

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY UPDATE

19 September 2019

CHANGES TO THE REGISTRATION OF DESIGNS IN SINGAPORE

CHANGES TO THE CLASSIFICATION

With effect from 1 October 2019, the designs classification under Rule 26 of the Registered Designs Rules will be updated.

For the purposes of registration of a design, each article, non-physical product, or set of articles and non-physical products to which the design is intended to be applied is to be classified in accordance with this new classification. This new classification will supersede the present classification introduced by the Intellectual Property of Singapore's ("IPOS") Registry of Designs Practice Direction No. 1 of 2017.

In the updated classification, more types of articles and products are expressly listed. For example, tofu and tofu products will soon be classified under "Foodstuffs" (Class 01-05). Devices for carrying and walking with babies and children will also be classified under "Travel goods, cases, parasols and personal belongings, not elsewhere specified" (Class 03-05). Hardware for curtains will be classified under "Tools and Hardware" (Class 08-11).

CHANGES TO THE REGISTERED DESIGNS (INTERNATIONAL REGISTRATION) RULES 2005

The Registered Designs (International Registration) Amendment Rules 2019 came into operation on 13 September 2019 and brought

about the following changes to the Registered Designs (International Registration) Rules 2005. First, international registrations designating Singapore are now subject to practice directions on classification. This means that they are presently subject to the classification as set out in IPOS's Registry of Designs Practice Direction No. 1 of 2017. From 1 October 2019, they will be subject to the updated classification.

Second, a holder of an international registration designating Singapore will be allowed to notify the Registrar of any particulars of the registration that are to be amended in order to address a refusal of protection in Singapore. Any amendments to particulars of international registrations designating Singapore are to be made as part of the holders' representations against the refusal of protection.

Third, there is a change to the starting date on which a design that is the subject of an international registration designating Singapore is protected in Singapore. Where the Registrar notifies the International Bureau that a final decision has been made to withdraw a refusal of protection following an amendment of any particulars of the registration, the design is protected starting on the date of the notification. In any other case, the design is protected starting on the filing date of the corresponding international application.

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