

Memorandum of Cooperation among the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS), the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), the Japan Patent Office (JPO) and the Office for the Harmonization of the Internal Market (OHIM)

On 15 December 2010, IPOS signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) with the USPTO, JPO and OHIM (collectively known as the Trilateral Partners) to validate an agreed list of goods and services acceptable or otherwise in the four jurisdictions. The Trilateral List of goods and services expands the Nice Classification administered by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), and facilitates consistency and harmonisation in the classification of goods and services internationally. This co-operation benefits trade mark applicants as there will be more certainty in the acceptability of the classification of goods and services before the participating offices. Applicants filing for trade mark protection in two or more of these jurisdictions will in general be able to rely on the same set of goods and services in their applications, thus resulting in time and cost savings.

This co-operation with the Trilateral Partners marks a continuous effort by IPOS to look into ways at helping trade mark applicants. In April 2008, IPOS launched the Search & Pick, an online tool for the classification of goods and services, which was the result of a collaborative effort with IP Australia. IPOS is currently looking into incorporating the acceptable entries in the Trilateral List into the Search & Pick facility. A further notice will be issued on its operationalisation date in due course.