



INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
OFFICE OF SINGAPORE

Circulars on Classification of Goods & Services

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INTRODUCTION

This document contains the Registry's circulars regarding classification practices on specific terms. Users can search for the relevant circulars either by year of issuance (from page 2 to 4) or by specific item(s) which are listed in alphabetical order (from page 5 to 8).

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- [Circular No. 6/2009, dated 30 Apr 2009](#) [no longer in force]

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- [Circular No. 1/2012, dated 27 Jul 2012](#)
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- [Circular No. 8/2016, dated 14 Oct 2016](#)

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- [Circular No. 33/2007, dated 26 Sep 2007](#)

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- [Pre-2004 circular](#)
- [Circular No. 5/2020, dated 18 May 2020](#)
- [Circular No. 19/2004, dated 3 Sep 2004](#) [no longer in force]

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- [Circular No. 1/2020, dated 6 Jan 2020](#)
- [Circular No. 11/2009, dated 25 Sep 2009](#) [no longer in force]

Retail services / Retail store services

- [Circular No. 1/2020, dated 6 Jan 2020](#)
- [Circular No. 17/2014, dated 9 Dec 2014](#) [no longer in force]
- [Circular No. 9/2008, dated 2 May 2008](#) [no longer in force]

- [Circular No. 6/2006, dated 24 Feb 2006](#) [no longer in force]

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- [Circular No. 2/2004, dated 7 Jan 2004](#)

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- [Circular No. 1/2020, dated 6 Jan 2020](#)
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- [Circular No. 27/2007, dated 25 Jul 2007](#)

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- [Circular No. 1/2020, dated 6 Jan 2020](#)
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The bringing together, for the benefit of others, of a variety of goods

- [Circular No. 1/2020, dated 6 Jan 2020](#)
- [Circular No. 17/2014, dated 9 Dec 2014](#) [no longer in force]
- [Circular No. 9/2008, dated 2 May 2008](#) [no longer in force]
- [Circular No. 6/2006, dated 24 Feb 2006](#) [no longer in force]

Wholesale services / Wholesale store services

- [Circular No. 1/2020, dated 6 Jan 2020](#)
- [Circular No. 17/2014, dated 9 Dec 2014](#) [no longer in force]
- [Circular No. 9/2008, dated 2 May 2008](#) [no longer in force]
- [Circular No. 6/2006, dated 24 Feb 2006](#) [no longer in force]

Circulars in force

2020	Effective Date
<p>Provision of news [Circular No. 5/2020, dated 18 May 2020]</p> <p>Currently, the description “provision of news”, without further qualification of the subject matter or the purpose for which the service is provided, is considered vague and not acceptable as a specification description.</p> <p>Upon review, the Registry will now accept “provision of news” and analogous descriptions in Class 41 by assuming that they refer to “news reporters services”. The following are some examples of acceptable descriptions in Class 41:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of news • Reporting of current affairs • Providing information relating to current affairs <p>Please note that if such services are filed in other classes, the corresponding subject matter or purpose of the services will have to be specified, in order to render them proper to the respective classes.</p> <p>This circular supersedes Circular No. 19/2004 on “Provision of news” with immediate effect.</p>	<p>In force since 18/05/2020</p>
<p>Retail services and other like services in Class 35 [Circular No. 1/2020, dated 6 Jan 2020]</p> <p>For ease of reference, the Registry’s practices concerning “retail services and other like services in Class 35” are consolidated as follows:</p> <p><u>(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</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p>In addition to the above description, the Registry will also accept the following descriptions of service in Class 35:</p>	<p>In force since 06/01/2020</p>

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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] 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 | |
|---|--|

<p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>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.</p> <p><u>(b) Sale of [goods of interest]</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p>An example of an acceptable description of service in Class 35 is "retail services relating to the sale of [goods of interest]".</p>	
<p>Technical consultancy services / Technical support services [Circular No. 1/2020, dated 6 Jan 2020]</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>	<p>In force since 06/01/2020</p>

<p>"Ancillary Services" / "Related Services" [Circular No. 1/2020, dated 6 Jan 2020]</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>	<p>In force since 06/01/2020</p>
<p>Computer Services [Circular No. 1/2020, dated 6 Jan 2020]</p> <p>The Registry may, on a case by case basis, accept "computer services" in 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.</p> <p>When filed in classes other than Class 42, the description is not acceptable because the exact nature of the computer services is unclear. Applicants would be requested to specify the exact nature of the services that they are claiming.</p>	<p>In force since 06/01/2020</p>
<p>Distribution services [Circular No. 1/2020, dated 6 Jan 2020]</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). 	<p>In force since 06/01/2020</p>

2018	Effective Date
<p>Concierge services [Circular No. 2/2018, dated 27 Jul 2018]</p> <p>The Registry wishes to update the public with regard to the change in classification practice for “concierge services” in an application for the registration of a trade mark.</p> <p>Currently, the description "concierge services" per se, without further qualification, is considered vague and hence unacceptable as a specification description.</p> <p>With the addition of the description “concierge services” into Class 45 of the Eleventh Edition, Version 2019 of the Nice Classification (hereinafter abbreviated as "NCL (11-2019)"), the Registry will accept “concierge services” per se in Class 45 for applications lodged on or after 1 January 2019.</p> <p>This circular supersedes Circular No. 6/2009, dated 30 April 2009 on “Concierge services”, which will be removed upon the entry into force of NCL (11-2019).</p>	<p>In force since 01/01/2019</p>
2016	Effective Date
<p>Arranging and conducting of exhibitions [Circular No. 5/2016, dated 14 Jun 2016]</p> <p>This circular serves to clarify the Registry’s approach towards the classification of the description "arranging and conducting of exhibitions" in an application for registration of a trade mark.</p> <p>According to Circular No. 27/2007, the description "arranging and conducting of exhibitions", will be classified according to the subject matter since this service only refers to showing of products or services to the public. This is reflected in the NICE Classification which classifies "organization of exhibitions for commercial or advertising purposes" in Class 35, and "organization of exhibitions for cultural or educational purposes" in Class 41.</p> <p>While adopting this approach, the Registry will, in practice, accept the description "arranging and conducting of exhibitions" per se in both Classes 35 and 41, by assuming, where the application is filed in Class 35, that services are for commercial or advertising purposes and, where the application is filed in Class 41, that the services are for cultural or educational purposes.</p>	<p>In force</p>
<p>Association services [Circular No. 5/2016, dated 14 Jun 2016]</p>	<p>In force since 14/06/2016</p>

<p>The Registry has reviewed its practice with regard to the description "association services".</p> <p>Prior to this review, the Registry required the description of the nature of the services provided by the association to be qualified by the words ", provided through an association". For example, "business promotion relating to the importance of health and nutrition, provided through an association".</p> <p>Upon review, the Registry will now accept descriptions beginning with "association services", followed by a qualifier which clearly describes the nature of the services claimed. The following are some examples of acceptable descriptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Association services, namely arranging business introductions" in Class 35 • "Association services, namely promoting the use of technology to businesses" in Class 35 • "Association services in the nature of providing training for members of the association" in Class 41 <p>Please note, however, that "association services" per se, without further qualification, is not acceptable as it is vague and may fall within several classes.</p> <p>This circular supersedes Circular No. 6/2009 on "association services", and this revision in practice shall take effect for all applications lodged on or after 14 June 2016.</p>	
<p>Providing a website [Circular No. 7/2016, dated 28 Jul 2016]</p> <p>The Registry accepts the description "providing a website" in Class 42, by interpreting the description as a form of website hosting services. As such, the description would not be acceptable in other services classes.</p> <p>In cases where the website is used as a means for providing services, the applicant would be required to reword the description by specifying the services which are provided via the website. For example, "providing a website containing non-downloadable games" is not acceptable in Class 41, as the description refers to a type of website hosting services. On the other hand, "providing non-downloadable games via a website" is acceptable in Class 41, as it is a form of entertainment services provided via a website.</p>	<p>In force</p>

<p>Kits [Circular No. 7/2016, dated 28 Jul 2016]</p> <p>The Registry wishes to clarify that the description “kits” per se, without any further qualification, is considered too vague for classification purposes.</p> <p>The applicant should specify the purpose of the goods to render the “kits” proper to the appropriate class, for example, “cosmetic kits” in Class 3 or “sewing kits” in Class 26.</p> <p>Alternatively, the applicant can specify the composition of the “kits”, making sure that all the goods in the kits are classified under the same class. An example of an acceptable description would be “repair kits comprising screwdrivers, pliers and hammers” in Class 8.</p>	<p>In force</p>
<p>"Electronic machines" in Class 9 [Circular No. 8/2016, dated 14 Oct 2016]</p> <p>This circular serves to clarify the Registry’s approach towards the classification of the description “electronic machines” in Class 9 in an application for registration of a trade mark.</p> <p>The Registry will not accept the description “electronic machines” in Class 9, as the description per se, without any indication of the purpose of the electronic machines, is vague.</p> <p>“Machines” are generally classified in Class 7 in accordance to the Class Heading of Class 7, “Machines and machine tools”. As such, for descriptions containing “machines” that are filed in classes other than Class 7, the Registry requires the purpose of the machines to be clearly specified in order to justify its classification in the respective classes. The following are some examples of acceptable descriptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Automated teller machines [ATM] (Class 9) • Weighing machines (Class 9) • Air purifying machines (Class 11) • Electric coffee machines (Class 11) • Arcade video game machines (Class 28) 	<p>In force</p>
<p>"Data storage", "Information storage" in Class 39 or 42 [Circular No. 8/2016, dated 14 Oct 2016]</p> <p>The Registry has reviewed its practice with regard the description “data storage” and “information storage”.</p>	<p>In force since 14/10/2016</p>

<p>Prior to this review, the Registry will not accept the description "data storage" or "information storage" in either Class 39 or Class 42 as the descriptions, without further qualification, are vague.</p> <p>Upon review, the Registry will now accept the descriptions "data storage" and "information storage" per se in both Classes 39 and 42, by assuming, where the application is filed in Class 39, that the services are physical storage of data/information and, where the application is filed in Class 42, that the services are electronic storage of data/information.</p> <p>This circular supersedes Circular No. 1/2012 on "data storage" and "information storage", and this revision in practice shall take effect for all applications lodged on or after 14 October 2016.</p>	
<p>2015</p>	<p>Effective Date</p>
<p>"Advice, information and consultation services relating to computer or computer hardware" in Class 42 [Circular No. 7/2015, dated 8 Oct 2015]</p> <p>According to the General Remarks of the Nice Classification, services that provide advice, information or consultation are in principle classified in the same classes as the services that correspond to the subject matter of the advice, information or consultation.</p> <p>Based on the above principle, "advice, information or consultation services relating to computer or computer hardware" is acceptable in Class 42. Please note that such a description in Class 42 is to be distinguished from "advice, information or consultation services relating to the installation, maintenance and repair of computer or computer hardware", which is classified in Class 37.</p>	<p>In force</p>
<p>"Meal replacements", "dietetic food" and "dietetic beverages" in Classes 5, 29, 30, 31, 32 or 33 [Circular No. 7/2015, dated 8 Oct 2015]</p> <p>According to the Explanatory Note of the Nice Classification, meal replacements, dietetic food and beverages adapted for medical or veterinary use are classified in Class 5, while those not for medical or veterinary use are classified in the food and beverage classes (Class 29, 30, 31, 32 or 33).</p> <p>As such, the Registry would accept the descriptions "meal replacements", "dietetic food" and "dietetic beverages" per se in Class 5, by assuming that goods filed in this class are for medical or veterinary use.</p>	<p>In force</p>

<p>In the same vein, the Registry would also not require the qualifier “not for medical use” or “not for veterinary use” for the same descriptions filed in the food and beverage classes (Class 29, 30, 31, 32 or 33). However, applicants must indicate the predominant ingredient(s) of the food in order to render the description proper to the relevant class.</p>	
<p>2012</p>	<p>Effective Date</p>
<p>Cereal-based beverages / Beverages made from cereals [Circular No. 1/2012, dated 27 Jul 2012]</p> <p>For applications lodged on or after 3 August 2012, the Registrar will not accept a specification consisting of "cereal-based beverages" or "beverages made from cereals" in Class 30. This is in line with the explanatory note in the Nice Classification which states that Class 30 includes in particular beverages with coffee, cocoa, chocolate or tea base. As an example, "honey" is listed in Class 30 of the Nice Classification but "non-alcoholic honey-based beverages" is listed in Class 32. By analogy, "cereal-based beverages" or "beverages made from cereals" should be classified in Class 32 even though "cereal preparations" is listed in Class 30. Hence, Circular No. 7/2008 on "Cereal-based beverages" and "Beverages made from cereals" will no longer be valid.</p>	<p>In force since 03/08/2012</p>
<p>2009</p>	<p>Effective Date</p>
<p>Personal and/or social services rendered by others to meet the needs of individuals [Circular No. 7/2009, dated 19 Jun 2009]</p> <p>This is to clarify that a description consisting of “personal and/or social services rendered by others to meet the needs of individuals” in Class 45 has never been acceptable to the Registrar because it is vague and too broad in scope. For the purpose of clarity, applicants must specify the exact nature of the services that they wish to claim.</p> <p>If, however, an applicant insists on using this description, it must be qualified by a precise description of the personal or social services claimed. An example of an acceptable description would be “personal services rendered by others to meet the needs of individuals, namely baby sitting”.</p>	<p>In force</p>
<p>2008</p>	<p>Effective Date</p>

<p>Executor services [Circular No. 7/2008, dated 5 Mar 2008]</p> <p>The pre-2004 circulars on “executor services” in Class 42 have been removed in light of recent directives from the World Intellectual Property Organization.</p> <p>A specification of services consisting of or containing “executor services” will be classified in Class 36 because such services generally relate to the administration of money, investments, real estate, assets, and other valuables. Such services are analogous to “fiduciary services” and “trusteeship services” both of which are classified under Class 36 of the NICE Classification.</p> <p>The above changes affect all applications lodged on or after 12 March 2008.</p>	<p>In force since 12/03/2008</p>
<p>2007</p>	<p>Effective Date</p>
<p>Arranging and conducting of colloquiums / conferences / congresses / seminars / symposiums / conventions / exhibitions [Circular No. 27/2007, dated 25 Jul 2007]</p> <p>The Registrar wishes to clarify that the above items with the exception of the last, viz.</p> <p>"arranging and conducting of colloquiums"; "arranging and conducting of conferences"; "arranging and conducting of congresses"; "arranging and conducting of seminars"; "arranging and conducting of symposiums"; and "arranging and conducting of conventions"</p> <p>are classified in Class 41, regardless of the topic relating to these services. It is the purpose of the service and not the topic that determines their classification in Class 41. By virtue of their dictionary definitions, the terms, "colloquiums", "conferences", "congresses", "seminars", "symposiums" and "conventions" refer to activities linked with training or education, both of which are proper to Class 41. To illustrate, "arranging and conducting of conferences for commercial or advertising purposes" and "arranging and conducting of seminars for commercial or advertising purposes" are both classified under Class 41.</p> <p>However, the item, "arranging and conducting of exhibitions", will be classified according to the subject matter since this service only refers to showing of products or services to the public, and is not primarily offered for the purposes of training or education. By analogy,</p>	<p>In force</p>

<p>"organization of exhibitions for commercial or advertising purposes" is listed in Class 35 of the NICE Classification (Ninth Edition), but "organization of exhibitions for cultural or educational purposes" is listed in Class 41 of the NICE Classification (Ninth Edition). This is in line with the view of the World Intellectual Property Organization.</p>	
<p>Providing on-line forums / Operating chat rooms / Providing chat rooms / Providing discussion services on-line [Circular No. 27/2007, dated 25 Jul 2007]</p> <p>For applications lodged on or after 1 August 2007, the Registrar will only accept the items "providing on-line forums", "operating chat rooms", "providing chat rooms", and "providing discussion services on-line" in Class 38, regardless of the topic of the discussion. These items are analogous to the items "electronic bulletin board services [telecommunication services]" and "providing internet chatrooms" listed in Class 38 of the NICE Classification (Ninth Edition). This is in line with the view of the World Intellectual Property Organization.</p>	<p>In force since 01/08/2007</p>
<p>“Providing access to databases” / “Rental of access time to the internet / global computer networks” / “Providing of user access to the internet / global computer networks” / “Rental of access time to databases” [Circular No. 33/2007, dated 26 Sep 2007]</p> <p>For applications lodged on or after 3 October 2007, the Registrar will accept these and other analogous items in Class 38 only. These are essentially telecommunication services and are classified under Class 38 whether they are provided by an Internet Service Provider or a non-Internet Service Provider. Hence, our previous journal notice on the classification of these services based on the status of the applicant is no longer applicable.</p>	<p>In force since 03/10/2007</p>
<p>2006</p>	<p>Effective Date</p>
<p>Interior decoration services [Circular No. 22/2006, dated 7 Jul 2006]</p> <p>For applications lodged on or after 14 July 2006, the Registrar will only accept “interior decoration services” in Class 42 and not in Class 37, as such services are analogous to the item “design of interior décor” which is listed in Class 42 of the International Classification of Goods and Services (8th Edition).</p>	<p>In force since 14/7/2006</p>
<p>2005</p>	<p>Effective Date</p>

<p>Computerised communication network security and other security services [Circular No. 5/2005, dated 1 Apr 2005]</p> <p>For applications lodged on or after 8 April 2005, the Registrar will only accept “computerised communication network security” and like services in Class 42 and not in Class 45, as such items are forms of computer services classified under Class 42.</p> <p>Class 45 covers services for the protection and security of individuals and property in general, eg. “security services for buildings”, “personal body guarding” and “night guards”. If such services and information relating to such services are offered online or via a computer network, they will be classified under Class 45 as well.</p> <p>However, Class 42 will cover security services if they pertain to security of computer networks or the internet, eg. “computerised communication network security”, or if such services are offered as a form of computer service, eg “data security services [firewalls]” or “professional consultancy relating to computer security”. It would not be correct to classify such computer security services in Class 45.</p> <p>It is also useful to note that the International Classification of Goods and Services (8th Edition) classifies some security services in Class 39. Security services relating to transport, eg. “guarded transport of valuables” and “escorting of travellers”, are classified under Class 39 and not Class 45.</p>	<p>In force since 08/04/2005</p>
<p>Prepared meals [Circular No. 6/2005, dated 22 Apr 2005]</p> <p>For applications lodged on or after 29 April 2005, the Registrar will not accept a specification consisting of “prepared meals” per se as the said item, without further qualification, is vague and may fall within several classes. The item should specify the content of the prepared meals, for example,</p> <p>“Prepared meals consisting of meat” in Class 29 or</p> <p>“Prepared meals containing principally of rice” in Class 30.</p>	<p>In force since 29/4/2005</p>
<p>2004</p>	<p>Effective Date</p>
<p>Retailing of services [Circular No. 2/2004, dated 7 Jan 2004]</p> <p>With effect from 7 January 2004, the Registrar will not accept a specification containing a claim for “retailing of services” or “the bringing together, for the benefit of others, of a variety of services</p>	<p>In force since 07/01/2004</p>

<p>(excluding the transport thereof), enabling customers to conveniently view and purchase those services". Applicants will be asked to clarify on the type(s) of services they are providing and to apply for such services in the appropriate class(es).</p>	
<p>Canned foodstuffs of plant origin [Circular No. 6/2004, dated 5 Mar 2004]</p> <p>For applications lodged on or after 12 March 2004, the Registrar will accept the specification "canned foodstuffs of plant origin" in Class 30 instead of Class 29. This is in line with the explanatory note of Class 30 which states "Class 30 includes mainly foodstuffs of plant origin prepared for consumption or conservation".</p>	<p>In force since 12/3/2004</p>
<p>Manufacturing of goods [Circular No. 12/2004, dated 11 Jun 2004]</p> <p>For applications lodged on or after 18 June 2004, a specification of services consisting of or containing "manufacturing of goods" is unacceptable as it does not conform to the International Classification of Goods and Services. If a person is manufacturing goods, registration should be sought for the goods only.</p> <p>As appropriate, the specification may be phrased as "custom assembling of materials [for others]" or "custom manufacturing of goods [for others]". For example, where the items in question are cell cultures, it may be more appropriate to describe the service as "custom manufacturing of cell cultures [for others]". However, if the goods in question are clothing, "custom assembling of clothing [for others]" would be more appropriate.</p>	<p>In force since 18/06/2004</p>
<p>Pre-2004 Circulars</p>	<p>Effective Date</p>
<p>Provision of information for business or domestic purposes in Class 38</p> <p>With effect from 30 July 2003, a specification which reads "provision of information for business or domestic purposes" in Class 38 will not be acceptable. The applicant is requested to further qualify the specification so that it will read as "provision of information in the field of telecommunications for business or domestic purposes". This is in line with the General Remarks as provided in the Nice Classification that the subject matter of the information being provided determines the correct class for the services.</p>	<p>In force since 30/07/2003</p>
<p>Mail order services</p>	<p>In force</p>

<p>A specification of services consisting of or containing “mail order services” is unacceptable as it does not conform to the International Classification of Goods and Services and should be reworded to “the bringing together, for the benefit of others, of a variety of goods, enabling customers to conveniently view and purchase those goods from a general merchandise catalogue by mail order” in accordance with the practice in the United Kingdom.</p>	
<p>Desserts</p> <p>With effect from 31 October 2003, the Registrar will not accept a specification consisting of “desserts” per se. This is in line with the World Intellectual Property Organization’s view that the said item, without further qualification, is vague.</p> <p>Examples of acceptable descriptions are:</p> <p>“Desserts [Jellies for food]” in Class 29 or “Desserts [Ice cream]” in Class 30</p>	<p>In force since 31/10/2003</p>
<p>Consultancy Services</p> <p>In the 8th edition of the International Classification of Goods and Services, consultancy services will be classified according to their subject matter. For example, consultancy services relating to telecommunications will be classified in Class 38, transportation consultancy services in Class 39 and intellectual property consultancy services in Class 42. The Registry had been taking this position in its examination of applications.</p> <p>WIPO has clarified that pending the coming into force of the 8th edition, the correct classification is in accordance with the 7th edition where such services are classified in Class 35 if they are business-related and Class 42 if they are non-business-related. Hence, the Registry is adopting this stand.</p> <p>However, in order not to prejudice any party who has acted on the Registrar’s earlier position on such services, the Registry will not reject consultancy services which have been classified according to their subject matter.</p>	<p>In force</p>
<p>Club [dining] services</p> <p>With effect from 31 October 2003, the Registrar will accept the specification “club [dining] services” in Class 43 instead of Class 41 of the International Classification of Goods and Services. The emphasis on</p>	<p>In force since 31/10/2003</p>

<p>the word “dining” puts the item more in line with the class heading and explanatory notes of Class 43.</p>	
<p>Circulars no longer in force</p>	
<p>Provision of news [Circular No. 19/2004, dated 3 Sep 2004]</p> <p>For applications lodged on or after 10 September 2004, the Registrar will not accept a specification consisting of “provision of news” per se. This is in line with the World Intellectual Property Organization’s view that this description, without further qualification, is vague. The subject matter of the news provided and the purpose for which it is provided are important in determining the class to which it should fall under. Generally, these services are classified in the same classes as the services that correspond to the subject matter of the information. Examples of acceptable descriptions are:-</p> <p>“Provision of business news [business management]” in Class 35; “Provision of news [telecommunication services]” in Class 38; and “Provision of news for entertainment purposes” in Class 41.</p>	<p>Not in force (Superseded by Circular No. 5/2020, dated 18 May 2020)</p>
<p>Crib bumpers [Circular No. 3/2006, dated 3 Feb 2006]</p> <p>For applications lodged on or after 10 February 2006, the Registrar will only accept the item, “crib bumpers”, in Class 20. This item is a type of cushion for lining the base and sides of the crib and serves a protective purpose for the baby. Since the item “cushions” is listed in Class 20 of the Nice Classification, by analogy, the item, “crib bumpers”, should be classified in Class 20 as well.</p>	<p>Not in force</p>
<p>Retail services and other like services in Class 35 [Circular No. 6/2006, dated 24 Feb 2006]</p> <p>The Registrar has revised her practice concerning retail services and other like services in Class 35. This revision in practice shall take effect for all applications lodged on or after 3 March 2006</p> <p>In the past, applicants, in most instances, are required to list the goods to which the retail services relate. With the revised practice, where it is practical, it is still advisable to list the goods to which the retail services relate. However, the Registrar will no longer insist on such a requirement in all cases, as long as 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”, is used in conjunction with the means of bringing goods together. Thus, in cases where it is not practical to list</p>	<p>Not in force (Superseded by Circular No. 1/2020, dated 6 Jan 2020)</p>

all the goods to which the retail services relate, the Registrar will accept an indication of the means of bringing goods together and displaying such goods for the benefit of customers, for example, from a retail outlet, a wholesale outlet or a distributor outlet. Such an indication can be inserted at the end of 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”.

With the revised practice, “wholesale services” will also be treated in the same manner as “retail services”.

The following descriptions provide guidance on what is considered to be acceptable to the Registrar in future:

1. “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”;
2. “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”;
3. “Retail services in relation to [list the goods]”;
4. “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”;
5. “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”;
6. “Wholesale services in relation to [list the goods]”;
7. “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”;
8. “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”;
9. “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”.

The Registrar is prepared to accept similar descriptions of the above services provided that the services are clearly described and fall within the ambit of retail or wholesale services. Please note that vague descriptions such as “distributorship services” are not acceptable as

<p>the term “distributorship” may encompass more than just retail or wholesale services, for example, it may include transportation services.</p>	
<p>Technical consultancy services / Technical support services [Circular No. 25/2006, dated 16 Aug 2006]</p> <p>For applications lodged on or after 23 August 2006, the Registrar will classify “technical consultancy services”, “technical support services” and other similar technical advisory and technical information services according to their subject matters. The General Remarks in the Nice Classification (8th Edition) states that services that provide advice, information or consultation are in principle classified in the same classes as the services that correspond to the subject matter of the advice, information or consultation. Further, in line with the view of the World Intellectual Property Organization, the Registrar will consider indications such as “technical consultancy services” and “technical support services”, per se as too broad and vague and objections will be taken. Such indications will have to be specified in respect of their subject matters for the purpose of classification.</p>	<p>Not in force (Superseded by Circular No. 1/2020, dated 6 Jan 2020)</p>
<p>Cereal-based beverages / Beverages made from cereals [Circular No. 7/2008, dated 5 Mar 2008]</p> <p>The pre-2004 circulars on “cereal-based beverages/ beverages made from cereals” in Class 32 have been removed in light of recent directives from the World Intellectual Property Organization.</p> <p>A specification of goods consisting of or containing “cereal-based beverages” or “beverages made from cereals” will be classified in Class 30 by analogy to “cereal preparations” that are classified under Class 30 of the NICE Classification.</p> <p>The above changes affect all applications lodged on or after 12 March 2008.</p>	<p>Not in force (Superseded by Circular No. 1/2012, dated 27 Jul 2012 on “Cereal-based beverages”, “Beverages made from cereals”)</p>
<p>Retail services and other like services in Class 35 [Circular No. 9/2008, dated 2 May 2008]</p> <p>In addition to Circular No. 6/2006, the Registrar will accept the descriptions for applications lodged on or after 9 May 2008 (where it is not practical to list all the goods to which the retail services or wholesale services relate):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "retail services" 2. "wholesale services" <p>However, the Registrar will continue to reject descriptions such as “distributorship services”, “mail order services”, “departmental store</p>	<p>Not in force (Superseded by Circular No. 1/2020, dated 6 Jan 2020)</p>

services”, “supermarket services”, or “internet shopping”. These terms are considered vague as they include services more than retail and wholesale services. With the addition, the following descriptions provide guidance on what is considered to be acceptable to the Registrar in future:

1. "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";
2. "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";
3. "Retail services in relation to [list the goods]";
4. "Retail services";
5. "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";
6. "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";
7. "Wholesale services in relation to [list the goods]";
8. "Wholesale services";
9. "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";
10. "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";
11. "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";
12. "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";
13. "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";
14. "The bringing together, for the benefit of others, of a variety of goods (excluding the transport thereof), enabling customers to

<p>conveniently view and purchase those goods from a general merchandise web site in the global communications network”;</p> <p>15.“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”;</p> <p>16.“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”;</p> <p>17.“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”;</p> <p>18.“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”.</p>	
<p>Electronic data storage / Storage of data, information or documents [Circular No. 16/2008, dated 21 Nov 2008]</p> <p>The pre-2004 circular on "Storage of data, information or documents" (Class 35 or 39) has been removed in light of recent directive from the World Intellectual Property Organization.</p> <p>A specification of services consisting of "Electronic data storage" will be classified in Class 42 instead of 35 by analogy to "Duplication of computer programs" and "Data conversion of computer programs and data [not physical conversion]" which are classified under Class 42 of the NICE Classification. This is in conformity with the explanatory note "Class 42 includes mainly services provided by ... computer programmers, etc."</p> <p>On the other hand, if the data, information or documents are being stored physically, for example, in a warehouse, then it is proper to Class 39. The determining factor is where the data, information, or documents are being stored. Examples of items which are proper to Class 39 are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1."Data storage" 2."Information storage" 3."Storage of electronically-stored data, information or documents". <p>The above changes affect all applications lodged on or after 28 November 2008.</p>	<p>Not in force (Superseded by Circular No. 8/2016, dated 14 Oct 2016, on "Data storage", "Information storage" in Class 39 or 42))</p>
<p>Association services [Circular No. 6/2009, dated 30 Apr 2009]</p>	<p>Not in force</p>

<p>For applications lodged on or after 8 May 2009, the Registrar will not accept a description consisting of "association services" per se because the item, without further qualification, is vague and may fall within several classes. The World Intellectual Property Organization also regards this description as being vague and takes the view that a service should not in principle commence with the description "association services" even if it is followed by a qualifier. For example, the description, "association services, namely arranging business introductions", is not acceptable.</p> <p>In light of the above, applicants should avoid using descriptions beginning with "association services". A description like "association services, namely, promoting the general interests of those concerned with the importance of health and nutrition", should be reworded to "business promotion relating to the importance of health and nutrition, provided through an association" in order for it to be classified in Class 35.</p>	<p>(Superseded by Circular No. 5/2016, dated 14 Jun 2016, on "Association services")</p>
<p>Concierge services [Circular No. 6/2009, dated 30 Apr 2009]</p> <p>For applications lodged on or after 8 May 2009, the Registrar will not accept a description consisting of "concierge services" per se because the item, without further qualification, is vague and may fall within several classes. This is in line with the view of the World Intellectual Property Organization that the description is vague and can fall within several classes.</p> <p>In light of the above, applicants should specify the exact nature of the concierge services that are being claimed. If they insist on using the description, "concierge services", that must be qualified by a precise description of the concierge service. The following are examples of acceptable descriptions.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1."Concierge services for the arranging of tours" in Class 39 2."Concierge services, namely, the delivery of luggage for guests" in Class 39 3."Concierge services, namely, arranging for theater tickets" in Class 41 4."Concierge services relating to restaurant reservations" in Class 43 5."Concierge services [baggage inspection for security purposes]" in Class 45. <p>On the other hand, descriptions such as "concierge services for others comprising of making requested personal arrangements and providing customer specific information to meet the needs of individuals", "hotel and resort concierge services", and "personal services rendered by others to meet the needs of individuals, namely, concierge services" are not acceptable since the exact nature of the services is unclear.</p>	<p>Not in force (Superseded by Circular No. 2/2018, dated 27 Jul 2018, on "Concierge Services".)</p>

<p>"Ancillary Services" / "Related Services" [Circular No. 11/2009, dated 25 Sep 2009]</p> <p>For applications lodged on or after 2 October 2009, the Registrar 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. This is because the exact nature of these descriptions remains unclear. The addition of qualifiers such as "included in this class" or "all in this class" in such descriptions does not help in making those descriptions any clearer. The following are some examples of the objectionable descriptions:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "advertising services; services ancillary or related to the aforementioned included in this class"; 2. "services ancillary or related to the provision of business management services; all in this class"; and 3. "all services relating or ancillary to computer services; all included in Class 42". <p>In such cases, the Registrar will request that the applicant specify the "ancillary services" and "related services" claimed so that the specification is clear and unambiguous.</p> <p>This practice direction is consistent with Circular No. 20/2004 that relates to "Vague descriptions in specifications".</p>	<p>Not in force (Superseded by Circular No. 1/2020, dated 6 Jan 2020)</p>
<p>Computer Services [Circular No. 3/2010, dated 25 Jun 2010]</p> <p>For applications lodged on or after 2 July 2010, the Registrar will not accept a description consisting of "computer services" per se because the item, without further qualification, is vague. The insertion of a description that reads, for example, "all included in this class" at the end of a specification will not assist in avoiding an objection from the Registrar.</p> <p>According to the International Classification of Goods and Services (ICGS), services that relate to the installation, maintenance or repair of computer hardware are classified in Class 37, while services in relation to computer rental and the installation, maintenance or repair of computer software are classified in Class 42. To avoid ambiguity and to ensure conformity with the ICGS, applicants are requested to specify the exact nature of the computer services that they are claiming. However, those who wish to include the description, "computer services", in their specification of services may refer to the following examples which are considered acceptable to the Registrar:</p>	<p>Not in force (Superseded by Circular No. 1/2020, dated 6 Jan 2020)</p>

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "Computer services, namely installation of computer hardware" (Class 37) 2. "Computer services, namely providing search engines for the internet" (Class 42) 3. "Computer services in the nature of hosting web sites for others" (Class 42) 	
<p>Data storage / Information storage [Circular No. 1/2012, dated 27 Jul 2012]</p> <p>For applications lodged on or after 3 August 2012, the Registrar will not accept a specification consisting of "data storage" or "information storage" either in Class 39 or in Class 42 as the descriptions, without further qualification, are vague. As such, examples 1 and 2 cited in Circular No. 16/2008 on "Electronic data storage" and "Storage of data, information or documents" will no longer be valid.</p> <p>The following are examples of acceptable descriptions in the designated classes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "Physical storage of electronically-stored data or documents" (Class 39) 2. "Physical storage of electronically-stored information" (Class 39) 3. "Electronic data storage" (Class 42) 4. "Computerised business information storage" (Class 42) 	<p>Not in force (Superseded by Circular No. 8/2016, dated 14 Oct 2016, on "Data storage", "Information storage" in Class 39 or 42))</p>
<p>Distribution services [Circular No. 12/2014, dated 31 Jul 2014]</p> <p>This circular serves to clarify the Registry's approach towards the classification of the description of service "distribution services" in an application for registration of a trade mark.</p> <p><u>"Distribution services" per se</u></p> <p>The Registry does not accept the description "distribution services" per se, as the description is too vague for classification and may involve services that straddle across Classes 35, 39 and 41.</p> <p>For example, the meaning of distribution services in Classes 35, 39 and 41 may be understood in the following contexts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution services for the purpose of advertising, retailing or wholesaling fall in Class 35; • Distribution services by way of transportation of goods, as well as distribution services in the nature of transportation and supply of goods such as water, electricity and energy by pipeline and cable fall in Class 39; 	<p>Not in force (Superseded by Circular No. 1/2020, dated 6 Jan 2020)</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution services relating to the process of making works of visual or audio production available to the public fall in Class 41. <p>To render the description clear, the nature of distribution services needs to be specified. The following are some examples of acceptable descriptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Distribution of advertising material" in Class 35 • "Distribution of samples" in Class 35 • "Distribution of goods (transportation)" in Class 39 • "Distribution of electricity" in Class 39 • "Distribution (other than transportation) of films" in Class 41 • "Distribution (other than transportation) of sound recordings" in Class 41 <p><u>"Distribution services (other than transportation)" in Class 35</u></p> <p>Please note that the mere addition of the qualifier "(other than transportation)" to the vague description "distribution services" does not render it proper to 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 following are some examples of adequately qualified descriptions in Class 35:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Distribution services, namely, retail and wholesale services" • "Distribution services, namely, marketing of goods" • "Distribution services, namely, the bringing together, for the benefit of others, of a variety of goods (excluding transport thereof), enabling customers to conveniently view and purchase those goods from a distributor outlet" 	
<p>Retail services and other like services in Class 35 [Circular No. 17/2014, dated 9 Dec 2014]</p> <p>The Registry has revised its practice concerning retail services and other like services in Class 35.</p> <p>This circular serves to inform our customers of the revised approach towards the acceptance of the description of service "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" in an application for registration of a trade mark, as well as to clarify our approach towards the acceptance of the description of service "sale of [goods of interest]" .</p>	<p>Not in force (Superseded by Circular No. 1/2020, dated 6 Jan 2020)</p>

This circular supersedes [Circular No. 6/2006](#), and this revision in practice shall take effect for all applications lodged on or after 8 December 2014.

(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

In the past, we require that the description of service "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" be used in conjunction with the means of bringing the goods together, such as "from a retail outlet", "from a wholesale outlet" or "from a general merchandise website in the global communications network".

The Registry has now changed its practice and 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 and the descriptions of service listed in Circular No. 9/2008, the Registry will now also accept the following descriptions of service in Class 35:

- 1) Retail sale services
- 2) Retail store services
- 3) Wholesale store services
- 4) Online retail services
- 5) Online wholesale services
- 6) Online retail store services
- 7) Online wholesale store 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]".	
Recommendations published by World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) regarding the Nice Classification can be found at: https://www.wipo.int/classifications/nice/en/recommendations/	