

INFORMATION FOR CLIENTS

Issue 27: 20 August 2003

Commencement of the Trade Marks Act 2002

The New Zealand Trade Marks Act 2002 comes into force on Wednesday 20 August 2002. All applications filed from this date onwards will be proceeded with in accordance with the Trade Marks Act 2002.

The provisions dealing with the transition from the Trade Marks Act 1953 to the Trade Marks Act 2002 are found in sections 202 to 209 of the Trade Marks Act 2002.

IPONZ has created an extensive series of **Practice Guidelines** covering many aspects of Office practice as it relates to the Trade Marks Act. The guidelines cover the following topics:

1. Introduction
2. The Application Process
3. Classification and Specification
4. Divisions
5. Mergers
6. Absolute Grounds General
7. Absolute Grounds Distinctiveness
8. Identical and Similar Marks
9. Amendments, Alterations and Corrections of Error
10. Series Marks
11. Transitional Provisions
12. Minimum Requirements for Filing Applications

You may download the guidelines in PDF format from the **Practice Guidelines** folder in the **Information Library** on the IPONZ website www.iponz.govt.nz.

These guidelines will be updated from time to time as new practices are published in *Information for Clients*.

If you have any queries about the implementation of the new Act please contact mail@iponz.govt.nz.

New Trade Mark Number Series

Trade mark applications received from 20 August 2003 will be numbered from 700 000. This will assist with distinguishing applications that were made under the Trade Marks Act 2002 from those made under the Trade Marks Act 1953.