

Intellectual Property Office of Singapore  
Registry of Designs

Circular No. 3/2022: Extension of SG IP FAST Track Programme and Sunset of 12 Months File-to-Grant Programme

## **Extension of SG IP FAST Track Programme and Sunset of 12 Months File-to-Grant Programme**

(Circular No. 3/2022, dated 22 April 2022)

The Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (“IPOS”) offers several options to speed up the patent grant process. The 12 Months File-to-Grant (12MG) programme was launched on 1 Aug 2014 to offer patent applicants the possibility to obtain the grant within 12 months from the filing of the application. On 1 May 2020, IPOS launched the SG Patent Fast Track programme to support the acceleration of patent applications in all technology fields. The programme was then expanded on 1 Sep 2020 to allow applicants with a patent application accelerated under this programme to also request for the acceleration of their related trade mark and registered design applications. The programme was renamed as SG IP FAST. The expansion was to better support innovators and enterprises as they build and manage their IP portfolio and commercialise their creations.

### **Sunset of the 12MG Programme**

2. From 30 Apr 2022, IPOS will no longer accept requests under the 12MG programme. Applicants who wish to accelerate their IP applications may rely on the SG IP FAST programme, which has a similar objective of providing early certainty to IP application from any technology field and facilitating applicants who intend to use the Singapore examination report or registration to accelerate their IP applications overseas.

### **Extension of the SG IP FAST programme**

3. In order to continue supporting innovators and enterprises who require such an acceleration, the SG IP FAST pilot programme will be extended for two years from 30 Apr 2022 to 30 Apr 2024. Requests for the acceleration of applications will be complimentary till further notice.

4. The accelerated timelines for the different types of IP will be as follows:
- a. Straightforward patent applications can be granted in as fast as six months. Non-straightforward patent applications can be granted in as fast as nine months.
  - b. Straightforward trade mark applications can be registered in as fast as three months. Non-straightforward trade mark applications can be registered in as fast as six months.
  - c. Registered design applications can be registered in as fast as one month.



5. With the extension of the SG IP FAST programme, the following conditions will be revised from 30 Apr 2022 to give more enterprises a competitive edge as global reopening progresses:

- a. The monthly cap for patent applications will be increased from the current 5 requests to 10 requests, with a cap of 2 requests per entity (individual or corporate)<sup>1</sup>; and
- b. The period to file a request for acceleration of the trade mark and/or registered design application will be extended from the current 1 month to 12 months from the date on which the applicant is notified of the successful request for patent acceleration.

6. The other conditions for qualifying or remaining on the SG IP FAST programme are as set up in **Annex A**.

7. If you have any enquiries relating to SG IP FAST, please contact us at [ipos\\_enquiry@ipos.gov.sg](mailto:ipos_enquiry@ipos.gov.sg).

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<sup>1</sup> There will continue to be no cap on the number of requests for acceleration of trade mark and registered design applications under SG IP FAST.



## Annex A

IP	Conditions for Applications to Qualify or Remain on the SG IP FAST programme
Patents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The request is within the cap on the number of requests per month;</li> <li>b. Patents Form 1 (Request for Grant of Patent) and Patents Form 11 (Request for Search and Examination Report) are filed on the same day;</li> <li>c. A document tagged as FastTrack stating the reason(s) for requesting acceleration and the technology field to which the invention relates must be submitted with Patents Form 1 and Patents Form 11;</li> <li>d. Application must be first-filed in Singapore, i.e. no priority claim;</li> <li>e. Application must contain 20 or fewer claims;</li> <li>f. Applicant must respond within 2 weeks from the receipt of formalities examination adverse report;</li> <li>g. Applicant must respond within 2 months from the date of receipt of written opinion;</li> <li>h. Patent applications will be accelerated for up to two office actions (“OA”). After the second written opinion, the processing of the patent application will no longer be accelerated; and</li> <li>i. The applicant cannot request for Extension of Time (“EOT”) for any matter during the patent application process.</li> </ul>
Trade Marks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The trade mark application must be filed within 12 months of the applicant being notified that a patent application has been placed on SG IP FAST;</li> <li>b. The applicant must inform IPOS of the request for acceleration via ad-hoc correspondence on the IPOS Digital Hub immediately after the submission of trade mark application, with the subject title “SG IP FAST”;</li> <li>c. The specification of goods and/or services in the application must be fully adopted from IPOS' pre-approved classification database;</li> <li>d. The application is not for a series mark;</li> <li>e. The application is not for a non-conventional mark (e.g. 3D shape mark);</li> <li>f. The application is not for a certification or collective mark;</li> <li>g. Trade mark applications will be accelerated for up to two OA with the following requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Objections raised by the examiner in the first OA are all resolved in the first submission within 1 month of the OA.</li> <li>b) In the event of a second OA, the applicant must respond to that OA as directed by the Registrar within 2 weeks of the date of the OA (e.g. file Form TM27 to amend the application).</li> </ul> </li> <li>h. There will be no acceleration of the processing of the trade mark application if any of the objection(s) is sustained in the second OA;</li> <li>i. The application must not encounter opposition during the publication stage; and</li> <li>j. The applicant cannot request for EOT for any matter during the trade mark application.</li> </ul>
Registered Designs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The registered design application must be filed within 12 months of the applicant being notified that a patent application has been placed on SG IP FAST;</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>b. The applicant must inform IPOS of the request for acceleration via ad-hoc correspondence on the IPOS Digital Hub immediately after the submission of design application, with the subject title “SG IP FAST”;</li><li>c. Deficiencies raised in the first OA are all resolved in the first submission within 2 weeks of the OA;</li><li>d. Registered design applications will be accelerated for up to one OA. After the second objection letter, the processing of the registered design application will no longer be accelerated; and</li><li>e. The applicant cannot request for EOT for any matter during the design application.</li></ul>
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