#### EU Trade Mark Application Timeline

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EU 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.

<b>Time</b> (months)	
0	File EU trade mark application, examination as to formalities.
6-8	Examination 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 tion for opposition purposes.
12-18	Registration certificate issues
	EU Trade Mark Registrations last indefinitely provided use e criteria met, with renewal fees payable every 10 years.

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

# European Patent (opposition) appeal process

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Time (months)	     
0	Written decision of the Opposition Division issued
2	Patent proprietor and / or opponent file notice of appeal, appeal fee paid, hearing requested
4	Party / parties file grounds of appeal Board of appeal send copies to other parties
8	Response to grounds may be filed by other party
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48	Board of appeal summons parties to hearing		
54	Board of appeal issues provisional op	Board of appeal issues provisional opinion	
56	Final submissions submitted by party / parties (1m pre-hearing)		
57	Hearing (decision on day)		
	Hearing decision issued in writing <b>C</b> Patent maintained in granted form	<b>F</b> atent maintained in amended form	<b>F</b> Patent revoked
63	Pay re-printing fee and translate clair	ns	
66	Publication of decision		
69	National re-validation deadline		

# UK Patent Application timeline

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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 searchFile 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		
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	Patent granted OR Second examination Patent granted OR 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		
	1 1		

#### International Trade Mark Application timeline

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Patent and Trade Mark Attorneys

- 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)	1 1 1 1 1
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 lifetime time of the International Registration.
	International Registrations under the Madrid Protocol last indefinitely provided use criteria met, with renewal fees payable every 10 years.

## European Patent Application timeline

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Time (months)	1 1 1 1				
0	File UK "priority founding" patent application				
12	File European ap	plication			
18	Application publi	shed (usually withc	out search report)		
18-24	Search report iss	ued and published	l		
24-30		ubstantive examinablication of search;			
36	First renewal fee	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	Examiner issues OR Second examiner issues OR Examination continuor or grant		issued. inues until refusal		
	Grant fees and cl	Grant fees and claims translations into FR & DE due			
60+	Grant date starts	the 9 month oppo	sition period		
	National validation due within 3 months of grant in any of:				
Austria Belgium Bulgaria Switzerland Cyprus Czech Rep. Germany	Denmark Estonia Spain Finland France UK Greece	Croatia Hungary Ireland Iceland Italy Liechtenstein Lithuania	Luxembourg Latvia Monaco Malta Netherlands Norway Poland	Portugal Romania Sweden Slovenia Slovakia Turkey	<b>"Extension"</b> <b>states:</b> Albania Bosnia and Hz. Macedonia Serbia

#### International design protection filing strategy



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).

File UK or Community "priority founding" registered design application
UK or Community design is registered
Overseas applications filed
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

#### International Patent Protection Filing Strategy

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Time (months)	1 1 1 1		
0	File UK "priority founding" patent application		
	V	V	
12	File PCT International Application to cover 139 countries & regions	File national applications in non-PCT	
	International search report	countries e.g. Taiwan, Argentina	
16-17	At the 30 / 31 month deadline the "national phase" or "regional phase" must be entered by filing in individual countries and / or regions.		
	Examples are:	•	
30	USA Japan	Taiwanese patent	
31	Australia Europe*	Argentine patent	
48	USA patent Australia patent V		
96+	Japanese patent UK patent	French patent German patent	

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

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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).

Time (months)	
0	File UK patent application
12	File PCT application
16-17	International search report and written opinion issued
18	Application and search report published
18-19	File claim amendments and / or arguments without re-examination fee
22	File amendments and / or arguments with re-examination fee
27-29	International preliminary examination report issued
30-31	At the 30 / 31 month deadline the "national phase" or "regional phase" must be entered by filing in individual countries and / or regions.
	Proceed with national and / or regional phase applications. See "International patent protection filing strategy" page.

# UK Trade Mark Application timeline

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Patent and Trade Mark Attorneys

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)	1 1 1 1 1
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.

#### Timeline for Opposition Procedure



Patent and Trade Mark Attorneys



Entire procedure approximately 2 to 4.5 years