

5 KEY STEPS TO REGISTERING YOUR TRADEMARK IN NIGERIA

CONDUCT A TRADEMARK SEARCH

The Trademark Search is to primarily ensure that the trademark you're seeking to register is not identical or too similar to any already registered trademark. The said search will be done with the Trademarks, Patents and Designs Registry under the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Investment.

PREPARE AND SUBMIT THE TRADEMARK

Once the outcome of the Search shows that no conflicting marks are found, the next step is to prepare and submit the trademark

The necessary details include :

- name, address, and nationality of the applicants,
- representation of the trademark (word, logo, or both),
- The class containing the goods services the mark will cover.

The Application must fit the relevant classes of goods or services of the Applicant (based on the Nice Classification system).

This process is usually carried out by a reputable law firm with expertise in trademark registration.

EXAMINATION OF THE TRADEMARK APPLICATION

The Registry will examine your application to ensure it complies with formal requirements.

The Registry also checks for conflicts with existing trademarks, if the mark is too generic, descriptive, or not in conformity with public policy.

Any objection or query raised by the Registry in the examination stage must be addressed before the application can move to the next stage.

RECEIVE AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND APPLICATION NUMBER

After the application passes the examination stage and is considered acceptable for registration, the Registry will issue an acceptance letter.

The acceptance letter serves as a confirmation that the application has passed the initial examination by the Registry and can now proceed to the next stage of the registration where opposition and queries can be submitted from members of the public.

PUBLICATION IN THE TRADEMARKS JOURNAL AND ISSUANCE OF A CERTIFICATE PUBLICATION

After the Acceptance letter is provided, the application moves to the stage of publication in the Nigerian Trademarks Journal.

This allows for a two months period where third parties can oppose or object to the registration. If there are no oppositions after two months from the date of publication in the journal, the applicant can request the issuance of a trademark registration certificate.

The Registry will thereafter issue the certificate of registration, granting the applicant the exclusive rights to use the trademark for goods/services in the trademark class registered.

