International design protection filing strategy

withers & rogers

Patent and Trade Mark Attorneys

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).

Time (months)	
0	File UK or Community "priority founding" registered design application
1-3	UK or Community design is registered
6	Overseas applications filed
12-18	Overseas applications registered
60	First renewal fee due for UK or Community design
	UK & Community designs last up to 25 years with renewal fees payable every 5 years
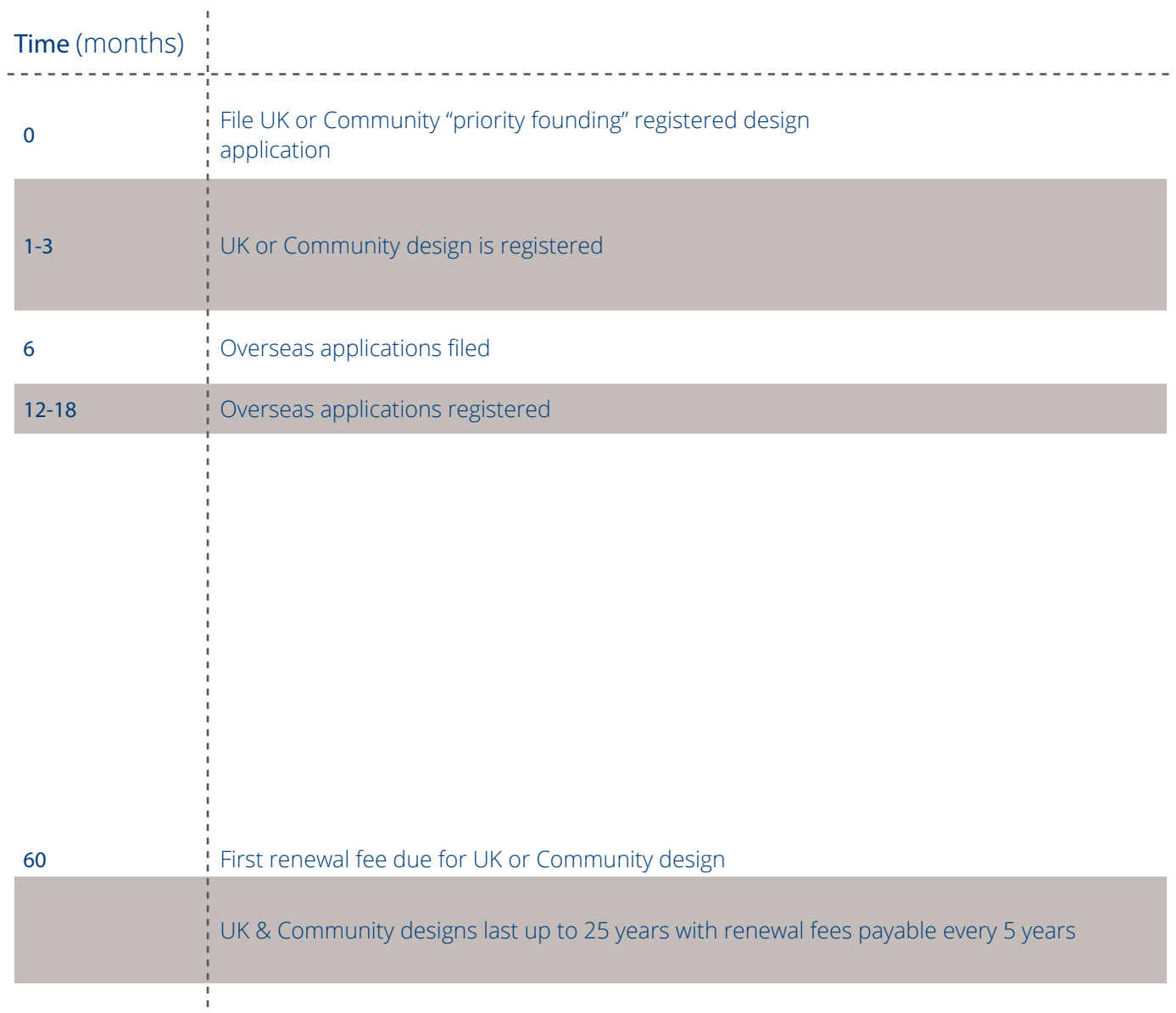
This timeline is for guidance only, and the actual deadlines will vary from case to case.