

COMMUNITY TRADE MARK REGISTRATIONS – 1 MAY 2004

On 1 May 2004 ten new countries, listed below, will join the European Community trademark system.

Cyprus	Czech Republic
Estonia	Hungary
Latvia	Lithuania
Malta	Poland
Slovakia	Slovenia

Community trademark applications filed after that time will be examined to determine whether or not the trademark is inherently registrable in all 25 member states.

In contrast, applications filed prior to 1 May 2004 will be examined only to determine whether they are inherently registrable in the existing 15 member states. These applications will, however, extend automatically to the ten new countries after 1 May 2004.

Our recommendation, therefore, is that Community trademark applications should be filed prior to 1 May 2004 if there is any reason to believe that the trademark which is the subject of the application could be deemed to be inherently unregistrable in one of the ten new member states.

Please contact Ian Buchan, Sanjay Kapur or John Peacock if you wish to receive further advice on this matter.

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.

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