

Intellectual Property & Technology Review

Dear Clients & Friends

General Update

Changes in the Days and Hours of Business in the Various Intellectual Property Registries

We would like to bring to your attention the fact that there will be a change in the excluded days and hours of business in the various registries of the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (the "IPOS"), namely Registry of Trade Marks, Registry of Designs, Registry of Patents and Registry of Plant Varieties.

With effect from **15 December 2006**, all Saturdays will be excluded days for any business under the Trade Marks Act, Patents Act, Registered Designs Act and Plant Varieties Protection Act, which means that where the time for doing the business expires on a Saturday and where the business was not done by that Saturday, it is acceptable to complete this business on the following Monday. The changes are brought about by the following Practice Directions:

- [Practice Direction Relating to Trade Marks](#)
- [Practice Direction Relating to Patents](#)
- [Practice Direction Relating to Designs](#)
- [Practice Direction Relating to Plant Varieties Protection](#)

For further information, please click on the respective Practice Direction.

Trade Marks Update

Changes to Classification of Goods and Services for Purpose of Trade Mark Registration

With effect from 1 January 2007, there will be changes to the classification of certain categories of goods and services under the Third Schedule to the Trade Marks Rules:

- Class 21 in Part I: Household or kitchen utensils and containers will include those made of precious metal or coated therewith
- Class 42 in Part II: Legal services will be removed
- Class 45 in Part II: Addition of legal services

The changes are brought about by the Trade Marks (Amendment) Rules 2006 and are intended to align the provisions of the Trade Marks Rules with the corresponding changes in the Nice Classification.

The Ninth Edition of the Nice Classification in relation to the international classification of goods and services for the purposes of the registration of trade marks will replace the Eighth Edition of the Nice Classification with effect from 1 January 2007. The change will not affect applications

filed before 1 January 2007. For existing applications filed prior to 1 January 2007, there will be no reclassification of goods and services even after the Ninth Edition of the Nice Classification has come into force.

For further information on the above, please [click here](#) to visit the IPOS website.

Allen & Gledhill IPT Practice News

Over the last year, we have continued to strengthen our legal team, with the hire of three Associates and one Senior Associate. Our overall headcount has increased to 50 (inclusive of patent professionals and business services staff). The lawyer-strength of our Intellectual Property and Technology (“**IP**T”) practice currently totals 15 (including Partners and Associates), and with new hires in the coming year, our IPT practice will surpass previous years, both in terms of numbers as well as expertise. We continue to expand our experience in intellectual property (“**IP**”) protection and management, and currently advise many local and international clients on global branding strategies, IP commercialisation and licensing issues. Our litigation team is also involved in many infringement matters in the coming year.

Since our last IPT Review in May 2006, we have further strengthened our patent team through the addition of another Senior Patent Engineer, **Cheryl Chng**. Cheryl joined Allen & Gledhill in July 2006 and has over nine years of experience in patent matters. Prior to joining Allen & Gledhill, she was with another law firm where she was actively involved in patent agency work, such as patent drafting and prosecution, preliminary novelty searches, patentability analysis and advice. She has also worked as a chemist for one and a half years in a local company. Cheryl graduated from the National University of Singapore in 1995 with a Bachelor of Science degree, major in Chemistry. She obtained a graduate certificate in IP law from the National University of Singapore, Faculty of Law in 2001. She has also completed the South East Asian Drafting (SEAD) course and has undergone six months’ intensive training with a leading patent firm in New Zealand on patent drafting and patent agency work.

With the addition of Cheryl, our IPT practice is now supported by two registered patent attorneys and four patent engineers. Our patent professionals play a much larger role in our practice, as compared to previous years. They provide patent drafting and prosecution expertise for many local and international clients. They specialise in a range of disciplines and have technical expertise in the areas of chemistry, biotechnology, computer science, mechanical and electrical engineering. Many clients have been greatly assured by the fact that we offer in-house drafting expertise.

To view the May 2006 issue of the IPT Review, please [click here](#).

Should you have any queries as to how the changes outlined above may affect your business, please do not hesitate to contact your usual contact at Allen & Gledhill or any of the following Partners:

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