

**IN THE REGISTRY OF DESIGNS
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE OF SINGAPORE
PRACTICE DIRECTION NO. 4 OF 2018
REGISTRATION OF GRAPHICAL USER INTERFACES (GUIs)**

This Practice Direction is issued under Rule 4(4) of the Registered Designs Rules to specify the practice to be adopted when applying for the registration of GUIs as designs with the Registry of Designs.

This Practice Direction shall come into effect on 20 Jun 2018.

Dated this 20th day of Jun 2018.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ng Kok Wan', with a horizontal line underneath the signature.

NG KOK WAN

DEPUTY REGISTRAR
REGISTRY OF DESIGNS

Registration of Graphical User Interfaces (GUIs) as designs

(1) Applicants can file with the Registry of Designs at the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore to seek the registration of Graphical User Interfaces (GUIs) as designs under the Registered Designs Act (RDA).

(2) This practice direction supplements and is to be read in accordance with the Registered Designs Act and Rules, other relevant provisions in other Acts and Rules, as well as other practice directions and circulars issued by the Registry.

1. Applicant must indicate, in Form D3, the article or non-physical product that the GUI is applied to

(1) Where a GUI contains features of shape, configuration, colours, pattern or ornament and such GUI is applied to an article or non-physical product so as to give that article or non-physical product its appearance, an applicant may seek registration of the GUI as a design under the RDA. All GUIs sought to be registered as designs under the RDA must meet the definition of “design” in Section 2(1) of the RDA.

(2) If the applicant is seeking to register the GUI as a design in relation to an article, the applicant must indicate, in the field provided for the “Article Name”, the name of the article that the GUI is applied to. An article is any thing that is manufactured (whether by an industrial process, by hand or otherwise), and it includes any part of an article, if that part is made and sold separately. An article has a physical form (in contrast to non-physical products). The name of the article indicated by the applicant must meet the definition of “article” in Section 2(1) of the RDA.

(3) If the applicant is seeking to register the GUI as a design in relation to a non-physical product, the applicant must indicate, in the field provided for the “Non-physical Product Name”, the name of the non-physical product that the GUI is applied to. A non-physical product is anything that (a) does not have a physical form; (b) is produced by the projection of a design on a surface or into a medium (including air); and (c) has an intrinsic utilitarian function that is not merely to portray the appearance of the thing or to convey information. The name of the non-physical product indicated by the applicant must meet the definition of non-physical product in Section 2(1) RDA.

(4) If the applicant is seeking to register the GUI as a design in relation to both articles and non-physical products, the applicant must comply with both paragraph (2) and paragraph (3) above.

(5) In Form D3, under the part on “Statement of Novelty”, the applicant must provide a statement describing the features of the design that the applicant considers to be new. This statement of novelty may be in the following form “Novelty resides in the _____ as shown in the representation(s)”.

(6) For further details on filing Form D3 via the electronic online system (EOS), please refer to the special IP2SG Practice Direction No. 1 of 2017 which specifies the practice to be adopted when using the EOS provided by the Registry of Designs.

2. Applicants must file a dynamic GUI as a series of static representations of the design

- (1) GUIs may be either static (e.g. non-animated) or dynamic (e.g. animated).
- (2) A dynamic GUI is to be filed in an application as a series of static representations, where each representation (in the form of a drawing or photograph) shows a freeze-frame of the GUI in action.
- (3) The parts for which protection is sought are to be identified in solid lines. The parts for which protection is not claimed are to be indicated by means of broken or stippled lines, or shaded portions, and these disclaimed portions are to be indicated in Form D3 accordingly.
- (4) The applicant may provide, in a cover letter or separate document accompanying Form D3, an explanatory statement for each representation to clearly describe the elements in the GUI (e.g. how they are activated, how they interact, whether the GUI only appears in an “on” state, whether certain GUI elements subsequently arise from user interaction, etc.). As far as possible, the representations must be filed in consecutive order.

3. Number of views allowed for GUIs

- (1) Each application should contain a sufficient number of different views to completely disclose the appearance of the claimed design.
- (2) A total of up to 40 different views of the same GUI may be filed as representations of the design which protection is being sought for.
- (3) At least 2 views should be filed for a single dynamic GUI.
- (4) The Registry may, on written request, allow for more than 40 views to be filed.