


## UK Patent Application Timeline

The following timeline charts the events throughout the life of a patent application until the patent is granted.


Patent applications in the UK are administered by the Intellectual Property Office (IPO), formerly known as the Patent Office.

The process can take a number of years, although it is possible to accelerate the application's progress.

Time (months)		
0	File UK patent application	
6	File a search request before 6 months to get a search report before 12 months	
12	Add claims & abstract, final deadline for requesting search	File any overseas and / or international applications
18	The application is published	
24	Request examination and pay fee	
36 (approx.)	The application enters substantive examination, First examination report issued, Response filed within (typically) 4 month period	
		
	Patent granted	OR Second examination report issued. Examination continues until refusal or grant.
48	First renewal fee due (only if a patent has been granted)	
54	Earliest deadline for putting the application in order for grant	

This timeline is for guidance only, and the actual deadlines will vary from case to case.

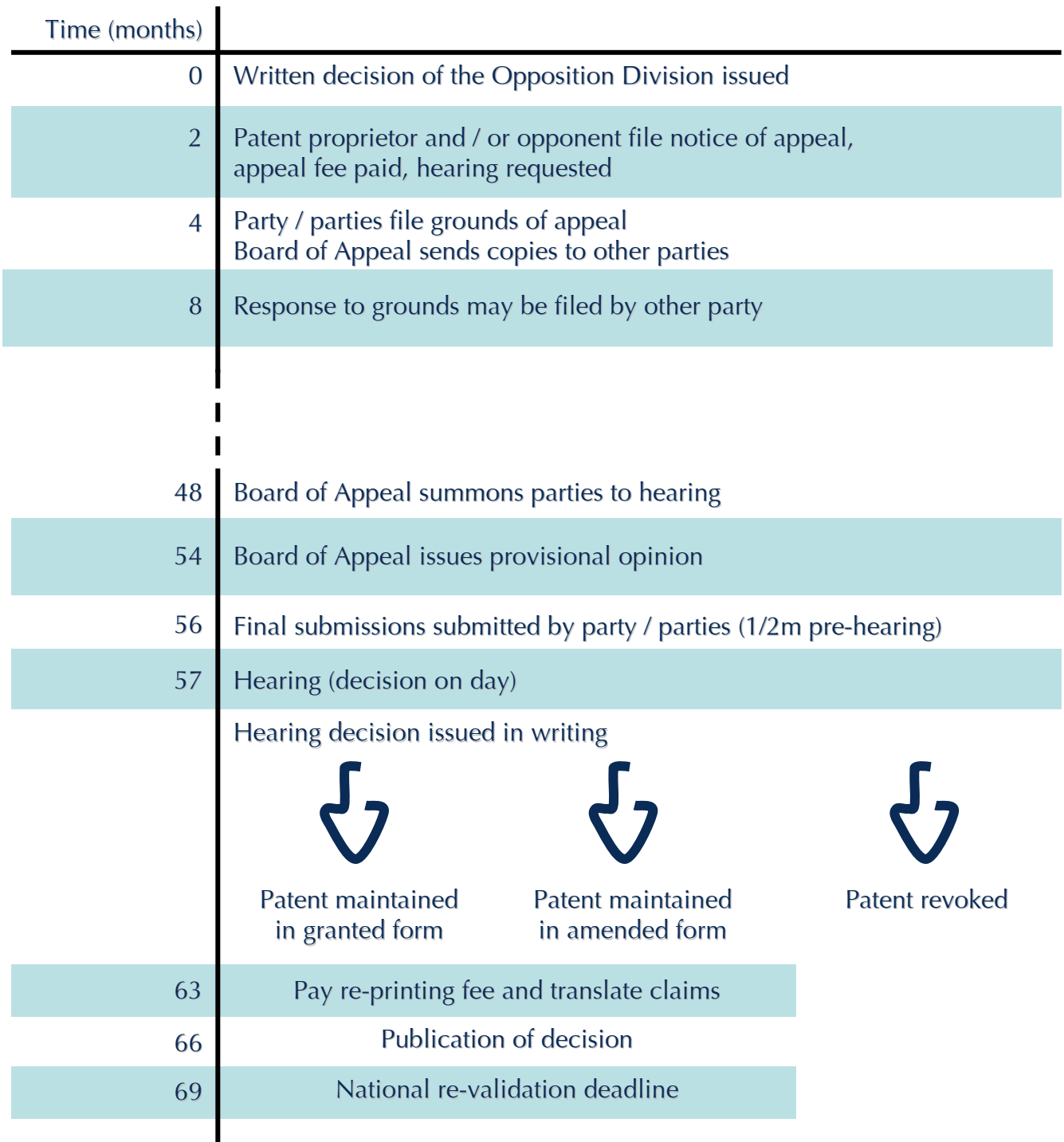
## European Patent Application Timeline

Time (months)	
0	File UK "priority founding" patent application
12	File European application
18	Application published (usually without search report)
18-24	Search report and Written Opinion Issued. Search report published.
24-30	File responses to Written Opinion and File request for substantive examination (due 6m after publication of search)
36	First renewal fee due (whilst the application is pending)
36 - 48	The application enters substantive examination, First examination report issued, Response filed within (typically) 4 month period
	
48	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="width: 45%;">                     Examiner issues decision to grant                 </div> <div style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">OR</div> <div style="width: 45%;">                     Second examination report issued. Examination continues until refusal or grant.                 </div> </div>
	Grant fees and claims translations into FR & DE due
60+	Grant date starts the 9 month opposition period
	National validation due within 3 months of grant in any of:

Austria	Denmark	Hungary	Monaco	Romania	"Extension" states: Bosnia and Hz. Montenegro
Albania	Estonia	Ireland	Malta	San Marino	
Belgium	Spain	Iceland	Macedonia	Serbia	
Bulgaria	Finland	Italy	Netherlands	Sweden	
Switzerland	France	Liechtenstein	Norway	Slovenia	
Cyprus	UK	Lithuania	Poland	Slovakia	
Czech Rep	Greece	Luxembourg	Portugal	Turkey	
Germany	Croatia	Latvia			

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## European Patent (Opposition) Appeal Process



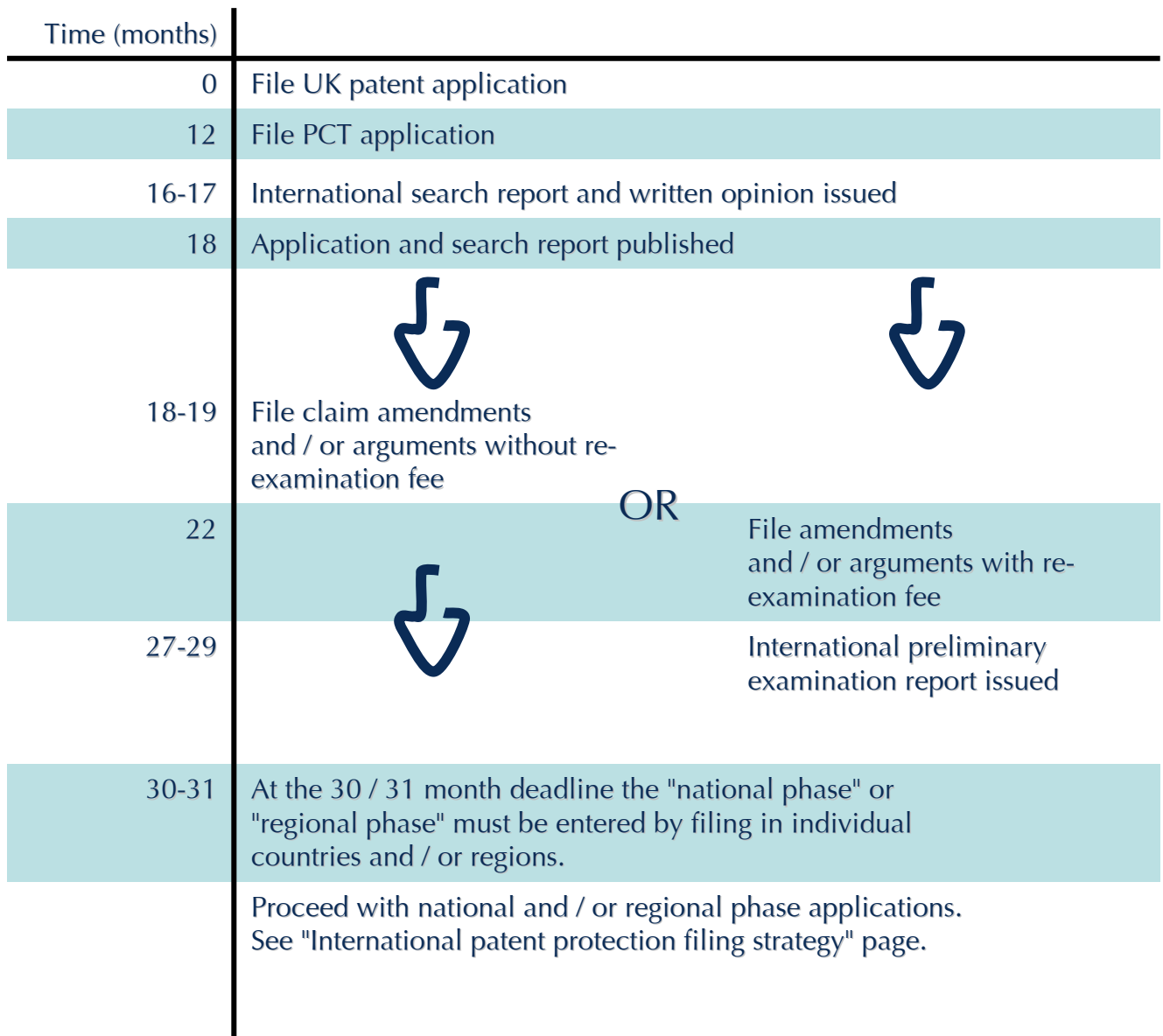
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## Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) Application Timeline

The following timeline charts the events throughout the life of a PCT or "international" application.

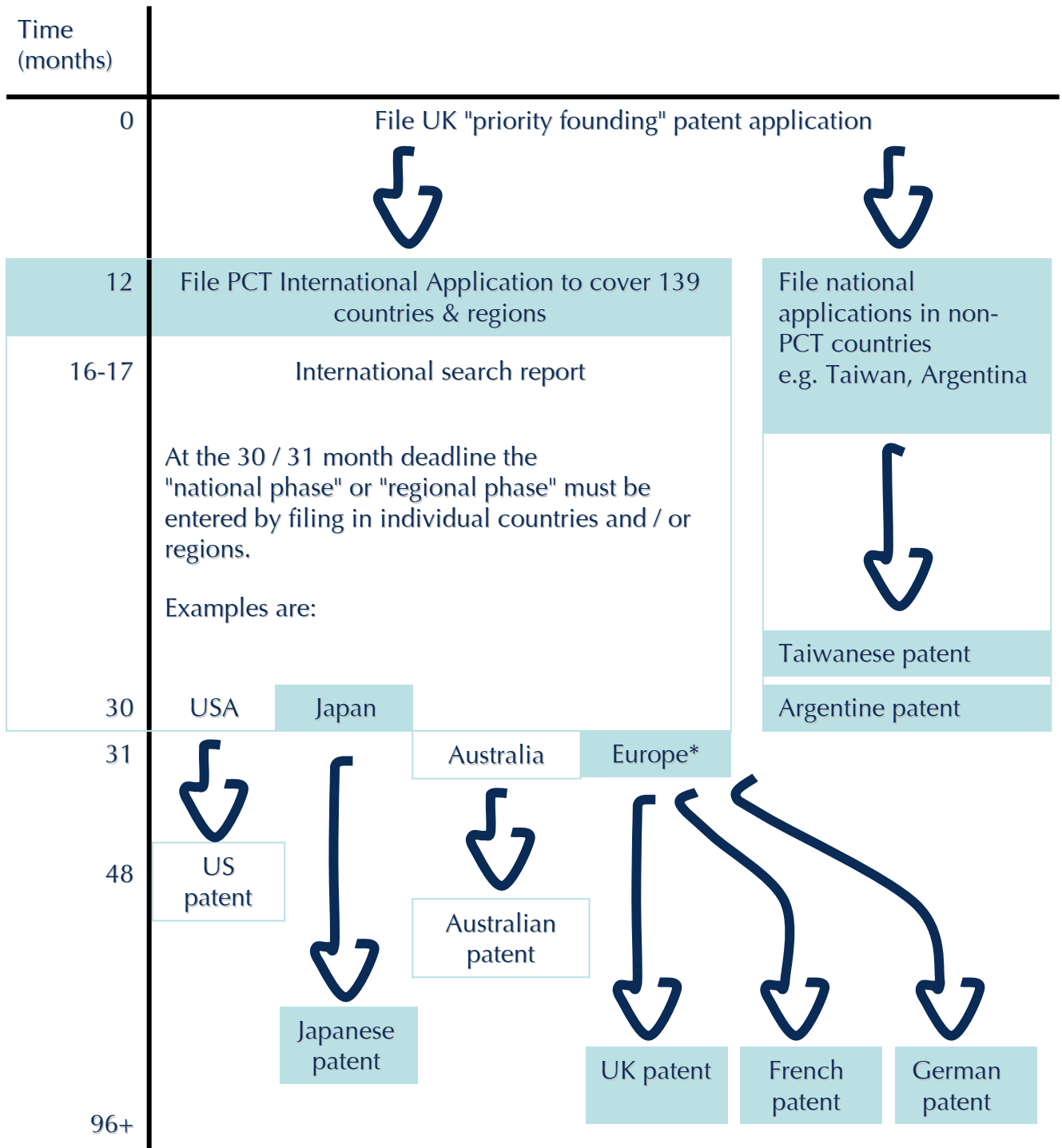
PCT applications are administered by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), although can be filed at the IPO.

The main benefit of the PCT application is to defer the costs of national patent protection until 30-31 months from the priority date (rather than 12 months)



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## International Patent Protection Filing Strategy



\*A European patent application can become a national patent in up to 38 countries.

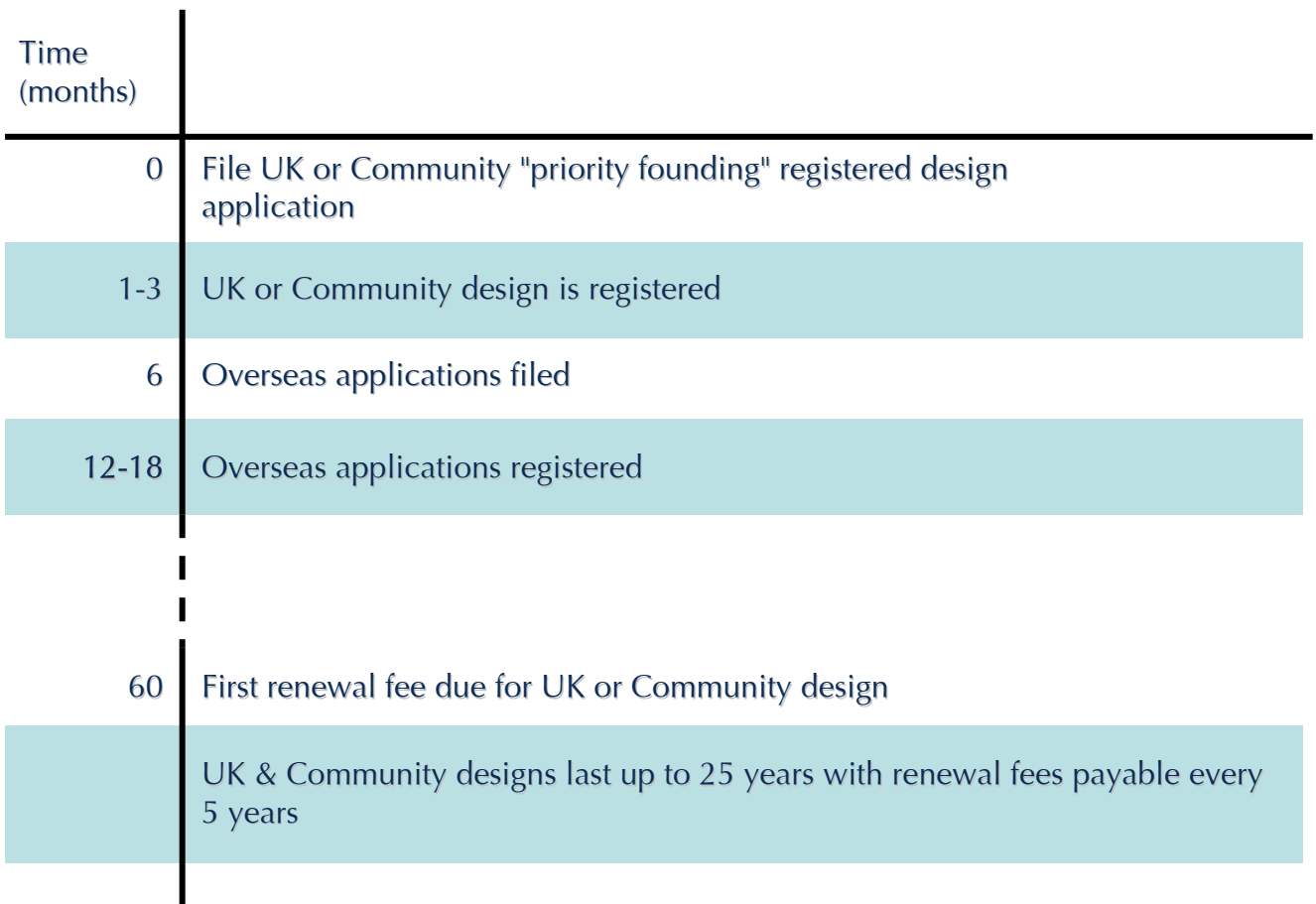
This timeline is for guidance only, and the actual deadlines will vary from case to case.

## International Design Protection Filing Strategy

Registered Designs are rarely examined, rather granted in a short space of time with their validity only being put in issue when enforced.

Registered Designs in the UK are administered by the Intellectual Property Office (IPO), formerly known as the Patent Office.

Community Registered Designs, which cover the entire EU, are administered by the Office for Harmonisation in the Internal Market (OHIM).



This timeline is for guidance only, and the actual deadlines will vary from case to case.

## UK Trade Mark Application Timeline

Trade Mark registrations in the UK are administered by the Intellectual Property Office (IPO), formerly known as the Patent Office.

The timeline below gives approximate timescale to achieve registration in a straightforward case, in the absence of objections or oppositions.

Time (months)	
0	File UK trade mark application, examination as to formalities.
1-3	Examination on absolute grounds only, issuance of examination report.
4	Acceptance of application and publication for opposition purposes for two months (extendable by a further month).
6-9	Registration certificate issued.
	UK Trade Mark Registrations last indefinitely provided use criteria met, with renewal fees payable every 10 years.

This timeline is for guidance only, and the actual deadlines will vary from case to case.

## Community Trade Mark Application Timeline

Community Trade Marks, which cover the entire EU, are administered by the Office for Harmonisation in the Internal Market (OHIM).

The timeline below gives approximate timescale to achieve registration in a straightforward case, in the absence of objections or oppositions.

Time (months)	
0	File Community trade mark application, examination as to formalities.
6 - 8	Examination on absolute grounds only; national search reports issue if these have been requested on application; OHIM issue search report of CTM register.
9	Acceptance of application where no objections raised and publication for opposition purposes.
12 - 18	Registration certificate issues.
	Community Trade Mark Registrations last indefinitely provided use criteria met, with renewal fees payable every 10 years.

A Community trade mark registration will cover the following EU Member States, and extends to cover new Member States as and when they join:

Austria	Finland	Latvia	Romania	Candidate countries:
Belgium	France	Lithuania	Slovakia	
Bulgaria	Germany	Luxembourg	Slovenia	Croatia
Cyprus	Greece	Malta	Spain	
Czech Rep.	Hungary	Netherlands	Sweden	Turkey
Denmark	Ireland	Poland	UK	Macedonia
Estonia	Italy	Portugal		

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## International Trade Mark Application Timeline

- An International Registration uses a national application/registration as the base and can be used to designate a number of countries worldwide. The below time line is based on an International application with a UK application/registration used as the base.
- This time line is based on the procedure for filing an International Registration under the Madrid Protocol. Please contact a trade mark attorney for an updated list of countries which may be designated under the Madrid Protocol.

Time (months)	
0	File UK national trade mark application which will act as the basis for the International Registration. Alternatively, use an existing UK national trade mark registration as the basis.
1-2	File International application at the UK Registry who will check the application as to formalities. If everything is in order, the application will be sent to WIPO.
3	If acceptable, WIPO will issue the Registration Certificate and publish the International Registration.
5	International Registration is then sent to each designated country for examination. The designation will be treated in each case as though it were a national application and will be subject to each country's particular rules and procedures as to examination and publication.
15 - 21	Each national office has 12 - 18 months from the date of registration to examine and provisionally refuse the designation. If the holder has received no communications from the national offices by this stage, the designation can be presumed to be registered.  Subsequent designations can be made at any point during the life time of the International Registration.
	International Registrations under the Madrid Protocol last indefinitely provided use criteria met, with renewal fees payable every 10 years.

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