

Intellectual Property Office of Singapore
Registry of Trade Marks
Circular No. 1/2020: Updates to the Registry's Classification Practices

Updates to the Registry's Classification Practices
(Circular No. 1/2020, dated 6 January 2020)

The Registry has reviewed and updated our classification practices on various descriptions. This circular supersedes those mentioned below with immediate effect.

1. Retail services and other like services in Class 35

(Circular No. 6/2006, dated 24 Feb 2006, Circular No. 8/2008, dated 2 May 2008 and Circular No. 17/2014, dated 9 Dec 2014)

For ease of reference, the Registry's practices concerning "retail services and other like services in Class 35" are consolidated as follows:

(a) The bringing together, for the benefit of others, of a variety of goods (excluding the transport thereof), enabling customers to conveniently view and purchase those goods

The Registry will accept the description "the bringing together, for the benefit of others, of a variety of goods (excluding the transport thereof), enabling customers to conveniently view and purchase those goods" per se, that is, without a need to qualify the means of bringing the goods together.

In addition to the above description, the Registry will also accept the following descriptions of service in Class 35:

1. Retail services
2. Wholesale services
3. Retail sale services
4. Retail store services
5. Wholesale store services
6. Online retail services
7. Online wholesale services
8. Online retail store services
9. Online wholesale store services
10. Retail services in relation to *[list the goods]*

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11. Wholesale services in relation to *[list the goods]*
12. The bringing together, for the benefit of others, of a variety of goods *[list the goods]* (excluding the transport thereof), enabling customers to conveniently view and purchase those goods from a retail outlet
13. The bringing together, for the benefit of others, of a variety of goods (excluding the transport thereof), enabling customers to conveniently view and purchase those goods from a retail outlet
14. The bringing together, for the benefit of others, of a variety of goods *[list the goods]* (excluding the transport thereof), enabling customers to conveniently view and purchase those goods from a wholesale outlet
15. The bringing together, for the benefit of others, of a variety of goods (excluding the transport thereof), enabling customers to conveniently view and purchase those goods from a wholesale outlet
16. The bringing together, for the benefit of others, of a variety of goods *[list the goods]* (excluding the transport thereof), enabling customers to conveniently view and purchase those goods from a distributor outlet
17. The bringing together, for the benefit of others, of a variety of goods (excluding the transport thereof), enabling customers to conveniently view and purchase those goods from a distributor outlet
18. The bringing together, for the benefit of others, of a variety of goods *[list the goods]* (excluding the transport thereof), enabling customers to conveniently view and purchase those goods from a general merchandise catalogue by mail order or by means of telecommunications
19. The bringing together, for the benefit of others, of a variety of goods (excluding the transport thereof), enabling customers to conveniently view and purchase those goods from a general merchandise catalogue by mail order or by means of telecommunications
20. The bringing together, for the benefit of others, of a variety of goods *[list the goods]* (excluding the transport thereof), enabling customers to conveniently view and purchase those goods from a general merchandise web site in the global communications network
21. The bringing together, for the benefit of others, of a variety of goods (excluding the transport thereof), enabling customers to conveniently view and purchase those goods from a general merchandise web site in the global communications network
22. The bringing together, for the benefit of others, of a variety of goods *[list the goods]* (excluding the transport thereof), enabling customers to conveniently view and purchase those goods from a departmental store
23. The bringing together, for the benefit of others, of a variety of goods (excluding the transport thereof), enabling customers to conveniently view and purchase those goods from a departmental store

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24. The bringing together, for the benefit of others, of a variety of goods [*list the goods*] (excluding the transport thereof), enabling customers to conveniently view and purchase those goods from a supermarket
25. The bringing together, for the benefit of others, of a variety of goods (excluding the transport thereof), enabling customers to conveniently view and purchase those goods from a supermarket

However, the Registrar will continue to reject descriptions such as “mail order services” and “internet shopping”. These terms are considered vague as they include services more than retail and wholesale services.

(b) Sale of [*goods of interest*]

The Registry wishes to clarify that the description “sale of [*goods of interest*]” is not an acceptable description of service. This is because the act of selling primarily benefits the seller and is not regarded as a service delivered to third parties.

An example of an acceptable description of service in Class 35 is “retail services relating to the sale of [*goods of interest*]”.

2. Technical consultancy services

Technical support services

(Circular No. 25/2006, dated 16 Aug 2006)

Previous Practice	New Practice
<p>The Registry classifies “technical consultancy services”, “technical support services” and other similar technical advisory and technical information services according to their subject matters. As such, descriptions such as “technical consultancy services” and “technical support services” are objectionable and their subject matters will have to be specified for the purpose of classification.</p>	<p>The Registry may, on a case by case basis, accept “technical consultancy services” and “technical support services” in Class 42 by interpreting the term “technical” as referring to “technological”.</p> <p>Please note that the subject matters of such descriptions will still need to be specified when filed in other classes.</p>

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3. "Ancillary Services" / "Related Services"

(Circular No. 11/2009, dated 25 Sep 2009)

Previous Practice	New Practice
<p>The Registry will not accept a description containing “ancillary services”, “related services” or their equivalent, regardless of whether they are preceded or followed by a specific term. The addition of “included in this class” or “all in this class” in such descriptions also does not help in clarifying the exact nature of these descriptions.</p>	<p>The Registry will accept descriptions containing “related services” or its equivalent, provided that the subject matter in which the services relate to is proper to the class applied for. The following are some examples of acceptable descriptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radio broadcasting related services (Class 38) • Services relating to transport reservation (Class 39) • Services related to education (Class 41) • Services relating to the provision of food and drinks (Class 43) • Legal advocacy related services (Class 45) <p>However, the Registry’s practices regarding “ancillary services” remain unchanged. This is because “ancillary” means “additional” or “subsidiary” which renders the nature of the ancillary services vague. The Registry will request that the “ancillary services” be clearly specified so that the specification is clear and unambiguous.</p>

4. Computer Services

(Circular No. 3/2010, dated 25 Jun 2010)

Previous Practice	New Practice
<p>The Registry will not accept “computer services” per se because the</p>	<p>The Registry may, on a case by case basis, accept "computer services" in</p>

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description, without further qualification, is vague. Applicants are required to specify the exact nature of the computer services that they are claiming.

Class 42. Please note that such a description in Class 42 is to be distinguished from “computer services in the nature of installation, maintenance and repair of computer or computer hardware”, which is classified in Class 37.

When filed in classes other than Class 42, the description is not acceptable because the exact nature of the services is unclear. Applicants would be requested to specify the exact nature of the services that they are claiming.

5. Distribution services

(Circular No. 12/2014, dated 31 July 2014)

Previous Practice	New Practice
<p>The Registry will not accept “distribution services” per se, as the description is too vague for classification and may involve services that straddle across Classes 35, 39 and 41. Similarly, the Registry will not accept “distribution services (other than transportation)” in Class 35 as the qualifier does not sufficiently convey the nature of the intended services apart from saying that it does not include transportation.</p>	<p>The Registry will accept “distribution services” in Classes 35, 39 and 41, by assuming that they relate to distribution services rendered in the contexts of the respective classes as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution services for the purpose of advertising, retailing or wholesaling (Class 35); • Distribution services by way of transportation of goods including the transport and supply of water, electricity and energy by pipeline and cable (Class 39); • Distribution services relating to the process of making works of audio or visual production available to the public (Class 41).

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