

Intellectual Property Office of Singapore

Registry of Registered Designs

Circular No. 4/2021: Potentially Misleading Business Names of Non-official Entities

Potentially Misleading Business Names of Non-official Entities

(Circular No. 4/2021, dated 10 September 2021)

We have noticed that there are non-official entities operating under business names which appear to closely resemble the names of national or regional intellectual property (IP) offices, government agencies or official international organisations. These business names often include official-sounding terms such as “Office”, “Bureau”, “Agency” or “Organisation” with the name of a country or geographical region such as “World”, “European” or “Singapore”.

This may:

1. mislead the public into thinking that such entities are the national or regional IP offices, government agencies or official international organisations; or
2. give the false impression that they are endorsed by or affiliated to one.

You may come across such entities through unsolicited mails or e-mails (refer [here](#) for more information on unsolicited IP services), web advertisements or internet searches.

To verify if an entity is a national or regional IP office, you are advised to carefully check the name, web domain and contact information of the entity against the directory of intellectual property offices maintained by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) at <https://www.wipo.int/directory/en/urls.jsp>.

As Singapore’s national IP office, IPOS’ official website is at <https://www.ipos.gov.sg>, our IP²SG e-services portal is at <https://ip2sg.ipos.gov.sg> and our officers¹ have email addresses ending with “@ipos.gov.sg”.

We advise the public to continue to exercise caution in the prosecution of your IP matters. Any queries on whether an entity is endorsed or affiliated to IPOS can be directed to ipos_enquiry@ipos.gov.sg, while queries relating to other official entities may be directed to the relevant parties.

¹ Please note that officers at our subsidiary, IPOS International, have email addresses ending with “@iposinternational.com”.

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Intellectual Property Office of Singapore

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