

Boolean Search Enhancements – Introduction of Wild Card Characters and Increased Sensitivity to Spacing

(Circular No. 7/2015, dated 8 Oct 2015)

As part of IPOS' commitment to provide greater ease in conducting similar mark search on IP2SG, the Registry has enhanced the Boolean search facility by introducing two wild card characters. This enhancement allows users to find a greater range of similar marks with fewer searches.

The two wild card characters are set out below:

- the question mark (?), which represents any single character
- the asterisk (*), which represents any number of characters

These wild card characters are only applicable when “Mark Text” is selected as the *Search Field*, and “Contains” is selected as the *Operator*.

An illustration of the Boolean Search with the above selected fields is set out below.

The screenshot displays the 'Public Search & Enquiry' interface. At the top, there are three search options: 'Fast Search', 'Simple Search', and 'Boolean Search', with 'Boolean Search' selected. Below this is a 'Search Category' section with radio buttons for 'Designs', 'Patents', and 'Trade Marks', where 'Trade Marks' is selected. The 'Search Criteria' section features a table with columns for 'Bracket (Optional)', 'Search Field', 'Operator', 'Value', 'Bracket (Optional)', and 'Operator'. The 'Search Field' is set to 'Mark Text' and the 'Operator' is set to 'Contains'. There is an empty 'Value' field and an empty 'Bracket (Optional)' field. A 'Delete' button is located to the right of the 'Operator' column. Below the table is an 'Add New Search Criteria' button. At the bottom right, there are 'Clear' and 'Search' buttons.

Bracket (Optional)	Search Field	Operator	Value	Bracket (Optional)	Operator
	Mark Text	Contains			

Buttons: Delete, Add New Search Criteria, Clear, Search

In addition, the search field now takes into consideration spaces at the start and end of the search term entered in the Value field. For example, when using “Contains” as the Operator, “ de ” will return “Eau De Frette” as a result, but not “de” or “midea”.

The increased sensitivity to spacing is introduced to allow users to exclude results with longer words that contain the search term. For example, to search for marks containing the single character “Q”, the following search query can be entered:

Search Field	Operator	Value¹	Operator
Mark Text	Starting with	“Q ”	OR
Mark Text	Ending with	“ Q”	OR
Mark Text	Contains	“ Q ”	OR
Mark Text	Equal	“Q”	

¹ Please note that the search term in the value field should be typed without the inverted commas (“”).

This will exclude results such as “Equitance” and “Quantel” that contain the letter “Q”.

To access the Boolean Search facility, please visit:
<https://www.ip2.sg/RPS/WP/CM/SearchAdvanceP.aspx>

If you have any feedback on how we can improve the search system, please email us at tan_yan_shao@ipos.gov.sg.