



2009 NEWS

Contents

- [Dec 24, 2009: The Journal](#)
- [Dec 18, 2009: Trans-Tasman harmonisation project](#)
- [Dec 16, 2009: International Patent Classification 2010](#)
- [Dec 11, 2009: Holiday hours](#)
- [Nov 27, 2009: The Journal](#)
- [Nov 25, 2009: World Intellectual Property Organization \(WIPO\) magazine December 2009 No.6 cover photo and article](#)
- [Nov 17, 2009: Change to the online application forms](#)
- [Oct 30, 2009: The Journal](#)
- [Oct 21, 2009: Closed for Labour Day - Monday 26 October 2009](#)
- [Oct 14, 2009: The Plant Variety Rights Journal](#)
- [Oct 13, 2009: Business Update Newsletter](#)
- [Sep 29, 2009: New status description for Trade Mark applications](#)
- [Sep 25, 2009: The Journal](#)
- [Sep 23, 2009: Trade Marks \(International Treaties and Enforcement\) Amendment Bill](#)
- [Sep 22, 2009: View IP History Online Service now available](#)
- [Sep 18, 2009: Review of IP driving productivity](#)
- [Sep 08, 2009: Sourcing plant material of protected varieties](#)
- [Aug 28, 2009: The Journal](#)
- [Aug 26, 2009: New Zealand specific trade mark descriptors](#)
- [Jul 31, 2009: The Journal - July edition now available](#)
- [Jul 30, 2009: Changes to the online process for trade mark applications](#)
- [Jul 30, 2009: Expressions of interest sought for proposed Government to Business \(G2B\) interfaces](#)
- [Jul 14, 2009: The Plant Variety Rights Journal](#)
- [Jul 02, 2009: Latest decisions of the Commissioner](#)
- [Jul 01, 2009: Notice of intention to close 33 Bowen Street filing office](#)
- [Jul 01, 2009: Statement of novelty for designs](#)
- [Jun 26, 2009: June edition of the Journal is now available](#)
- [Jun 23, 2009: Notices regarding Patent Attorney Exams 7-9 July 2009](#)
- [May 29, 2009: IPONZ wins Vero Excellence in Business Support Award](#)
- [May 28, 2009: Closed for Queen's Birthday Monday 1 June 2009](#)
- [May 21, 2009: Processing timeframes for applications and correspondence](#)
- [May 21, 2009: Succinctness of claims patent practice note](#)
- [May 21, 2009: Contrary to morality patent practice note](#)
- [May 11, 2009: Representations for designs](#)
- [May 08, 2009: When will your PCT application entering New Zealand national phase be processed?](#)
- [May 07, 2009: Patents Bill - First Reading in Parliament](#)
- [May 06, 2009: New status descriptions for PCT applications](#)
- [Apr 29, 2009: Are you a business owner?](#)
- [Apr 23, 2009: Vero Excellence in Business Support Award finalist](#)
- [Apr 23, 2009: Filing evidence online](#)
- [Apr 08, 2009: Closed for Good Friday & Easter Monday](#)

-
- [Apr 08, 2009: Public submissions on Trade Marks \(International Treaties and Enforcement\) Amendment Bill](#)
 - [Apr 03, 2009: Planned maintenance](#)
 - [Mar 24, 2009: Patent practice guideline amendment](#)
 - [Mar 02, 2009: Apply for trade mark search and preliminary advice online](#)
 - [Feb 26, 2009: James Dyson Award 2009](#)
 - [Feb 26, 2009: Patent attorney exam results 2008](#)
 - [Feb 17, 2009: Unscheduled outage tonight](#)
 - [Feb 11, 2009: Online Services a priority for 2009](#)
 - [Feb 03, 2009: Closed for Waitangi Day - Friday 6 February 2009](#)
 - [Jan 27, 2009: Patent attorney exams 2009 - Dates and deadlines](#)
 - [Jan 22, 2009: Hearing decisions now searchable online](#)
 - [Jan 16, 2009: Maintenance of our online payment services](#)
-

The Journal

The December edition of the Journal is now available.

The latest journal has now been posted on the site.

You have two options to access this:

- [Online Journal](#)
 - [The December 2009 edition – Journal 1566](#)
-

Trans-Tasman harmonisation project

IP Australia (IPA) and IPONZ (“the Offices”) have agreed to undertake a trial to recognise, where appropriate, the previous examination decisions made by each office, not only to further align and enhance the quality and consistency of trade mark examination, but also to assess the feasibility of a future model of mutual recognition in examination between the New Zealand and Australian IP Offices. This trial will commence on 1 February 2010.

Background

The trial is part of an ongoing initiative for increased harmonisation in trade mark examination outcomes between New Zealand and Australia.

The first stage of the project commenced in May 2006, involving both a comparison of trade mark law and practice across the Offices and a retrospective comparison of 200 applications filed in both countries. Stage one of the project resulted in the alignment of several examination practices and a retrospective examination comparison confirmed that trade mark examination systems are reasonably aligned on a majority of issues, with 73.5% of examination of outcomes being the same, which would have increased to 95% had discussion between the Offices occurred at the time.

Based on the strong outcomes achieved in the initial phase of the project a concurrent examination of 159 applications was undertaken. Concurrent examination included examiners of both offices communicating with each other in relation to examination outcomes, and where examination outcomes differed, the examiners attempted to reach a common consensus where the respective office’s legislation and practices permitted. The differences in examination outcomes, due to difference of practice or opinion, reduced dramatically from



21% in Stage 1 to 8% in stage 2. Furthermore, a consultancy report supported the view that recognition of prior examinations of one office by the other (and vice versa), would be an effective way of bringing about consistent examination outcomes.

Stage 3 trial

In light of connectivity, both in terms of examination practices and the alignment of examination outcomes to date, it is logical that clients seeking a trade mark in both Australia and New Zealand should generally speaking receive the same examination outcome. Harmonisation of examination outcomes, where practical and possible, also makes sense against the backdrop of ever-strengthening economic relations between the two countries and broader objective of both governments to advance a single economic market (SEM). Connectivity in the business environment is apparent by the fact that Australia is the second largest source of trade mark applications made in New Zealand by foreign owners, and New Zealand is the fourth largest source of trade mark applications filed in Australia by foreign owners (based on 09-10 filings data).

Trial objectives

Stage 3 of the project has now been set in motion, where each office will seek to recognise the trade mark examination by the other, where appropriate. Trial objectives therefore include the alignment of the following: examination decision-making (within the ambit of respective legislative regimes), mutually acceptable quality assurance standards and audit processes, and operational practices.

Commencement of the trial

To achieve the trial objectives, IPONZ and IPA are undertaking a pilot, commencing on 1 February 2010, under which each office will recognise prior examination decisions made in the other office (where this is possible having regard to local requirements).

Who can participate in the trial?

Any applicant who has filed a trade mark in one country who then files an application for the same mark in the other country can opt into the trial.

How to participate in the trial

To facilitate the project both IPA and IPONZ have amended their respective forms to include a tick box so that applicants can agree to participate in the trial. Both Offices are well advanced in making the necessary changes to their respective application forms and although the tick box option will be available in each jurisdiction as soon as the functionality is developed, the project will formally commence on 1 February 2010. Application forms will require trade mark applicants to actively acknowledge both participation in the trial and to consent to disclosure of personal and examination information to IPA. In Australia, only applications filed electronically will be part of the project. In New Zealand, paper filings will also be part of the project.

Why become involved in the trial?

- We envisage that applicants taking part in the trial will experience greater satisfaction arising from increased consistency, quality and predictability of examination outcomes for the same applications filed in Australia and New Zealand, providing greater certainty for the trade mark owner and resulting spin-off benefits for consumers.



-
- The trial will also act to preserve the gains in consistency made in previous stages of cooperation between the Offices, and further consolidate the prevention of divergence in the treatment of applications due to operational procedure and practice.
 - The trial will promote greater levels of communication and accord between the Offices, and contribute information and data upon which the two Offices can jointly make an informed, evidence-based decision on the future of recognition of prior work across the Offices.
-

International Patent Classification 2010

The International Patent Classification (IPC) version 2010.01 comes into force on 1 January 2010. From 15 December 2009, IPONZ will classify patents according to the new version.

Please note - patents applied for prior to 15 December 2009 are not automatically reclassified, may retain the retired IPC symbols, and may not include symbols introduced in the new version. When searching for a patent, IPONZ recommends that you use symbols from both the current and earlier versions of the IPC for a complete search.

For more information about the IPC please [click here](#).

Holiday hours

IPONZ will close for business at 5.00pm Thursday 24 December 2009 and re-open at 8.30am Tuesday 5 January 2010. This website will be available 24/7 throughout this period.

On the 24th of December, documents may be filed at IPONZ or at other MED regional offices until 5.00pm. These documents will be dated the 24th of December 2009.

All applications that are made online, including patents, trade marks and designs will also receive a filing date of 24 December 2009 if they are submitted before 11.59pm NZDST on the 24th of December 2009.

All filings made online, by fax or email between the 25th of December 2009 and the 5th of January 2010 will receive a filing date of the 5th of January 2010. Any deadline dates requiring documents to be filed during this period will be accepted on the 5th of January 2010.

Please note | If information about an invention or a design, for which an application for a patent or design registration is to be made, is published prior to the official filing date it may invalidate the patent or registration. If a patent or design application is submitted online on an official closed day, such as on a weekend, or over the Christmas-New Year period it would be prudent to wait until the next open day before publishing details of the invention or design.

We would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

For more information call us toll free on 0508 4 IPONZ (0508 447 669).

The Journal

The latest journal has now been posted on the site.

You have two options to access this:

- [Online Journal](#)

- [The November 2009 edition – Journal 1565](#)

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) magazine December 2009 No.6 cover photo and article



Characters from “Creative Directions” - the New Zealand national curriculum IP education online tool, adorn the front cover of the [WIPO magazine](#) December 2009 issue. Creative Directions was developed by the Ministry of Education and IPONZ as a public and private sector educational partnership. Media Studies Teachers; the Recording Industry of New Zealand, and New Zealand Federation Against Copyright Theft were key participants.

The New Zealand Business Excellence Foundation judging panel behind the Vero Excellence in Business Support Awards recognised the important strides IPONZ has made in getting IP into the classroom. IPONZ was a finalist in two categories and won the 2009 Government Department Award.

IPONZ doesn't take its monopoly in being the registration authority for IP rights for granted. IPONZ continues to move with times, changing its business model from a purely administrative role to one which supports business and education providers. The IPONZ website is our virtual front door to provide smart IP information and access to trusted IP Register databases and online filing facilities which are available 24/7.

IPONZ's Group Manager says that Examiners and IP Awareness teams often recognise student names listed as inventors or IP owners on the New Zealand IP Register. We are also pleased to see that teacher co-ordinators are [gazetting](#) student showcase events.

Change to the online application forms

We have improved the patent, trade mark and design online application forms so that you can now select either the applicant or the registered user as the contact for an application.

Why was the change made?

The change simplifies the process for parties filing on behalf of an applicant to make the applicant the contact if they wish.

How does it work?

New drop down menus have been added to the contact information section of the application forms that allow users to select “Yes” to retain the logged in user's name and address, or, “No” to select an applicant's details as the contact.

For more information about the application process see:

- [How to apply for a patent](#)
- [How to apply for a trade mark](#)

-
- [How to apply for a design](#)
-

The Journal

The October edition of the Journal is now available.
You have two options to access this:

- [Online Journal](#)
 - [The October 2009 edition – Journal 1564](#)
-

Closed for Labour Day - Monday 26 October 2009

We will be closed on Monday 26 October 2009.

Our website will be available 24/7 throughout this period. Applications made online on 26 October 2009 will receive a filing date of 27 October 2009.

Please note | If information about a design or an invention for which an application is to be made, is published prior to the official filing date it may invalidate the registration or patent. If a design or patent application is submitted online on an official closed day, such as on a weekend or Labour Day it would be prudent to wait until the next open day before publishing details of the design or invention.

The Plant Variety Rights Journal

The latest quarterly edition of the journal has now been posted on the site.

To view the journal click here: [PVR Journal No. 119 published 14 October 2009.](#)

Business Update Newsletter

Business update is a free monthly email newsletter that will keep you up-to-date IPONZ news and developments.

View or subscribe to the Business Update monthly newsletter.

New status description for Trade Mark applications

The Intellectual Property Office of New Zealand (IPONZ) has introduced a new status for Trade Mark Applications called “45 – Ready for examination”.

This new status is intended to make it easier for clients to track the progress of their application online using the View IP History service. See www.iponz.govt.nz/online-services

The table below lists the updated status descriptions for Trade Mark Applications:

Status number	Current status description	Explanation of how an application gets to the nominated status
---------------	----------------------------	--



20	Filed	A Trade Mark Application, application fee, and documentation have been received by IPONZ.
45 - New	Ready for examination	The application is ready to be examined under the Trade Marks Act 2002.
50 - Updated	Under examination	The application has been allocated to an Examiner for examination or an examination report has been sent to the applicant regarding the Trade Mark application. IPONZ is awaiting a response to objection(s) or is still corresponding with the applicant or agent about outstanding objections. Current examination timelines are available here .

[For more information on the application process.](#)

The Journal

The September edition of the Journal is now available.

The latest journal has now been posted on the site.

You have two options to access this:

- [Online Journal](#)
 - [The September 2009 edition – Journal 1563](#)
-

Trade Marks (International Treaties and Enforcement) Amendment Bill

The Trade Marks (International Treaties and Enforcement) Amendment Bill is the legislative vehicle being used to facilitate the government's decisions to:

- join the Nice Agreement, the Singapore Treaty and the Madrid Protocol;
- enhance the enforcement of the criminal offence provisions in the Trade Marks and Copyright Acts; and
- improve Customs' administration of the border protection measures in the Trade Marks and Copyright Acts against the importation of goods bearing an infringing sign and pirated copies of copyright protected works; and
- address a number of technical issues that have arisen since the operation of the Trade Marks Act came into force in August 2003.

The Bill was introduced into Parliament on 8 September 2008. The text of the Bill is available from the [New Zealand legislation website](#).

The Minister of Commerce, Hon Simon Power, announced in a media statement released on 8 April 2008 that the Bill had passed its first reading in Parliament and had been referred to the



Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Select Committee for consideration. The Minister's media statement is available from the [beehive website](#).

The Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee called for public submissions on the Bill. The deadline for the Select Committee to receive submissions was Friday 15 May 2009. Information about making a submission is available from the [Parliament website](#).

On 13 September 2009 the Bill was reported back to Parliament by the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee. A copy of their report is available from the [Parliament website](#).

View IP History Online Service now available

Keeping track of your correspondence with IPONZ has just got a lot easier with the launch of our new online service "View IP History".

Clients and agents will now be able to log in to www.iponz.govt.nz to view and download the correspondence relating to their Patent, Design or Trade Mark portfolio.

Following an extensive digitisation project over the last 12 months we have been able to create an electronic file for the majority of IP records in our system. As a result of this work we are now in a position to provide clients / agents with this new service.

Why should you use this new service?

Because...

- it is convenient – can be done remotely and electronically in the comfort of your office, and at anytime that suits you. This new online service will save you both in time and money.
- Correspondence sent from the office will be available online the same day giving clients / agents the option to respond immediately rather than days later when the physical mail arrives.
- Clients / agents will be able to confirm the office has received documents via the service without the need to process physical filing receipts. Correspondence filed online by clients / agents will be visible within 5 minutes while physical mail correspondence will be visible within 1 working day of receipt.

Is there anything excluded from this service?

Yes, there are some document types not currently visible as part of the service.

Evidence relating to Oppositions

Following discussions with the pilot groups we have decided to restrict access to this information for all divisions (Patents, Trade Marks and Designs) and it will not be available as part of the "View IP History" service.

Correspondence such as Notice of Opposition, Extension of time or general correspondence will be visible and accessible by the client / agent. Limitations of the current technology prevent opposition parties from viewing this information online and the existing process of emailing / physical post will continue until the current technology is replaced.

Active Trade Mark files pre 1990

The digitisation project has captured information related to active Trade Marks back to 1990. This represents 80% of the registered marks on the register. Over the next 6-12 months we are intending to progressively digitise the remaining documents with files back to 1970 digitised by mid-October 2009 (95% of Register). If you require electronic copies of documents before 1990 then please request via the process [here](#).

Trade Mark Evidence of Use

Evidence of use related to Trade mark applications under examination (Status 50) received by the office from the 10th of March 2009 has been digitised. The office is currently reviewing options for the remaining evidence held and will provide further information on any outcomes during October 2009.

Note: As with any project of this size there is a possibility that some documents have been mistakenly omitted from the digitisation process. We encourage clients / agents to review their files online and identify any omissions. Any discrepancies should be reported to IPONZ via mail@iponz.govt.nz with a subject line of "View IP History Project" and an electronic copy of the documents attached.

Who can use this online service?

In order to use the service clients / agents will need to be a registered user, be logged in to www.iponz.govt.nz and have the appropriate authorisations to the file. For more information on how to get access visit our fact sheet [here](#).

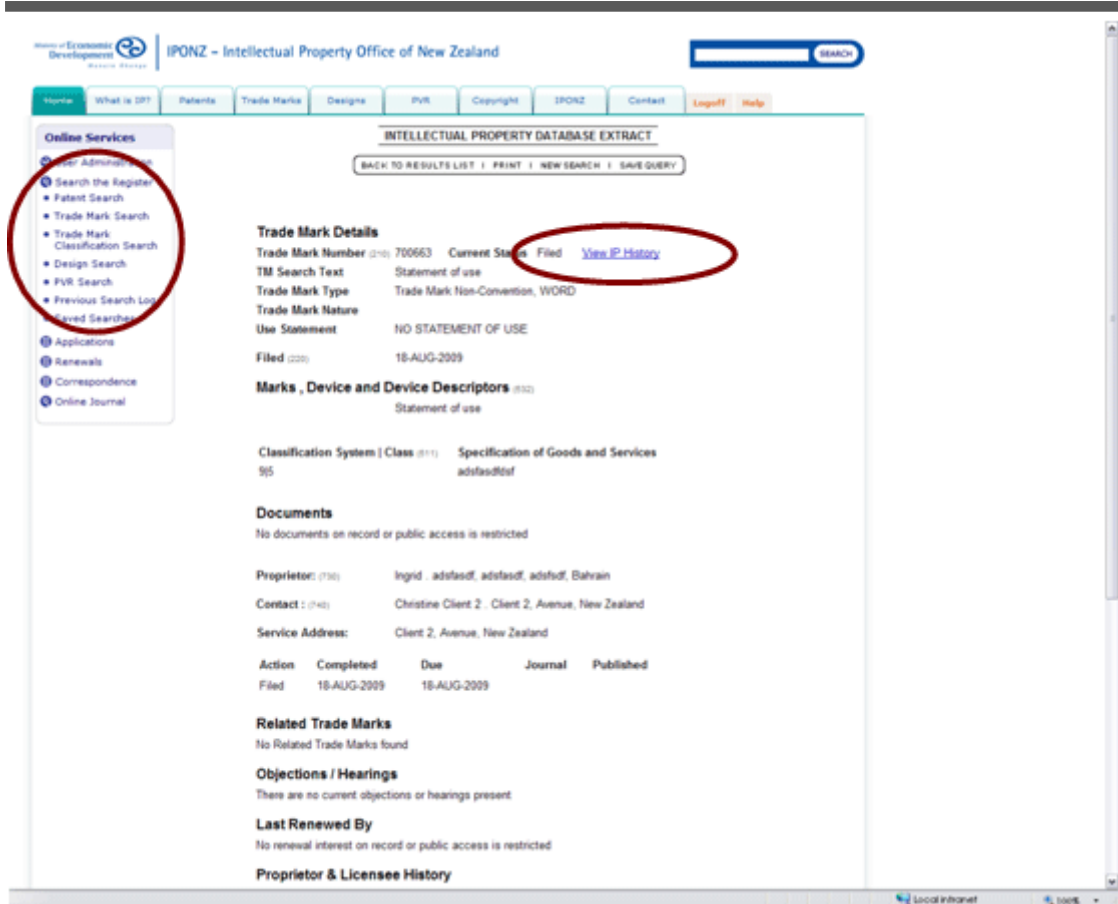
Do I need any special software to use this online service?

No, there is no need for any special software. Check out our [optimum software and site settings](#) for more information on how to optimise this service.

What does this new service look like and how can I access it?

There are 2 ways to access this service through the IPONZ website:

1. Via IP search



Ministry of Economic Development | IPONZ - Intellectual Property Office of New Zealand

Home | What is IPT | Patents | Trade Marks | Designs | PVR | Copyright | IPONZ | Contact | [Logout](#) | [Help](#)

Online Services

- User Administration
- Search the Register
 - Patent Search
 - Trade Mark Search
 - Trade Mark Classification Search
 - Design Search
 - PVR Search
 - Previous Search Log
 - Saved Searches
- Applications
- Renewals
- Correspondence
- Online Journal

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DATABASE EXTRACT

[BACK TO RESULTS LIST](#) | [PRINT](#) | [NEW SEARCH](#) | [SAVE QUERY](#)

Trade Mark Details

Trade Mark Number (11): 700563 Current Status: Filed [View IP History](#)

TM Search Text: Statement of use

Trade Mark Type: Trade Mark Non-Convention, WORD

Trade Mark Nature: NO STATEMENT OF USE

Use Statement: NO STATEMENT OF USE

Filed (200): 18-AUG-2009

Marks , Device and Device Descriptors (152)

Statement of use

Classification System (Class (11)) Specification of Goods and Services

95 adfsadfdf

Documents

No documents on record or public access is restricted

Proprietor (136) Ingrid . adfsadf, adfsadf, adfsadf, Bahrain

Contact (142) Christine Client 2 . Client 2, Avenue, New Zealand

Service Address: Client 2, Avenue, New Zealand

Action	Completed	Due	Journal	Published
Filed	18-AUG-2009	18-AUG-2009		

Related Trade Marks

No Related Trade Marks found

Objections / Hearings

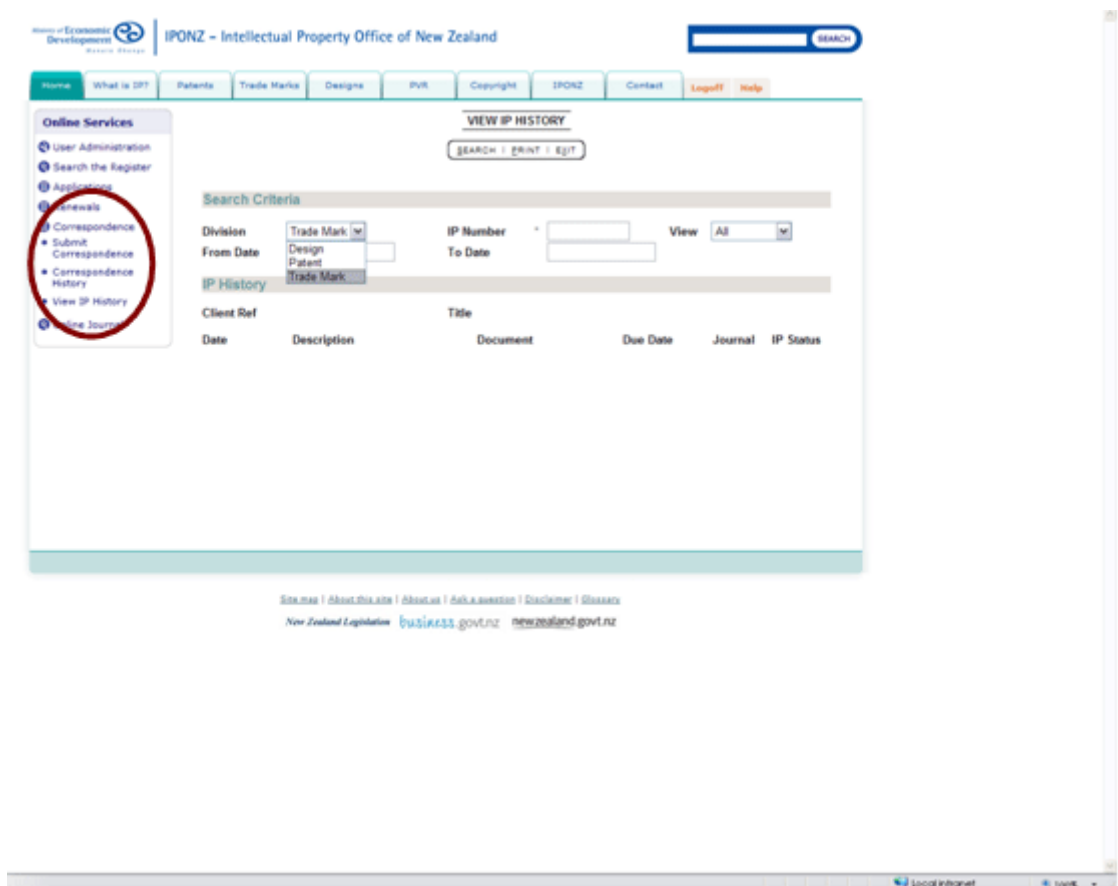
There are no current objections or hearings present

Last Renewed By

No renewal interest on record or public access is restricted

Proprietor & Licensee History

Directly from the correspondence menu



Ministry of Economic Development | IPONZ - Intellectual Property Office of New Zealand

Home | What is IPT | Patents | Trade Marks | Designs | PVR | Copyright | IPONZ | Contact | [Logout](#) | [Help](#)

Online Services

- User Administration
- Search the Register
- Applications
- Renewals
- Correspondence
 - Submit Correspondence
 - Correspondence History
 - View IP History
- Online Journal

VIEW IP HISTORY

[SEARCH](#) | [PRINT](#) | [EDIT](#)

Search Criteria

Division: Trade Mark | IP Number: * | View: All

From Date: Design | To Date: |

IP History: Trade Mark

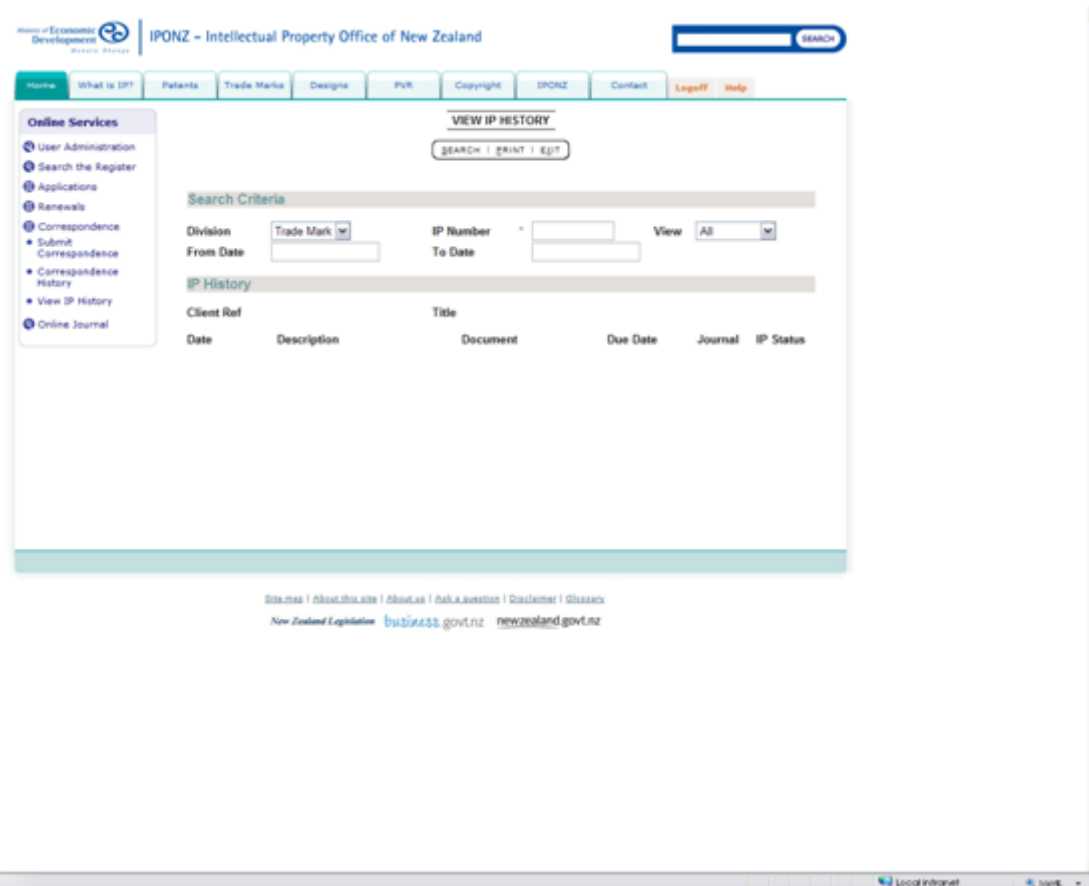
Client Ref	Title		Due Date	Journal	IP Status
Date	Description	Document			

SEARCH | ABOUT US | ABOUT US | ABOUT US | ABOUT US | ABOUT US | ABOUT US

New Zealand Legislation | [BUSINESS.GOV.NZ](#) | [NEWZEALAND.GOV.NZ](#)



An example of a screenshot of this service:



You can access this new service [here](#).

 [Fact sheet - How to set up access to your file \[24 kB PDF\]](#)

Review of IP driving productivity

In association with Auckland UniServices Limited, the Ministry of Economic Development is reviewing how the intellectual property system may better support the drive to increase productivity in the New Zealand economy.

The review will examine how New Zealand businesses use intellectual property rights and what factors are considered when deciding on how to commercially protect new ideas and innovations.

There will be an assessment on whether New Zealand businesses are making the best use of intellectual property rights to protect their inventions and innovations. A broad approach is being taken as all forms of intellectual property rights are being included in the review.

The review will also look at possible barriers to the commercialisation of intellectual property and identify where government intellectual property policies and practices could be improved to provide better support for New Zealand businesses.

UniServices is surveying New Zealand firms to find out about their experience with and use of intellectual property rights. The Ministry would like to encourage firms to be involved in the

survey, as a high response rate will improve the quality of the survey information and help us better understand how New Zealand firms view and use intellectual property rights.

A report from UniServices on the role of the intellectual property system in driving productivity in New Zealand is due November 2009.

A survey into how the intellectual property system can drive productivity is being conducted by UniServices. To complete the survey [click here](#).

Sourcing plant material of protected varieties

The availability and sourcing of plant material for varieties, necessary for evaluation alongside plants of candidate varieties in plant variety right growing trials, continues to be problematic with ongoing difficulties.

This is clearly an issue for non-protected varieties with no immediate solution. In recent years the availability of plants of protected varieties is also becoming an increasing problem.

The granting of a plant variety right comes with certain obligations with respect to official access to plant material. The Plant Variety Rights Act 1987 requires that plant material of protected varieties be available on request from the Plant Variety Rights Office for the testing of other varieties. Section 16 of the Act provides for the possible cancellation of a grant of plant variety rights if representative plants of a protected variety are not available.

The PVR Office requests that the availability of plants for PVR testing or other PVR Office purposes be taken into consideration for variety management plans or strategies.

The Journal

The August edition of the Journal is now available.

The latest journal has now been posted on the site.

You have two options to access this:

- [Online Journal](#)
 - [The August 2009 edition – Journal 1562](#)
-

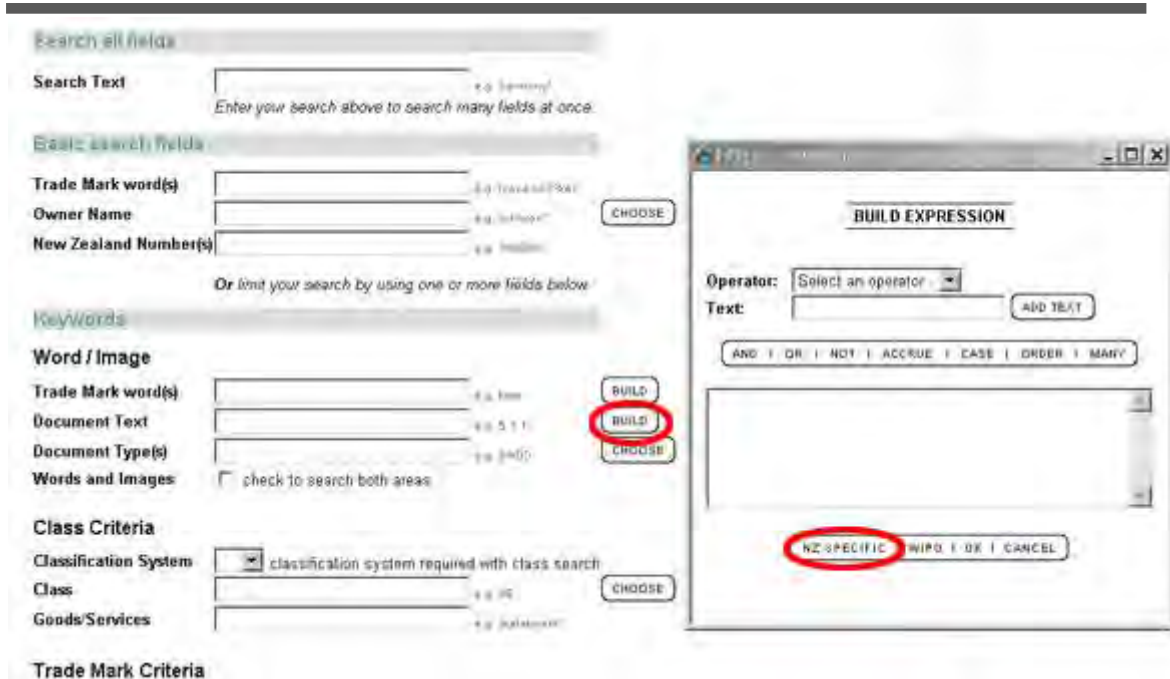
New Zealand specific trade mark descriptors

IPONZ has introduced a new function to the online trade mark search form to assist with searching for New Zealand specific mark descriptors.

The intention of the function is to aid in the searching of trade marks that contain devices that may be unique to New Zealand, for example, native flora and fauna.

To add the New Zealand specific descriptors to your search follow the NZ SPECIFIC link in the BUILD button, as shown below.

For more information about searching for trade mark images and logos [click here](#).



The screenshot displays the IPONZ search interface. On the left, there are sections for 'Search all fields', 'Basic search fields', 'Keywords', 'Word/Image', and 'Class Criteria'. The 'Basic search fields' section includes input boxes for 'Trade Mark word(s)', 'Owner Name', and 'New Zealand Number(s)', each with a 'CHOOSE' button. The 'Keywords' section has 'Word/Image' criteria with 'Trade Mark word(s)', 'Document Text', and 'Document Type(s)' input boxes, and a 'Words and Images' checkbox. The 'Class Criteria' section includes 'Classification System', 'Class', and 'Goods/Services' input boxes, each with a 'CHOOSE' button. On the right, a 'BUILD EXPRESSION' window is open, showing an 'Operator' dropdown, a 'Text' input box with an 'ADD TEXT' button, and a list of operators: AND, OR, NOT, ACCRUE, CASE, ORDER, MANY. At the bottom of this window, the 'NZ-SPECIFIC' button is circled in red.

The Journal - July edition now available

The July edition of the Journal is now available.

The latest journal has now been posted on the site.

You have two options to access this:

- [Online Journal](#)
- [The July 2009 edition – Journal 1561](#)

Changes to the online process for trade mark applications

The Intellectual Property Office of New Zealand (IPONZ) has introduced changes to the process for applying for trade marks online at www.iponz.govt.nz

From the 11th of August 2009, applicants will need to be a registered user of the system in order to apply for a trade mark online.

Why are these changes being made?

- To standardise the application process across patents, designs and trade marks;
- Facilitate the allocation of login credentials in advance of the “View Correspondence Online” functionality general release;
- Increased security process associated with online filings; and
- Reduce party duplication issues.

What do I need to do?

Depending on your circumstances you should fall into one of the categories below with the associated actions.



Scenario A

I already have a login for www.iponz.govt.nz. I don't have any trade mark applications / registrations.

From the 11th of August you will need to login when applying for a trade mark online.

Scenario B

I do not have a login, have no existing trade marks applications / registrations and want to apply for a Trade mark.

You will need to become a registered user of our system. Use our [register function](#) to obtain a user ID and proceed immediately with your trade mark application online. For more information about managing your login [click here](#).

Scenario C

I have existing trade mark applications / registrations and I do not have a login for www.iponz.govt.nz.

In order to make further applications online and take advantage of our "View Correspondence Online" functionality when it is released you will need a login to www.iponz.govt.nz.

To obtain your login and have your existing trade mark applications or registrations linked (if any) you will need to follow the instructions relating to [user ID setup](#) and complete this [authorisation form](#).

Scenario D

I don't have a www.iponz.govt.nz login but I have a www.companies.govt.nz login. Can I use this for my www.iponz.govt.nz login?

Yes you can. If you have existing trade mark applications or registrations you will need to complete this [authorisation form](#) to have them linked to your account.

If you are not able to access the IPONZ online services please see your Global or Branch administrator to add the IPONZ site services to your account.

Scenario E

I am an employee of an agent and do not currently have a login to www.iponz.govt.nz.

In the first instance you should contact your Global or Branch administrator who will be able to set up a new user ID for you. If your firm does not have an administrator then [contact us](#) and we can arrange for the user ID to be created.

Note | IPONZ will be in contact with Global or Branch administrators in advance of this change to assist with set up requirements.

If none of these scenarios apply to you please [contact us](#).

Expressions of interest sought for proposed Government to Business (G2B) interfaces

IPONZ is currently undertaking a project to enhance its Government to Business (G2B) offerings to clients using XML interfaces.



It is our intention to develop XML specifications that will enable clients to develop software to interact directly with our registry systems for applications, correspondence and renewals. These specifications will wherever possible be closely aligned with WIPO standards.

Expressions of interest are sought from clients / software developers who have an interest in adopting these interfaces.

As a prerequisite Clients and software developers will be required to sign a G2B Access agreement which will give them access to sample XML and specifications that will enable them to develop software interfaces to our system. A test environment will also be made available to facilitate development.

Expressions of interest should be directed to:

Mike West

Manager, Business Systems and Development

Intellectual Property Office of NZ

Email: mike.west@med.govt.nz

The Plant Variety Rights Journal

The quarterly edition of the Journal is now available.

The latest journal has now been posted on the site.

To view the journal click here: [PVR Journal No. 118 published 14 July 2009.](#)

Latest decisions of the Commissioner

The following Decisions of the Commissioner have been posted and are available online. Select the links to see the decisions.

Trade marks

Number	Mark	First Party	Second Party	Document Title	Date of Decision	Subject
731949	A Anisha's (device)	AJ Enterprises (Aust) Pty Ltd	McDonald's International Property Company Ltd	2009/12	29/6/2009	Cl. 16, 25, 29, 30, 32, 35, 43 Opposition

Patents

Number	First Party	Second Party	Document	Date of	Subject
--------	-------------	--------------	----------	---------	---------



			Title	Decision	
544190	Herd Homes Limited	Redpath Pacific Limited	2009/11	9/6/2009	Section 21 Opposition

Notice of intention to close 33 Bowen Street filing office

In accordance with regulation 8(b) of the Trade Marks Regulations, section 5 of the Patents Act, section 7 of the Designs Act and section 28 of the Plant Variety Rights Act the Commissioner for Patents, Trade Marks, Designs and Plant Variety Rights hereby advises that from the 17th of August 2009, clients may no longer lodge their documents at the Ministry of Economic Development Head Office at 33 Bowen Street, Wellington.

Clients are advised that they may instead use the online facilities available at www.iponz.govt.nz/online-services or alternatively file documents directly with the Intellectual Property Office of New Zealand at 205 Victoria Street, Wellington or PO Box 9241, Marion Square, Wellington 6141 or DX SX 11129, Wellington.

Statement of novelty for designs

IPONZ wishes to clarify that only a single copy or instance of a "statement of novelty" is required to accompany an application and representations to register a design. The statement need not be signed.

The traditional practice of requiring three copies of the statement of novelty and that they be signed is discontinued. If the design is filed using the IPONZ online filing facility the statement of novelty should be entered directly into the appropriate field of the online filing form.

June edition of the Journal is now available

The latest journal has now been posted on the site.

You have two options to access this:

- [Online Journal \(Searchable\)](#)
- [The June 2009 edition – Journal 1560 \(PDF\)](#)

Notices regarding Patent Attorney Exams 7-9 July 2009

Bills before the New Zealand Parliament

When considering answers to the questions in this year's examinations, no account is to be taken of any provisions of the Patents Bill, the Trade Marks (International Treaties and Enforcement) Amendment Bill, the Regulatory Improvement Bill (as it relates to amendment of the Designs Act 1953), or any other bill that may be before the New Zealand Parliament.



Examinations and swine flu

The Examination Board has considered the current swine flu pandemic. We have concluded that the only practicable course to take is to continue with this year's examinations as scheduled. We are unable to provide any alternative facilities or any later examinations for those candidates who may be affected. Candidates should adhere to all Ministry of Health guidelines concerning this pandemic.

IPONZ wins Vero Excellence in Business Support Award

Intellectual property is all about creativity, innovation and enterprise. Our Intellectual Property Office (IPONZ) has just been recognised for their business support initiatives.

The Vero Excellence in Business Support Awards are a unique opportunity for organisations to benchmark their business practices against other finalists who have gone that extra mile. "It doesn't matter what business you're in, you have to be prepared to listen to your customers wants and then develop the services and smart information that they need. Winning the Government Department category shows us that we are on the right track in our business journey." – IPONZ Group Manager, Ross van der Schyff said.

IPONZ hasn't taken its monopoly in being the registration authority for IP rights for granted. IPONZ has moved with the times, changing its business model from a purely administrative role to one which supports business and education providers.

IP assets play an important role in business growth. Ross van der Schyff says that IP assets need to be factored into business planning. "We identified that there is an education knowledge gap around the various types of IP and have built educational partnerships and alliances to raise the IP awareness of as many small to medium business enterprises, students, and entrepreneurs as possible. IPONZ has used, in addition, the www.iponz.govt.nz website as their virtual front door to provide smart IP information and access to trusted IP Register databases and online filing facilities which are available 24/7.

"IPONZ has a long history of supporting business and we want to be just as innovative as those IP owners on the Registers we maintain and inventions and brands we get to examine." – Ross van der Schyff.

Closed for Queen's Birthday Monday 1 June 2009

We will be closed on Monday 1 June 2009.

Our website will be available 24/7 throughout this period. Applications made online on 1 June 2009 will receive a filing date of 2 June 2009.

Please note - If information about a design or an invention for which an application is to be made, is published prior to the official filing date it may invalidate the registration or patent. If a design or patent application is submitted online on an official closed day, such as on a weekend or Queen's Birthday it would be prudent to wait until the next open day before publishing details of the design or invention.

Processing timeframes for applications and correspondence

New timeframes page on our website.



To assist clients with understanding current processing timeframes for Applications and Correspondence we have set up a timeframes page on our website which you can access at www.iponz.govt.nz/timeframes

This page will be updated on a regular basis to reflect current processing timeframes.

Succinctness of claims patent practice note

Meeting the requirements of succinctness

Section 10(4) of the Patents Act 1953 very specifically requires that claims of a complete specification must be succinct and this is taken to apply to each claim individually and to claims when considered as a set.

This provision avoids the burden of a reader having to read over repetitive matter in claims.

To meet the requirement of succinctness, each claim should clearly express the intended content without prolixity or undue repetition.

The presentation of plural independent claims, each one of which defines a different category of the invention, such as:

- a product,
- method of making the product,
- use (or method) of using the product,
- and apparatus for making the product,

will not in itself draw an objection that the claims are not succinct.

When plural independent claims of the same category are presented one independent claim should not fall wholly within the scope of another independent claim.

Objection will be taken to claims which do not meet the statutory requirement of succinctness.

Even where independent claims of the same category and having different and substantial mutually exclusive features, so that one does not fall wholly within the scope of another, are presented, objection that the claims are not succinct will be taken if repetition of subject matter from claim to claim is considered excessive.

If there is deemed to be such an excessive number of independent claims with excessive repetition, objection will be taken that such a plurality of independent claims makes it difficult, if not impossible, to determine the common novel inventive concept, that is, the claims taken as a whole do not clearly define the invention.

Where objection is taken that an independent claim falling wholly within the scope of another independent claim is not succinct, the Applicant may overcome the objection by

- amending the offending claims into the form of one independent claim and one or more dependent claims with consequential amendments, such as re-numbering, as necessary.

Where objection is taken to prolixity or undue repetition the Applicant may overcome the objection by more succinctly expressing the content intended.



It is appreciated that New Zealand legislation may differ to that in other countries, which may not have a statutory requirement that patent claims be succinct.

Contrary to morality patent practice note

Clarification about the practice of raising objections under s17(1)

The practice note of 2008 entitled *Contrary to morality | Raising objections under section 17(1)* has caused some confusion with respect to the nature of what would and would not be objectionable under section 17(1) of the Patents Act 1953.

The final paragraph of the 2008 practice note was included to provide a general guide as to the subject matter which may attract an objection under section 17(1) of the Patents Act 1953.

For clarification IPONZ has revised the Practice Note as follows

“Contrary to morality | Raising objections under section 17(1)

IPONZ has reviewed its practice with regard to raising objections under s17(1) of the Patents Act 1953.

IPONZ will continue to raise objections under s17(1) where it appears that the use of the invention would be contrary to morality for New Zealand society as a whole or for a significant section of the community. In doing so, IPONZ considers that it may for any given application under consideration take the following into account: the concerns of interest groups, evidence including appropriate public polls and research, corresponding foreign legislation, case law and guidelines.

As a general guide, claims to the following subject matter are likely to attract an objection under s17(1): human beings, processes which give rise to human beings and biological processes for their production; methods of cloning human beings; ; human embryos and processes requiring their use; transformed host cells within a human and other cells and tissues within a human.”

Representations for designs

Clarification about the practice of filing representations for designs.

The representations of a design serve to identify the design, so that a design applied to an article can be clearly identified, by way of visual comparison with the representations on the register, to be the design that is registered.

It is therefore important that the representations that are filed to support the registration of a design clearly depict the design to be registered.

[Read more...](#)

When will your PCT application entering New Zealand national phase be processed?

Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) Applications entering the New Zealand national phase - Timeline for First Examination

As at May 2009:



All applications received at IPONZ are numbered in sequential order and a receipt confirming the application number and filing date is issued within one working day. If the application is filed online, the application number and filing date is available within minutes.

National phase applications are ready for examination when:

- 31 months have passed from the earliest priority date (ie the 31 month examinable date), and,
- when IPONZ has received all relevant documentation from the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO).

Applications ready for examination are processed in date order based on the 31 month examinable date.

An improvement in the way that we obtain international documentation from the World Intellectual Property Organisation has meant that a significant number of national phase applications are now ready and waiting initial examination.

The table below lists the oldest patents application number and the corresponding 31 month examinable date currently awaiting examination by IPONZ.

Technology Group	NZ Application Number	31 Month Examinable Date
Biotechnology	NZP554463	04 May 2007
Chemistry	NZP553322	02 April 2007
Mechanical	NZP553771	15 April 2007
Electrical	NZP554832	29 April 2007

Note: (Order of examination is based on examinable date not the application number)

The information in this table will be updated on a quarterly basis.

Patents Bill - First Reading in Parliament

The Patents Bill received its first reading in Parliament on 5 May 2009.

The Patents Bill received its first reading in Parliament on 5 May 2009 and was referred to the Commerce Select Committee for consideration. The Committee is expected to call for submissions in the next few weeks.

The Patents Bill, which will replace the Patents Act 1953, was introduced to Parliament in July 2008. The standard of patent examination required by the Patents Act 1953 is less strict than that required by most other countries. One consequence of this is that patent rights granted in New Zealand may be broader in scope than rights granted for the same invention in other countries. This has the potential to disadvantage New Zealand businesses and consumers, as technology which may be freely available elsewhere could be covered by a patent in New



Zealand. Since much innovation is incremental, building on what already exists, local innovators may be disadvantaged as well.

The Bill strengthens the criteria for granting a patent to ensure that patents are only granted for genuine innovations. To be patentable, an invention must be:

- a “manner of manufacture”; and
- new, involve an inventive step, and useful.

Novelty and inventive step will be measured against all matter made available to the public anywhere in the world, by any means. When deciding whether or not to grant a patent, the Commissioner of Patents will make the decision on the “balance of probabilities”.

Some types of invention are explicitly excluded from patent protection:

- human beings and processes for their generation;
- methods of medical treatment of humans by surgery or therapy and methods of diagnosis practiced on humans;
- inventions whose commercial exploitation would be contrary to morality or public order; and
- plant varieties.

The Bill will simplify the processes for challenging the grant of a patent, including the introduction of a re-examination procedure and an expanded administrative revocation procedure. There will be no provision for pre-grant opposition as provided in the 1953 Act.

A Maori Advisory Committee will be established to advise the Commissioner of Patents on patent applications involving Maori traditional knowledge, and indigenous plants and animals.

The Bill will also update the regulatory regime for patent attorneys.

A copy of the Bill can be viewed at:

<http://www.legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2008/0235-1/latest/versions.aspx>

New status descriptions for PCT applications

IPONZ introduces two new status descriptions for PCT applications.

The Intellectual Property Office of New Zealand (IPONZ) has introduced two new status descriptions for Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) Applications entering the New Zealand National phase.

The intention of these changes is to make it easier for clients to track the progress of their application online at www.iponz.govt.nz

The table below lists the updated status descriptions for PCT Applications:

Status number	Current status description	Explanation of how a application gets to the nominated status
----------------------	-----------------------------------	--

20

Filed

A Request for Entry into National Phase and



appropriate fee has been received by IPONZ. Further information and/or documentation has been requested from the applicant before the application can progress.

40 – New	Waiting for examination date	The application entering the National Phase has English language documentation ready for examination and is currently within the 31 calendar month period before the application is examinable under section 26G(1)(b).
45 - New	Ready for examination	The application is examinable under the National Phase under section 26G. Current examination timelines are available here .
50 – Updated	Under examination	An examination report has been previously issued, or the application has been allocated to an Examiner for examination.

[Further information on the application process.](#)

Are you a business owner?

Come and see us at the Bizzone Business Expo for FREE business information.

The Bizzone Business Expo 09 - the last Expo

For the fourth year, the Intellectual Property Office of New Zealand (IPONZ) is a proud exhibitor at the Bizzone Business Expo. We will be alongside Business.govt.nz, the Companies Office, the Personal Property Securities Register (PPSR), and the Insolvency and Trustee Service (ITS) to offer you **FREE** business information.

Visit us at our stand in the **MED: Business.govt = Online Services Zone**. We can assist you and your business by showing you free tools that will help your business:

- learn about the business.govt.nz website, where information and resources are available to help you start, manage and grow your business;
- find out how easy it is to set up a company online with the Companies Office;
- discover how you can invest in and protect your ideas with the Intellectual Property Office (IPONZ);
- discover what information the Insolvency and Trustee Service (ITS) has to help business owners and managers;
- learn how to protect your security interests by registering them on the Personal Property Securities Register (PPSR); and
- To read about the Auckland Expo update.



BUSINESS EXPO

What is the Bizzzone Business Expo?

Previously known as the Small Business Expo, now it's called Bizzzone Business Expo. The three-day expo for business owners attracts 7500 attendees in Auckland, 3200 attendees in Wellington, and 3000 attendees in Christchurch. It brings together every kind of product and service required by a business owner or manager. This is the largest event for business in New Zealand and features leading international business brands through to local service providers.

The Expo is designed by business owners to help you run a more effective, and therefore, profitable business.



To find out more about the Expo, visit www.bizzzone.com

When and where are the Expos being held?

Christchurch

Convention Centre
Central City

[Google map](#)

Wednesday 5 August 2009

9.00am - 4.00pm

Thursday 6 August 2009

9.00am - 8.00pm (late night)

Friday 7 August 2009

9.00am - 4.00pm

Site 169

[Expo site map](#)



How to get your free e-ticket?

The Intellectual Property Office of New Zealand would like to give you the opportunity to attend this event for free. Simply register online and download your free e-ticket by clicking on the link below and automatically go in the draw to win a \$100,000 Smart Marketing Prize.

www.bizzone.com/guestof/ministryofeconomicdevelopment

What to see at the Expo?

- Help your business grow at the **MED Business.govt = Online Services Zone**
- Interactive displays and zones with specialised business advice
- The **National Bank Seminar Series** offers free seminars over the three days of the Expo
- At the Meridian Energy Sustainability Zone find out how to improve efficiency and lower your business costs through more sustainable business practice
- Work remotely or just take a break at the Newstalk ZB Cyber Cafe
- Get the vital information you need to develop your business in the Statistics NZ Business Information Zone
- Check out the latest and smartest marketing tools and services in the Smart Marketing Zone
- Business mentoring is free to attendees, get expert business advice from experienced business mentors

At each Expo, we will be speaking about the following topics at the National Bank Seminar Series:

1. "How to start up a business with ease"

- Discover how easy it is to set up a company online;
- Discover how easy it is to protect company names and ideas; and
- Find more information on starting up and protecting business assets on Business.govt.nz

Christchurch | Wednesday 5 August @ 11 am.

2. "How to manage a business with ease"

- Discover how easy it is to register your security interests on the PPSR;
- Discover what information is available from the ITS; and
- Find out what information on protecting your business is available on Business.govt.nz

Christchurch | Thursday 6 August @ 2 pm.

Vero Excellence in Business Support Award finalist

IPONZ is a finalist in the annual 2009 Awards.



The Intellectual Property Office of New Zealand (IPONZ) is a finalist in two of the Vero Excellence in Business Support Award categories – the Public-private sector Partnership category and the Government Department category. IPONZ has been recognised for the significant intellectual property education work and refreshed online services.

Being named as a finalist for these awards is a significant achievement and recognises the excellent service provided by the Intellectual Property of New Zealand and the work that they do to educate and support their clients.

Congratulations to everyone in the Intellectual Property Office for getting this far. The winners of the Vero Excellence in Business Support Awards will be announced on the 28th of May during the Auckland Small Business Expo.

Filing evidence online

New online service to simplify filing evidence.

The Intellectual Property Office of New Zealand (IPONZ) has introduced new online functionality to stream-line the evidence filing process.

Why should you use this online evidence filing service?

Because...

- It is convenient – you can file your evidence anywhere – anytime;
- The information is captured in real time and you receive acknowledgement of your filing via email;
- It will enable you to retain your original evidence documentation;
- It will save you time, paper and courier fees;
- It is flexible – you can file any images, sounds or animations in electronic format; and
- It will allow IPONZ to more effectively and efficiently handle your evidence.

How does it work?

New online document types have been introduced to the online correspondence facility as follows:

- Trade mark evidence under section 18(2) and 26(b)
- Hearings Evidence (Patents, Designs or Trade marks)

All clients filing evidence are asked to also upload a filing schedule with the filing, so that on receipt of evidence the Office can verify the documentation filed, immediately identify missing documentation and contact the client for this information.

Statutory declarations, affidavits, affirmations and exhibit sheets may be submitted in black and white.

If your trade mark is a shape, colour, or has a special font (for example a business logo), then ensure exhibits showing use of the mark, contain **clear images** of the trade mark.

- Shape mark images must show all perspectives of the mark, namely top, bottom, front, rear, and side.



-
- If colour may be a factor relevant to the registrability of the trade mark, exhibits should be in colour.
 - Images of colour trade marks must be submitted in colour.
 - If you are in doubt, always file exhibits in colour.

Clients filing magazines as exhibits should include the front cover, any page(s) indicating the publication date and clearly identify the relevant pages showing use of trade mark, or only submit relevant pages showing use of the trade mark.

Your evidence may be submitted using any of the following file types:

- JPEG, GIF, TIFF, Word or PDF files (Note: IPONZ' preferred file type for an image is a JPEG)
- Sound trade marks: mp3, wav, cda or wmv
- Animation and audio-visual files: .mov or .mpg or .mpeg

Who can use this online service?

Anyone who wishes to file evidence can use this online service. You do need to be a registered user to access this service, which is easy to obtain via the IPONZ website.

Further information on [how to register as a user](#).

Note: There is a maximum file upload size of 21MB per document. If your evidence file is larger than 21MB, please file the evidence as multiple files.

What do you need to use this online service?

Nothing, there is no need for any special software. Check out our [optimum software and site settings](#) for more information on how to optimise this service.

How do I find out more about evidence?

[Read more](#) on general information relating to the filing of evidence under sections 18(2) and 26(b).

File evidence online now 

Closed for Good Friday & Easter Monday

Friday 10 April to Monday 13 April 2009.

Our Office will be closed from Friday 10 April 2009 to Monday 13 April 2009.

Our website will be available 24/7 throughout this period. All applications made online between Friday 10 April 2009 and Monday 13 April 2009 will receive a filing date of 14 April 2009.

Please note - If information about a design or an invention for which an application is to be made, is published prior to the official filing date it may invalidate the registration or patent. If a design or patent application is submitted online on an official closed day, such as on a weekend or Waitangi Day it would be prudent to wait until the next open day before publishing details of the design or invention.



Public submissions on Trade Marks (International Treaties and Enforcement) Amendment Bill

Public submissions are now being invited.

Public submissions are now being invited on the Trade Marks (International Treaties and Enforcement) Amendment Bill. The closing date for submissions is **Friday, 15 May 2009**. For more information on making a submission please see the [New Zealand Parliament website](#).

A copy of the Bill can viewed on the [New Zealand Legislation website](#).

Planned maintenance

Scheduled outage for Sunday 5 April 2009.

Due to time changes associated with daylight saving our transactional services will not be available from 1:55 am NZDT Sunday 5 April for one hour and ten minutes. Services will resume at 2:05 am NZST Sunday 5 April 2009.

We apologise for any inconvenience.

Patent practice guideline amendment

Provisional specifications not required with a new divisional application.

Antedated divisional applications

Under previous practice (see [Practice Note No. 8 and Information for Clients No. 23](#)), where a new divisional application has been made and which claims antedating to the date of an earlier provisional application, IPONZ would require that applicants provide a copy of the specification of any such provisional specifications.

In a change to practice, although the fee is still required, it is now no longer necessary to file a copy of any provisional specifications with a new divisional application. For more information about this change [click here](#).

Apply for trade mark search and preliminary advice online

File a Search and/or Preliminary Advice application online with IPONZ.

Filing a Search and/or Preliminary Advice application with IPONZ is now simple, fast, and effective. No more filling in paper forms and dealing with couriers or fax machines as you can simply complete the application process online via the IPONZ website. This can be done remotely and electronically in the comfort of your office, and at anytime that suits you. This new online service will save you both in time and compliance costs.

Why should you file your Search and/or Preliminary Advice application online?

Because...

- it is convenient – you can file your application anywhere – anytime;
- the data is captured in real time and you will receive acknowledgment of your application immediately;



-
- it will save you time, paper and courier fees; and
 - it is flexible – you can file any images or representations in an electronic format.

Who can use this online service?

Anyone who wishes to make a Search and/or Preliminary Advice application can use this online service. You do not need to be a registered user to access this service via the IPONZ website.

What do you need to use this online service?

Nothing, there is no need for any special software. Check out our [optimum software and site settings](#) for more information on how to optimise this service.

How do you use this online service?

[Read more](#) on how to use this online service.

[Apply online Now](#)

James Dyson Award 2009

Product Design Competition.

In partnership with the Intellectual Property Office of New Zealand, Dyson is once again looking to put New Zealand's best emerging product designer in the limelight. The New Zealand winner will travel with \$3,000 spending money to the UK where they have the opportunity to meet with engineers from Dyson's world class Research, Design and Development facility, and other key members of the UK product design sector. The New Zealand winner's prize pool includes an official fee IP prize package from IPONZ, a year's membership to DINZ, a Dyson vacuum cleaner, and \$3,000 of legal or business advice from Farry.Co. IPONZ also holds an IP workshop with the New Zealand finalists.



This year, everyone's a winner. For the first time, all entries entered into New Zealand sector of the [James Dyson Award](#) will be in the running for the international James Dyson Award, with GBP£10,000 up for grabs, plus another £10,000 to the global winner's design university to fund future design education projects.

For further information please see the James Dyson Award site or email entries@dysonawards.co.nz

Patent attorney exam results 2008

A statistical summary of the patent attorney exam results.

In July 2008 ninety candidates sat 180 patent attorney exams. A summary of the candidate volumes, pass rates, and exam results are now available. To view the results [click here](#).

Unscheduled outage tonight



Due to system maintenance requirements, there will be an outage tonight (Thursday 7 May 2009) from 9.00pm to 10.30pm NZST.

The following websites will be affected: Intellectual Property Office, Companies Office, Personal Property Securities Register, Electrical Workers Register, Insolvency and Trustee Service, Motor Vehicle Traders Register, Radio Spectrum Management and the Societies and Trusts Online.

We apologise for the inconvenience.

Online Services a priority for 2009

Update on priorities for the coming year

Reflecting on 2008 it is clear that this year is going to present a number of challenges to our industry. Following a number of years of significant increases in application volumes it is likely 2009 will see these volumes reduce as the impacts of the financial market turmoil flow on to the wider economy.

Here at IPONZ we are starting to see the impact of this on applications volumes across Trade marks, Designs, Patents and PVR. From this month we will be publishing graphs related to application volumes on our website.

On the positive side this is allowing us to further reduce the turnaround times for the high volumes of applications that have been received over the last few years. We will be publishing details of processing timeframes on our website so clients can be kept informed of likely timeframes for their applications to be processed. We will also be introducing new online services in the coming months that will assist clients in tracking the progress of their applications.

During the last quarter of 2008 we have conducted a number of process reviews throughout the organisation in an attempt to identify opportunities to further reduce compliance costs for industry and improve turn around times. A number of these initiatives will be implemented over the next six months along with some significant enhancements to our online services.

2009 has already seen the introduction of our [new online hearings decisions service](#) and this will be followed in late February by our new Search and Preliminary Advice online service for Trade Marks.

A significant volume of correspondence received by the office relates to clients requesting copies of documents related to an application or the current status of that application. To help facilitate these requests we are developing a new online service called "View IP History Online". This new service will allow registered users to view information including documents, actions and key dates associated with a specific Trade mark, Design or Patent.

We believe this service will significantly reduce the turnaround time for clients in receiving requested information and free up resources within IPONZ to focus on application processing activities. Development is now underway and this service is expected to be available in early April 2009.

Work is also well underway with enhancements to our IT systems to provide functionality to allow clients to elect to receive correspondence via email from IPONZ. Development has been completed and testing is now underway. A number of clients will be contacted in late February to assist with the pilot phase of the project with a go live scheduled for mid April 2009.



Links

Application Volume Graphs

- [Trade Marks](#)
- [Designs](#)
- [Patents](#)

Closed for Waitangi Day - Friday 6 February 2009

Our Office will be closed on Friday 6 February 2009 for Waitangi Day - a New Zealand public holiday.

Our website will be available 24/7 throughout this period. All applications made online between Friday 6 February 2009 and Sunday 8 February will receive a filing date of 9 February 2009.

Please note - If information about a design or an invention for which an application for a design or patent is to be made, is published prior to the official filing date it may invalidate the registration or patent. If a design or patent application is submitted online on an official closed day, such as on a weekend or Waitangi Day it would be prudent to wait until the next open day before publishing details of the design or invention.

Patent attorney exams 2009 - Dates and deadlines

Applications to sit the patent attorney exams are due on Friday 24 April 2009.

The exams will take place on 7-9 July 2009.

For more information about the exams, including the 2009 Patent Attorney Examination syllabus, please click [here](#).

Hearing decisions now searchable online

New online service for Decisions of the Commissioner.

IPONZ in conjunction with NZLII is pleased to announce a new online service for Decisions of the Commissioner (Hearings Decisions). This new functionality includes:

- The ability to search for key words across multiple decisions;
- Ability to download the decisions in document (RTF) format;
- Improved indexing of decisions by year and descriptions of opposition and parties;
- Links where applicable to relevant Acts, other hearings and court decisions.

What decisions can be searched ?

All decisions from 1 January 2000 are now available to be searched via this new service. IPONZ has a back capture project underway to convert all decisions pre 2000 and these are expected to be available progressively over the coming weeks with the back capture completed by mid March 2009.

In the interim if you require access to a decision from earlier than 1 January 2000 you can request this by referring to the index of decisions for [patents](#), [trade marks](#) or [designs](#) and emailing hearings@iponz.govt.nz with your request.

How do I access this new service ?

For Trade marks [click here](#)

For Patents [click here](#)

For Designs [click here](#)

What do you need to use this new service ?

Nothing, there is no need for any special software. Check out our [optimum software and site settings](#) for more information on how to optimise this service.

Maintenance of our online payment services

Scheduled between 1:00am and 2:00am 20 January 2009.

Due to maintenance scheduled by our online payments service provider there will be an outage affecting our online payments services lasting approximately 15 minutes between 1:00 am and 2:00 am on 20 January 2009.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused.