

## **Examination Practice With Respect to Colours in Marks**

To avoid any confusion, this notice documents the Registrar's practice in relation to the examination of :

- i. trade marks consisting solely of colours; and
- ii. trade marks consisting of colours as a component or as an element in combination with other elements or components.

Such examination practice has been effected by the Registrar in relation to both national applications and international registrations designating Singapore.

### **i. Trade Marks Consisting Solely of Colours**

Where the trade mark consists solely of colours, the Registrar will need to be satisfied that the colours per se are capable of distinguishing the applicant's goods or services from those dealt with by others. As it will be necessary to determine the precise scope of such a claim, it will be necessary for the applicant to provide a description of the claim in the application form. For the purpose of an illustration, if the trade mark sought for registration is the colour "neon pink" and the colour is applied to the packaging of the goods, an appropriate description would be: "The trade mark is the colour neon pink as applied to an aspect of packaging of the goods as claimed as shown in the representation of the mark on the application form". Such a description will enable the Registrar to examine the mark as filed.

### **ii. Trade Marks Consisting of Colours As a Component of the Mark**

Where the trade mark consists of colours in combination with other elements such as a letter, word, name, signature, numeral, device, brand, heading, label, ticket, shape, aspect of packaging, the trade mark will be examined as a whole. If the trade mark as a whole is capable of distinguishing the applicant's goods or services from those dealt with by others, the trade mark will be registered as filed, that is, in the colours as filed. The Registrar does not require a colour limitation in such a case. The Registrar will also not seek to clarify whether the colour(s) as an element of the mark constitute a distinctive feature of the mark or not as the mark will be examined as a whole and registration rights will be conferred on the mark as a whole.