

## COMMUNITY TRADE MARKS UPDATE

We reported in a newsletter last year that the Community Trade Mark Office had suspended examination of seniority claims.

The Community Trade Mark Office have now indicated that as of April 1999 they will probably start examining seniority claims.

However, they will be examining only the seniority claims that are made after this date.

This means that the seniority claims that have already been made in the three years since the Community Trade Mark system was instigated will still not be examined.

Our advice must therefore remain that trademark proprietors, who have obtained Community Trade Mark registrations which have claimed seniority from prior national registrations, should maintain those prior national registrations in force until the seniority claims have been examined and validated.

Through the Institute of Trade Mark Attorneys, we are exerting pressure on the Community Trade Mark Office to commence immediately the examination of seniority claims for all outstanding registrations and applications.

We will keep you advised.

The information in this Newsletter was correct at the date of release. More up to date information is available by contacting Eric Potter Clarkson. 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 at [www.eric-potter.com](http://www.eric-potter.com).

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