

Applications to File Further Evidence (HMD Circular No. 1/2011, dated 08 April 2011)

A party may apply to the Registrar for leave to file further evidence after evidence is closed (Rule 35, Trade Marks Rules 2008 Rev Ed). The requesting party should submit a draft statutory declaration setting out the further evidence that is sought to be admitted and state why the evidence is relevant but could not have been adduced earlier. At the same time, the other party must be copied on the request and his consent must be sought.

A. FURTHER EVIDENCE WITH CONSENT

If there is consent from the other party, the Registrar will in appropriate cases generally allow the further evidence and if necessary, issue such directions on the subsequent procedure as is deemed fit, including but not limited to adjourning the hearing, allowing the other party to file further evidence in reply where relevant, as well as awarding such costs as may be just.

B. FURTHER EVIDENCE WITHOUT CONSENT

If there is no consent from the other party, the Registrar does not allow further evidence to be filed simply as a matter of course. Whether leave would be granted depends on the facts and circumstances of each case. In considering whether to grant leave for the further evidence, the Registrar will conduct a balancing exercise, involving a consideration of the public interest that rules relating to procedure are complied with and the need to ensure that there is proper adjudication of a case based on its merits in the interest of justice between the parties. In particular, the Registrar will carefully weigh the following non-exhaustive factors on a case by case basis:

- (i) why the party seeking to file the further evidence did not do so earlier when the main evidence or evidence in reply fell due; it should be shown that the evidence could not have been obtained earlier with reasonable diligence
- (ii) whether the further evidence is necessitated by the evidence filed by the other party
- (iii) whether the other party would suffer any real prejudice which cannot be compensated with costs if the further evidence is allowed
- (iv) whether allowing the further evidence will allow the substantial issues to be satisfactorily and fully considered and determined or whether the application is only a tactical manoeuvre and allowing the further evidence would result in prejudice to the other party
- (v) the stage of the proceedings at which the further evidence is sought (e.g. at the Pre-Hearing Review in contrast to one day before the hearing), considerations of disruption to proceedings and extra costs generated by the delay being relevant.

All relevant factors will be considered, though the main weight is attached to the desirability of having the substantial issues satisfactorily and fully considered and determined. However, this factor may be outweighed by the totality of the other factors in certain cases.

If leave to file further evidence is granted, the Registrar may issue such necessary directions on the subsequent procedure as is deemed fit, including but not limited to adjourning the hearing, allowing the other party to file further evidence in reply where relevant, as well as awarding such costs as may be just.