Goods and Services.)
- (3) *office catering services for the provision of coffee* (class 43)

Suggestions made by IB

Misspelling from applicants

 The International Bureau considers that the following terms of the list of goods and/or services are linguistically incorrect (Rule 13):

"excisers for medical purposes" (class 10)

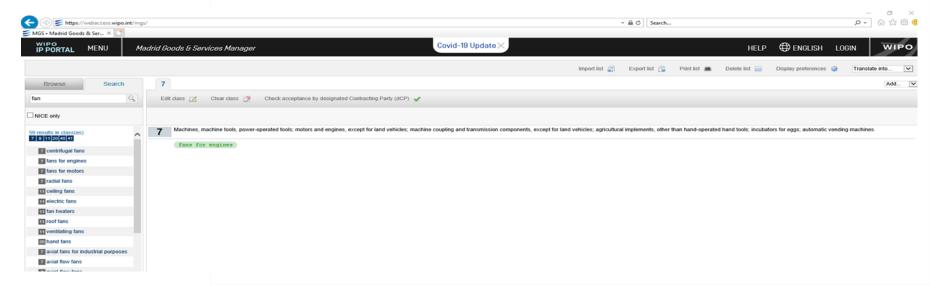
The International Bureau suggests therefore the following:

WIPO FOR OFFICIA

"exercisers for medical purposes". (class 10)

TIP 1

: Search Acceptable Indication of Good & Services

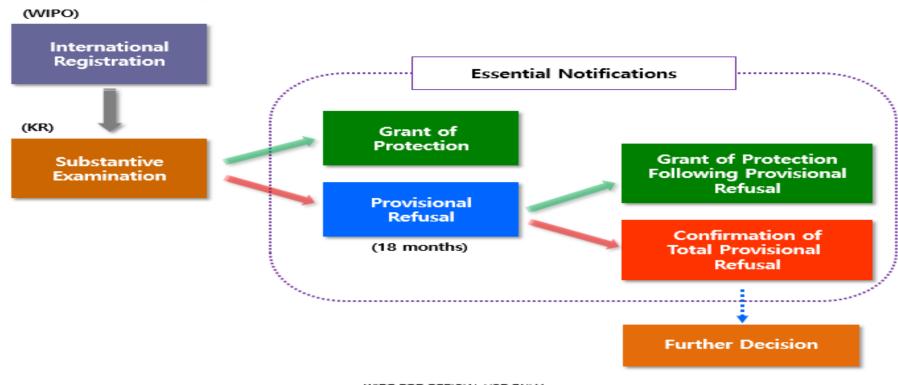


TIP 1

- Avoid Vague, Linguistically Incorrect, Incomprehensible Indications

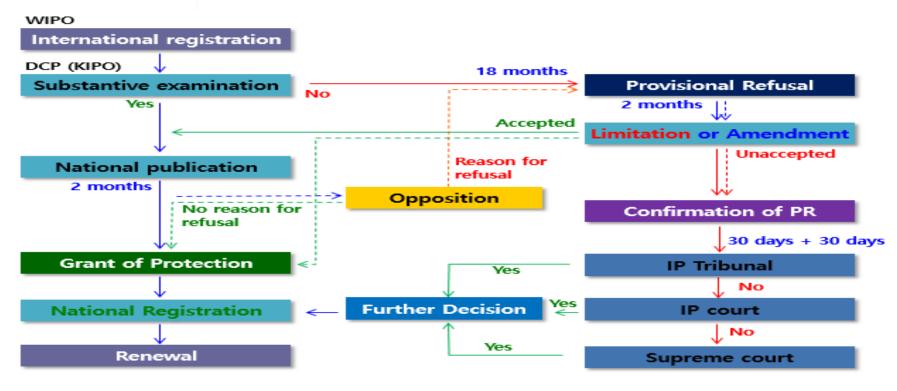


Main Roles of Designated Office



WIPO FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Substantive Examination Flow at KIPO



WIPO FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Question 2

- Time limit to file Opposition in Korea?
 - 1 month
 - 2 Months
 - 3 Months



Examination Criteria on Distinctiveness

- Common name of the goods
- Used customarily in connection with the goods
- Descriptive(quality, effect, usage, etc.)
- Well known Geographical name
- Common surname
- Simple and readily available mark



Examination Criteria on Distinctiveness

- Marks consisted of 2 foreign letters and less
- Marks consisted of 2 numbers and less or it's combination with arithmetic signs
- Marks consisted of combination with 1 foreign letter and 1 number



IRN	Mark	Distinctiveness Decision					
IKIN	IVIAIR	(C)	US	JP	EUIPO		
1273251	38	N.Accept	Accept.	N.Accept.	Accept.		
1342412	3E	N.Accept.	Accept.	N.Accept.	Accept.		
1326540	R3	N.Accept.	Accept.	N.Accept.	Accept.		
1314558	M8	N.Accept.	Accept.	-	Accept.		



1 Refusal on the ground of distinctiveness

Presentative Cases	EUIPO	JPO	КІРО	CNIPA	USPTO	Remarks
HOMESAFE (1184010)	0	×	×	×	0	It is non-distinctive by misleading as to the quality of the goods or services (similarly examined by Korea, Japan, and China).
OP9 (1163533)	0	×	o	×	×	The mark merely describes a feature, ingredient or characteristics of applicant's goods (similarly examined by Japan, China, and U.S.).



2 Refusal on the ground of distinctiveness

Presentative Cases	EUIPO	JPO	КІРО	CNIPA	USPTO	Remarks
GRAND WINES BRIDGAR BRANDS (1108281)	0	0	x	x	x	The main part of the trademark, "GRAND WINES", misleads as to the quality of the goods or services (similarly examined by Korea, China, and U.S).
MicroCapture (1115820)	×	0	x	o	o	It is perceived intuitively by consumers as an object that can catch or obtain even the smallest things (similarly examined by Korea and Europe).

3 Refusal on the ground of previously similar marks

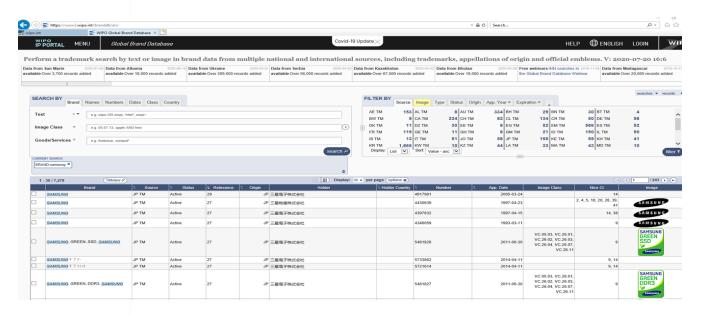
Presentative Cases	EUIPO	JPO	КІРО	CNIPA	USPTO
ဃ္တစ္ေပါ့ (1192421)	0	X ウーフー WooHoo	× oeuf _{₽≖}	0	X 'WOOUF!
OPTIMO (1159264)	0	0	X OTTIMO Optimos	x OPTIMA OptiQ	x Optimos
APAMAN (1111006)	0	0	X apaman shop apaman shop with Japanese characters	X Ataman apamanshop	0

4 Refusal on the ground of over-broad or vague products

Presentative Cases	EUIPO	JPO	КІРО	CNIPA	USPTO	Remarks
(1201552)	0	x	x	x	0	[Class 16] gift cards → note cards used with gifts (JAPAN) [Class 25] hats → top hats; rain hats (KOREA) [Class 35] 'Retail and wholesale services' is not acceptable (CHINA)
SPACE MONKEYS (1107106)	0	x	x	0	x	[Class 14] goods in precious metals or coated therewith, not included in other classes; → accessories in precious metals or coated therewith; [Class 18] goods made of these materials and not included in other classes; → bags of leather; (KOREA)

TIP 2

: Search Prior Marks in Advance





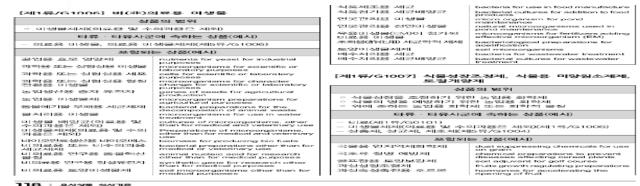
TIP 3: Pay Attention to KIPO Examiner's Suggestions



TIP 4

: Refer to KIPO published Examination Guideline for Similar Goods

https://www.kipo.go.kr/kpo/HtmlApp?c=3089&cat menu=m04_02_02_12



Question 3

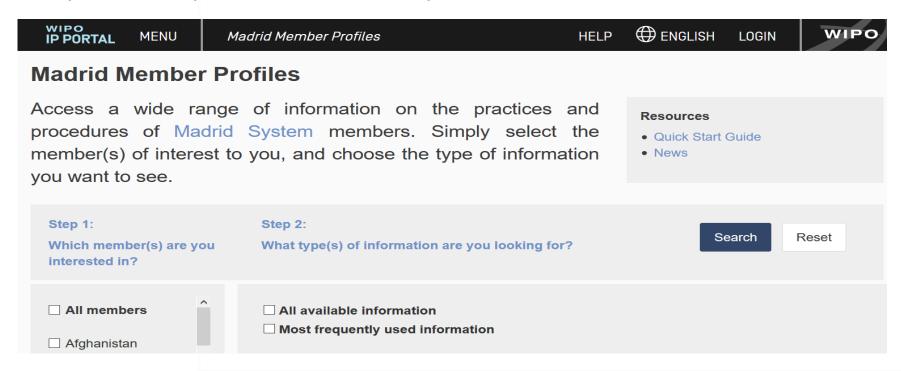
- What ground for provisional refusal is the most common in Korea?
 - Prior right on Similarity
 - Distinctiveness of Marks
 - Indication of G&S



More information

Madrid Member Profiles

https://www.wipo.int/madrid/memberprofiles/#/



More information

- Korean Patent Attorney Association
- Legal Texts and Guide
- Madrid Member Profile Database





Q&A Session about the Webinar

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