

Service of Form TM 11 (Notice of Opposition) and Form TM 28 (Application for Revocation / Declaration of Invalidity / Rectification) (Circular 4/2009, dated 20 November 2009)

Service of Form TM 11 and Form TM 28 is regulated under Rule 29 and Rule 57 of the Trade Marks Rules 2008 Rev. Ed. (TMR) respectively.

Rule 29(2) provides that the opponent shall serve on the applicant a copy of the notice of opposition at the same time as the notice of opposition is filed with the Registrar.

Rule 57(3) provides that the applicant for revocation / declaration of invalidity / rectification shall, if he is not the proprietor of the registered trade mark, serve a copy of the application and the statement of grounds on which the application is based on the registered proprietor at the same time as he files the application and statement of grounds with the Registrar.

For the purpose of ensuring compliance with the above Rules, the opponent / applicant is to indicate clearly, on the cover letter enclosing the notice of opposition or application for revocation / declaration of invalidity / rectification to the Registrar, that a copy of Form TM 11 or Form TM 28, as applicable, has been served on the applicant / registered proprietor. Failure to do so will be taken as non-compliance with Rule 29(2) or Rule 57(3) respectively. Accordingly, the Registrar will treat the case as no proper service of Form TM 11 and Form TM 28 respectively, unless the opponent / applicant proves otherwise.

In such an event, Form TM 11 / Form TM 28 will be rejected as non-compliant. The opponent / applicant will have to re-file Form TM 11 / Form TM 28 afresh and serve the same on the applicant / registered proprietor.

In relation to Form TM 11, in the event that the notice of opposition cannot be re-filed as the 2-month or 4-month maximum time period has expired, the prospective opponent will then have to consider filing for invalidation after the mark has been registered.