

**Service of Form TM 12 (Counter-statement) (Circular 5/2009, dated 20 November 2009)**

Service of Counter-statement for opposition is regulated under Rule 31 of the Trade Marks Rules 2008 Rev. Ed. (TMR) and service of Counter-statement for an application for revocation / declaration of invalidity / rectification is regulated under Rule 58 of the TMR.

Rule 31(2) provides that the applicant shall serve on the opponent a copy of the Counter-statement at the same time as it is filed with the Registrar.

Rule 58(2) provides that the registered proprietor shall serve on the applicant a copy of the Counter-statement at the same time as he files the Counter-statement with the Registrar.

For the purpose of ensuring compliance with the above Rules, the applicant / registered proprietor is to indicate clearly, on the cover letter enclosing Form TM 12 to the Registrar, that the same has been served on the opponent / applicant. Failure to do so will be taken as non-compliance with the Rules. Accordingly, the Registrar will treat the case as no proper service of Form TM 12.

In such an event of non-service, and provided that the irregularity would not result in a detriment to the other party that cannot be remedied, the Registrar would generally, pursuant to Rule 83, exercise her discretion to direct that the procedural irregularity be rectified by issuing deadlines for service of the Form TM 12 on the other party and an order as to costs against the applicant / registered proprietor as appropriate.