

Closure of Supplementary Examination Route as of 1 Jan 2020

(Circular No. 5/2016, dated 7 Dec 2016)

In 2015, IPOS conducted extensive consultations with a wide range of stakeholders including law firms, patent firms, IP associations and companies on the closure of supplementary examination route. It was decided that the closure of the supplementary examination route will increase the quality of patents granted in Singapore and, it was communicated that the closure will take place on no earlier than 1 Jan 2017.

While the closure of the foreign route will strengthen our patents regime, we are aware that this is a substantial change in practice, and would like to allow sufficient time for the users of the patent system to adjust to the closure. As such, we have decided that these changes will only apply to patent applications filed on or after **1 Jan 2020**¹. Patent applications filed before 1 Jan 2020 may continue to use the supplementary examination route.

In addition, we will not be introducing a fee for supplementary examination requests. We trust these measures will allow for a more measured transition into the new regime from 1 Jan 2020 onwards.

A public consultation requesting feedback on the legislative amendments implementing the closure of the supplementary examination was conducted from 27 October to 30 November 2016. In response to the feedback received, we confirm that the relevant date for the closure will be gazetted in a commencement notification in due course.

We would like to thank everyone who have contributed to the consultations and look forward to your continued support and our joint efforts to improve the IP system in Singapore.

¹ Patent applications filed on or after 1 Jan 2020 refers to -

- national applications having a date of filing on or after 1 Jan 2020,
- international applications entering national phase having a date of filing on or after 1 Jan 2020, and
- divisional applications having an initiation date on or after 1 Jan 2020.