



## **REDUCTION IN CTM OFFICIAL FEES**

OHIM has just announced that it will be reducing the overall level of official fees that are charged for obtaining CTM registrations. It is expected that these will come into being for applications filed from **1 May 2009 onwards**.

The CTM system has proven to be a very successful method of obtaining trademark protection throughout the EU. (Over 500,000 registrations have been granted since 1996.) There is, therefore, a very healthy cash surplus in the reserves of OHIM, and this is one of the reasons that it feels that it can now introduce reductions in its overall official fees.

In future, there will be a single CTM official application fee, replacing the current separate application and registration fees.

The official registration fee (currently €850) is to be abolished. The official filing fee will actually increase from €750 to €900 for applications filed electronically, and from €900 to €1,050 for applications filed in paper form. (Our regular practice is to file applications electronically.) Because of the abolition of the official registration fees, there will be an overall reduction of €700 in securing registration.

The abolition of the registration fee will apply to all applications that are pending when the changes come into effect and have not reached the stage at which OHIM has called for the registration fee to be paid.

Although the official fee for filing an application is increasing, we will not be increasing our standard charge, and we will also be reducing our standard charge for the final registration stage to reflect the fact that the registration fee is no longer payable.

The effect of these changes will obviously reduce, substantially, the total cost for obtaining a CTM registration.

### **Recommendation**

With the official fees for filing a CTM application being increased from 1 May 2009, we recommend that you, or your clients, instruct us to file any forthcoming CTM applications before 1 May 2009 in order to benefit from the current lower level of official fees. To avoid a last minute rush, we would appreciate receiving your instructions by 24 April.

**If you need any further information concerning this matter, please contact Sanjay Kapur, John Peacock, Jackie Tolson or Lucy Mills in our Nottingham office.**

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The information in this Newsletter was correct at the date of release. More up to date information is available by contacting Potter Clarkson LLP. All comments contained here are of a general nature and full professional advice should be sought on any specific problem. Please note that all our Newsletters can be found on our website: [www.potterclarkson.com](http://www.potterclarkson.com).



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