

Compliance with Rule 30(3) (HMD Circular No. 1/2010, dated 20 August 2010)

Where an opponent relies on an “earlier trade mark which is well known in Singapore” in support of his opposition, Rule 30(3) of the Trade Marks Rules (Cap 332, 2008 Rev Ed) applies.

Rule 30(3) requires that:

- (i) information on the use of the earlier trade mark; and
- (ii) information on any promotion undertaken for the earlier trade mark be provided in the notice of opposition.

There are no pre-set requirements on the specific information needed to comply with Rule 30(3). Therefore, any relevant information will be accepted as long as:

- (i) the information relates to the use or promotion of the earlier trade mark; and
- (ii) it is “for the purpose of determining if the trade mark is well known in Singapore” as expressed in Rule 30(3).

Non-exhaustive examples include:

- (i) revenue figures for the earlier trade mark worldwide and in Singapore, if any
- (ii) promotion figures for the earlier trade mark worldwide and in Singapore, if any
- (iii) information on the duration of the use and promotion of the earlier trade mark
- (iv) information on the extent of the use and promotion of the earlier trade mark
- (v) information on the geographical area of the use and promotion of the earlier trade mark

Examples (iii) to (v) above are essentially information pertaining to Section 2(7)(b) of the Trade Marks Act (Cap 332, 2005 Rev Ed).

The information provided can be descriptive (e.g. “Our well known mark has been used on clothing and footwear in 20 countries worldwide including the USA, UK, Germany, China and Singapore since 1990”) or quantitative (e.g. actual revenue and promotional figures”).

Any information provided under Rule 30(3) must, however, be more than that which is already required of earlier trade marks which are not registered nor pending registration under Rule 30(2)(c). In other words, the information must go beyond information on the goods or services in respect of which the mark is used.

If Rule 30(3) is not complied with, the opponent will be directed to amend his notice of opposition to comply with the requirement if the parties are not negotiating.

Similar requirements apply to an application for invalidation under Rule 57(2B).