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Singapore Launches New Patents and Trade Marks Acceleration Programmes

On 20 May 2025, the Singapore Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (“**IPOS**”) launched SG Patents Fast and SG Trade Marks Fast, two new programmes under which office actions for patent and trade mark applications may be expedited. These new programmes replace the SG IP FAST pilot programme, which had been launched with a similar objective of helping businesses and innovators obtain expedited IP protection in Singapore. SG IP FAST ended on 31 December 2024.

The SG Patents Fast and SG Trade Marks Fast programmes were developed based on feedback received on the pilot programme. With the new programmes, the qualifying criteria for acceleration have been simplified: for example, it is no longer a requirement that the patent application in relation to which an acceleration request is made be first filed in Singapore. There are also clearer timelines and new fee structures.

SG Patents Fast

The SG Patents Fast programme offers two acceleration options for patent applications. Under the SG Patents Fast 4 programme, an applicant can expect to receive the first office action within four months of a successful acceleration request; a slightly longer wait time applies under the SG Patents Fast 8 programme, at eight months.

The qualification requirements are simple. First, the relevant patent application must not be a divisional application in Singapore. Second, the acceleration request should contain no more than 20 claims.

The acceleration request must also be made on either Patents Form 11 (Request for Search and Examination Report) or Patents Form 12 (Request for Examination Report), along with the applicable acceleration fee. The request fee varies depending on the office action sought as well as the acceleration track chosen, and is to be paid in addition to the official fees for search and examination. The applicable acceleration fees are as follow:

	Acceleration Request Fee under SG Patents Fast 4	Acceleration Request Fee under SG Patents Fast 8
Application to accelerate search and examination	S\$1,800	S\$900

Application to accelerate examination	S\$1,200	S\$600
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An applicant who has successfully obtained acceleration under SG Patents Fast may expedite subsequent office actions when filing Patents Form 13A (Response to Written Opinion). The applicable acceleration fee is as set out below:

	Acceleration Request Fee under SG Patents Fast 4/8
Application to accelerate response to examination objections	S\$150

An entity may submit up to five acceleration requests per month, although no limit applies in relation to requests for acceleration of subsequent office actions.

SG Trade Marks Fast

The SG Trade Marks Fast, on the other hand, provides for the acceleration of office actions in trade mark applications. Successful applicants will be able to receive the first examination report (or notice that the application has been published for opposition purposes) within three to six weeks of the application date.

To qualify for acceleration, the application must be a national trade mark. Certification and collective marks are not eligible.

The acceleration request should be made when filing Form TM4 (Application to Register a Trade Mark, Collective Mark or Certification Mark). Where an acceleration request is made in relation to a multi-class trade mark application, the request shall apply automatically to all classes in the application.

The acceleration request does not require a related patent application or for the applicant to adopt fully pre-approved descriptions of goods and services from IPOS' Classification Database, although the applicable acceleration fee is lower where IPOS' pre-approved descriptions are used. Acceleration request fees are to be paid in addition to the official fees levied under Form TM4, and are as set out below:

Trade mark application	Acceleration Request Fee
Classes that fully adopt IPOS' pre-approved descriptions of goods and services	S\$200 per class
Classes that partially or do not adopt IPOS' pre-approved descriptions of goods and services	S\$250 per class

Conclusion

Under the SG Patents Fast and SG Trade Marks Fast programmes, businesses and innovators are able to expedite office actions in their patent and trade mark applications. The clearer timelines under the new programmes provide greater certainty for businesses in the management of their IP strategies. With the simplified requirements, more entities are also now able to benefit from the acceleration programmes.

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