

LAW
OF THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN ON TRADEMARKS AND SERVICE MARKS

This Law shall govern relations arising in connection with the legal protection and use of trademarks and service marks.

CHAPTER 1
GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1. Basic terms

The basic terms used in this Law are as follows:

- *Paris Convention* - The Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property of March 20, 1883 with subsequent amendments;
- International Classification of Goods and Services (hereinafter “Nice Classification”) shall mean the classification established by the Nice Agreement Concerning the International Classification of Goods and Services for the Purposes of the Registration of Marks, signed at Nice on June 15, 1957, as revised and amended.
- application for trademark registration shall mean a set of documents filed by the applicant or a person empowered to act for the applicant and containing a request for the grant of a title of protection.
- priority of a trademark shall mean the fact that the right in a trademark **arose** in the first place.
- patent attorney shall mean a national of the Republic of Tajikistan who, in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Tajikistan, is granted the right to represent natural persons and legal entities before the competent authority.
- trademark and service mark (hereinafter "trademark") shall be designations capable of individualizing goods, jobs being performed or services (hereinafter "goods") of natural persons or legal entities engaged in entrepreneurial activity.

Article 2. Legislation of the Republic of Tajikistan on Trademarks and Service Marks

The legislation of the Republic of Tajikistan on trademarks and service marks shall be based on the Constitution of the Republic of Tajikistan and shall consist of the Civil Code of the Republic of Tajikistan, this Law and other legislative acts of the Republic of Tajikistan, as well as international legal acts recognized by the Republic of Tajikistan.

Article 3. Authorized State body

Implementation of the state policy and functions in the field of the legal protection of trademarks stipulated by this Law shall be entrusted to the Authorized State Body (hereinafter “Patent Office”) which is authorized by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan.

In cases stipulated by this Law, the Patent Office, in accordance with its competence, shall issue regulatory legal acts on the application of this Law.

An Appeal Board shall be set up, attached to the Patent Office, and shall consider the issues attributed to its competence by this Law. The Appeal Board shall carry out its authorized functions on the basis of the legislation of the Republic of Tajikistan, the “Appeal Board Statute” approved by the organ of the Patent Office.

CHAPTER 2.

LEGAL PROTECTION OF TRADEMARK

Article 4. Legal protection of a trademark

Legal protection of a trademark in the Republic of Tajikistan shall be accorded either on the basis of its state registration (hereinafter “registration”) pursuant to the procedure established by this Law or by virtue of the international legal acts recognized by Tajikistan.

The right in a trademark shall be protected by law.

An exclusive right in a trademark may be registered in the name of (right holder) a natural person or a legal entity engaged in entrepreneurial activity.

Article 5. A trademark certificate

A certificate shall be granted for a registered trademark.

A certificate shall attest the priority of the trademark, the exclusive right in the trademark in respect of the goods listed in the certificate.

Article 6. Exclusive right in a trademark

The right holder shall have the right to use the trademark and to forbid use of the trademark by other persons.

No natural person or legal entity may use a trademark protected in the Republic of Tajikistan without the authorization of the right holder.

Any unauthorized commercial use of a trademark (or a confusingly similar designation) in the territory of the Republic of Tajikistan in respect of the goods for individualization of which the trademark has been registered (or of similar goods), shall be recognized as an infringement of the rights of the right holder (illegal use of a trademark). A trademark or a confusingly similar designation shall be considered to have been used, in particular:

- on the goods, labels, packages of these goods, which are manufactured, offered for sale, sold, displayed at exhibitions and fairs or used commercially in the territory of the Republic of Tajikistan, or stored and (or) transported with this purpose, or imported into the territory of the Republic of Tajikistan;
- on performing jobs, providing services;
- on documents related to commercial introduction of the goods;
- in offering goods for sale;
- on the Internet, particularly in domain names and in other forms of addressing.

The goods, labels, packages of these goods on which the trademark or a confusingly similar sign are used shall be regarded as counterfeits.

CHAPTER 3.

PROTECTABILITY OF A TRADEMARK

Article 7. Types of trademarks

Verbal, figurative, three-dimensional and other designations or their combinations may be registered as trademarks.

A trademark may be registered in any colour or combination of colours.

Article 8. Absolute grounds for denial of registration

No registration shall be allowed for trademarks consisting only of designations that are devoid of distinctive ability or consist only of the elements:

- that have come into common use as designations of goods of a certain type;
- that are generally accepted symbols and terms;
- that characterize goods including pointing to the kind, quality, quantity, property, intended purpose, value, as well as the time and place of their manufacture or sale.
- that represent the shape of goods which is determined exclusively or predominantly by the property or designated purpose of such goods.

The elements indicated in Paragraphs 1-4 of Part 1 of this Article may be incorporated in the trademark as non-protected elements, provided they do not hold a dominant position therein.

The provisions of Parts 1 and 2 of this Article shall not apply to designations which have acquired a distinctive character as a result of their use.

By virtue of the international legal acts recognized by the Republic of Tajikistan, registration as trademarks shall not be allowed for designations, that consist only of the elements representing official names of states, State armorial bearings, flags and other State emblems, abbreviated or full names of international intergovernmental organizations, their armorial bearings, flags and other emblems, official signs and hall-marks of control and warranty, seals, awards and other marks of distinction or designations confusingly similar to the above. Such elements may be incorporated in a trademark as non-protected elements, subject to the consent of a relevant competent authority.

No registration as trademarks shall be allowed for the designations or their elements:

- that are deceitful or capable of misleading the consumer as to the good or its manufacturer;
- that are contrary to public interests, principles of humanity and morals.

By virtue of the international legal acts recognized by the Republic of Tajikistan, no registration as trademarks in the territory of the Republic of Tajikistan shall be allowed for the designations that represent or incorporate the elements that are protected in one of the States-parties to that international legal act in the capacity of the designations, identifying wines or alcoholic beverages as originating from its territory (produced within the geographic boundaries of that State), and possessing individual quality, reputation or other properties that are mainly determined by their origin, if the trademark shall be used for identifying wines or alcoholic beverages not originating from the territory of the given geographic object.

Article 9. Other grounds for denial of registration

The following designations shall not be registered as trademarks if they are identical with or confusingly similar to:

- trademarks of other persons, applied for registration (provided applications for them have not been withdrawn) or protected in the Republic of Tajikistan by virtue of an international treaty recognized by the Republic of Tajikistan, in respect of similar goods and with an earlier priority;
- trademarks of other persons, recognized, in accordance with the procedure prescribed by this Law, as well-known in the Republic of Tajikistan in respect of similar goods.

The registration of a designation as a trademark in respect of similar goods, confusingly similar to a trademark, specified in Paragraph 1 or 2 of this Part shall be allowed only with the consent of the right holder.

Designations, identical with or confusingly similar to the appellations of origin of goods, protected in the territory of the Republic of Tajikistan, shall not be registered as trademarks in

respect of any goods, except for cases where these designations are incorporated as non-protected elements into trademarks, registered in the name of persons eligible to use such appellations.

The following designations shall not be registered as trademarks if they are identical with:

- a trade name (or its part) protected in the Republic of Tajikistan in respect of similar goods, an industrial design, the rights in which arose to other persons in the Republic of Tajikistan, prior to the priority date of the trademark being registered;
- a title of a work of science, literature or art, known in the Republic of Tajikistan at the date of filing of the application, characters or quotations therefrom, a work of art or its fragment without the consent of a copyright owner or his successor in title, provided the rights in those works had arisen prior to the priority date of the trademark being registered;
- a family name, a given name, a pseudonym or their derivatives, a portrait and facsimile of the person known at the filing date of the application, without the consent of that person or his successor.

CHAPTER 4. PRIORITY OF A TRADEMARK

Article 10. Priority of a trademark

Priority of a trademark shall be established by the date of filing the application with the Patent Office.

Priority of a trademark may be established by the filing date of the first application in a foreign country party to the Paris Convention (convention priority), provided the application was filed with the Patent Office within six months from the said date.

Priority of a trademark placed on exhibits at official or officially recognized international exhibitions organized in the territory of one of the countries-members of the Paris Convention may be established by the date of commencement of the public showing of the exhibit at the exhibition (exhibition priority), if the application was filed with the Patent Office within six months from the said date.

An applicant wishing to exercise the right of convention or exhibition priority shall be obliged to state so while filing the application for a trademark or within two months following receipt of the application by the Patent Office, and attach the necessary documents confirming the lawfulness of such claim and (or) furnish these documents within three months from the date of receipt of the application by the Patent Office.

Priority of a trademark filed by an applicant in compliance with Part 9 of Article 12 of this Law (hereinafter "divisional application") on the basis of another application of that applicant for the same designation (hereinafter "original application") shall be established by the date of filing of the original application with the Patent Office, where the right to establish an earlier priority by the original application exists, - by the priority date, provided that as of the date of filing the divisional application, the original application is not withdrawn nor deemed to be withdrawn, and that the divisional application is filed prior to a decision being made with respect to the original application.

Where different applicants filed applications for identical trademarks with the same priority date in respect of fully or partially coinciding lists of goods, registration of the trademark with respect to the goods for which the above-mentioned lists coincide, may be effected in the name of one of them on the basis of the agreement reached between the applicants.

Where identical trademarks with the same priority date, in respect of fully or partially coinciding lists of goods, have been applied for registration by one and the same applicant, then the registration of the trademark in respect of such goods may be effected under one of the applications selected by the applicant.

Within six months of the date of receipt of the corresponding notification, the applicants (applicant) shall inform of the agreement reached by them (his choice) in respect of which particular application the registration of the trademark is sought.

If, within the prescribed time period, no such information is communicated to the Patent Office and no request is submitted for the extension of the prescribed time period, the applications shall be deemed withdrawn.

Priority of a trademark may be established by the date of its international registration in accordance with the international legal acts recognized by Tajikistan.

CHAPTER 5. REGISTRATION OF A TRADEMARK

Article 11. Application for trademark registration

An application for registration of a trademark (hereinafter "application") shall be filed with the Patent Office by a legal entity or a natural person engaged in entrepreneurial activity (hereinafter "applicant").

Dealings with the Patent Office may be conducted by an applicant, a right holder or any other person concerned either independently or through a patent attorney registered with the Patent Office.

Natural persons permanently residing outside the Republic of Tajikistan, or foreign legal entities or their representatives shall deal with the Patent Office through patent attorneys authorized by a power of attorney and who obtained the right to perform as patent attorneys according to the legislation of the Republic of Tajikistan.

An application shall pertain to a single trademark.

An application shall contain:

- a request for registration of a designation as a trademark with an indication of the applicant, as well as of his location or place of residence;
- the claimed designation;
- a list of goods in respect of which the registration of the trademark is requested, grouped by classes of the Nice Classification;
- a description of the claimed designation;

An application shall be filed in the official language or in Russian.

The application shall be signed by the applicant or, where such application is filed through a patent attorney, by the applicant or the patent attorney.

The following must be attached to the application:

- a document confirming payment of the obligatory charge for filing in the prescribed amount;
- a Charter of a collective mark if the application is filed in respect of a collective mark;
- a document confirming the rights and competence of a patent attorney if the application is filed through a patent attorney

The documents attached to an application shall be filed in the official or another language. Where such documents are filed in another language, their translation into the official language shall be enclosed. The translation into the official language may be submitted by the applicant not later than two months after the date of notification by the Patent Office of the need to comply with this requirement.

The date of filing of an application with the Patent Office shall be the date of receipt of the documents provided by Paragraphs 1-3, Part 5 of this Article, or, where the said documents were not filed simultaneously, by the date of receipt of the last of the documents submitted.

After the application was filed with the Patent Office, any person shall be entitled to inspect the documents of the application originally attached thereto at the filing date. The procedure for inspecting the materials of the application shall be laid down by the Patent Office.

The requirements for the documents of the application shall be determined by the Patent Office

Article 12. Examination of the application for a trademark

The examination of an application shall be conducted by the Patent Office and shall comprise a formal examination and an examination of the claimed designation.

During the examination of an application while a decision in respect thereof is pending, the applicant shall be entitled to supplement, update or amend the material of the application.

If the supplementary materials include a list of the goods not indicated in the application as of the date of its filing or substantially alter the claimed designation, such materials shall not be accepted for consideration and may be submitted by the applicant as a separate application.

A change of the applicant at the conceding the right to the application or as a result of changing the name of the applicant, as well as the correction of obvious or technical errors in the documents of the application shall be made prior to the registration date of a trademark.

During the examination the Patent Office shall be entitled to request from the applicant supplementary materials the absence of which would make the examination impossible.

The supplementary materials which include a list of goods not indicated in the application as of the date of its filing or substantially alter the claimed designation shall follow the procedure laid down by Part 3 of this Article.

The supplementary materials, requested by the examiners, shall be submitted within two months from the date of receipt of such request by the applicant or copies of the materials referred to in the request of examination, provided that these copies were requested by an applicant within one month after receiving the request of examination. If, within such time period, the applicant fails to submit the requested materials or a request for the extension of the said time period, the application shall be deemed withdrawn. At the request of the applicant, the Patent Office may extend this period by not more than six months. Provided that the reason given for having missed such time periods is confirmed to be valid, the Patent Office can extend it by more than six months.

An application may be withdrawn at the request of the applicant at any stage of examination, but not later than the date of registration of the trademark.

During a formal examination of the application and before a decision is taken, the applicant shall have the right to file a divisional application, which incorporates the list of goods, indicated in the original application as of the date of its filing with the Patent Office, and dissimilar to the goods the list of which remains in the original application.

Article 13. Formal Examination

A formal examination of an application shall be carried out within one month from the date of its filing with the Patent Office.

In the course of the formal examination, the presence of the necessary documents and their conformity with the established requirements shall be checked. Based on the results of the examination, a decision shall be made either to accept it for further examination or to deny its acceptance, of which the applicant shall be informed.

Simultaneously with notification of the positive outcome of the formal examination, the applicant shall be informed of the filing date established pursuant to Part 10 of Article 11 of this Law.

Article 14. Examination of the claimed designation

The examination of the claimed designation shall be conducted upon completion of the formal examination.

In the course of examination, the claimed designation shall be checked for its compliance with the requirements set out in Article 8 and in Parts 1 and 3 of Article 9 of this Law, and the priority of the trademark shall be established.

Based on the results of the examination, a decision shall be made either to register the trademark or to deny its registration.

Copies of materials opposed to the claimed designation may be requested within one month of the date of receipt of the decision on the application.

The decision to register a trademark may be re-considered by the Patent Office in connection with the receipt of an application which enjoys an earlier priority in accordance with Article 10 of this Law.

In the event of disagreement of the applicant with the examiner's decision, he shall have the right, within two months of the date of receipt of the decision, to file with the Patent Office a request for re-examination.

Re-examination shall be conducted within two months of the date of receipt of the applicant's request.

Article 15. Appeal against the decision on the application and restoration of the missed time periods

The applicant shall be entitled to lodge, within three months from the date of receipt of an appropriate decision, an appeal with the Appeal Board or request copies of the materials opposed to the application from the Patent Office, provided they shall be requested by an applicant within a month from the date of his receipt of a corresponding decision.

- the decision, taken on the results of the formal examination of the application, to refuse to accept it for consideration;
- the decision passed on the results of examination of the claimed designation;
- the decision to recognize the application as having been withdrawn.

The time periods laid down in Part 7 of Article 12 of this Law and Part 1 of this Article and missed by the applicant may be restored by the Patent Office at the request of the applicant, which shall be filed not later than two months after the date of their expiry, provided that the reasons are confirmed to be valid and that the appropriate obligatory charge is paid.

Such request shall be submitted to the Patent Office simultaneously with the supplementary materials, requested by the examiners, or with a request for extending the time for their submission, or, simultaneously with filing an appeal with the Appeal Board.

Article 16. Registration of a trademark

On the basis of the decision to register the trademark the Patent Office shall, within one month after the date of receipt of a document about the payment of an established obligatory charge, enter the trademark in the State Register of Trademarks of the Republic of Tajikistan ((hereinafter "Register"). Such entry in the Register shall include the trademark, information about its right holder, the priority date of the trademark, the date of its registration, the list of goods in respect of which the trademark is registered, other information relating to the registration of the trademark, as well as any subsequent changes in such information.

In the event of failure to submit, in accordance with established procedure, a document confirming the payment of an obligatory charge for the registration of a trademark and the issuance of a certificate in respect thereof, the trademark shall not be registered, and the corresponding application shall be deemed to have been withdrawn.

Article 17. Issuance of a trademark certificate

A trademark certificate shall be issued by the Patent Office within one month from the date of the registration of the trademark in the Register.

The form of the certificate and its contents shall be determined by the Patent Office.

Article 18. Duration Of Registration

The registration of a trademark shall remain valid for ten years as from the date of filing of the application with the Patent Office.

The term of validity of a trademark registration may be extended at the request of the right holder to be filed during the last year of such validity term, each time for a period of ten years.

Upon the request of the right holder for extension of the period of validity of the registration of the trademark he may be granted a grace period of six months after expiration of the registration, provided that an additional obligatory charge has been paid.

A record to the effect that the term of validity of the trademark registration has been extended shall be entered in the Register and in the certificate of a trademark registration.

Article 19. Recordal of changes in the registration

The right holder shall notify the Patent Office of any changes in the legal name, in his first or last name or patronymic, any reduction of the list of the goods, in respect of which the trademark has been registered, any alteration of individual elements of the trademark, not affecting its substance, and of other changes concerning the registration of the trademark.

In the event that the grant of legal protection for a trademark is contested on such grounds and under such procedure as are determined by Article 33 of this Law, from the registration of the trademark valid for several goods, a separate registration of such trademark for the goods or part of the goods, which are not similar to the goods the list of which remains in the primary registration, can be singled out at the request of the right holder. This request may be submitted by the right holder before the action is taken on the results of dispute settlement on the registration of the trademark.

The changes relating to the trademark registration shall be entered in the Register and in the trademark certificate, subject to payment of an appropriate obligatory charge.

The Patent Office may enter changes in the Register and in the trademark certificate to remedy obvious and technical errors.

Article 20. Publication of information concerning registration

Information pertaining to the registration of a trademark and entered in the Register under the provisions of Article 16 of this Law shall be published by the Patent Office in the Official

Gazette immediately after the registration of the trademark in the Register or after the changes in the registration of the trademark have been entered in the Register.

Article 21. Registration of a trademark in foreign countries

Natural persons and legal entities of the Republic of Tajikistan shall have the right to register a trademark in foreign countries or to obtain its international registration.

The application for international registration of a trademark shall be filed through the Patent Office.

Article 22. Conditions for re-registration

A trademark, a sign identical to it or a sign confusingly similar to it, the duration of the registration of which has expired and a request for renewal of which has not been submitted according to part 2 of Article 18 of this Law shall not be re-registered for a period of three years from the date of termination of the registration of the trademark, in the name of a person other than the former right holder of the trademark or his legal successor.

This rule shall also apply in the case where the owner of a trademark has abandoned the trademark before the expiration of the registration.

CHAPTER 6.

WELL-KNOWN TRADEMARK AND ITS LEGAL PROTECTION

Article 23. Well-known trademark

At the request of a natural person or a legal entity, a trademark, protected in the territory of the Republic of Tajikistan on the basis of its registration; a trademark, protected in the territory of the Republic of Tajikistan without registration by virtue of an international treaty of the Republic of Tajikistan, and also a designation, used as a trademark but having no legal protection in the territory of the Republic of Tajikistan may be recognized to be well-known trademarks in the Republic of Tajikistan if such trademarks or designation, as a result of their intensive use at the date, indicated in the application, became widely known in the Republic of Tajikistan among corresponding consumers in respect of the goods of that person.

A trademark or a designation may not be recognized as a well-known trademark if they became widely known after the date of priority of an identical or confusingly similar trademark of another person, intended to be used in respect of similar goods.

A well-known trademark shall be accorded legal protection provided for by this Law.

In recognizing the trademark already registered as a well-known trademark, legal protection of such a trademark shall also extend to the goods non-similar to those in respect of which the trademark is recognized as well-known, provided the use of that trademark by another person in respect of the above-mentioned goods will be associated by consumers with the right holder and may harm his legitimate interests.

Article 24. Grant of legal protection to a well-known trademark

The legal protection to a well-known trademark shall be granted pursuant to a decision of the Appeal Board, taken following a request submitted in conformity with Subparagraph 1 of Part 1 of Article 23 of this Law.

A trademark, recognized to be well-known, shall be entered by the Patent Office in the List of well-known trademarks in the Republic of Tajikistan (hereinafter "List") within one month after receipt of the document confirming payment of a prescribed obligatory charge and procedural payment.

A certificate for a well-known trademark shall be issued by the Patent Office within one month after the date of entering the trademark in the List. The form of a certificate and the content thereof shall be determined by the Patent Office.

Information related to a well-known trademark shall be published by the Patent Office in the Official Gazette immediately after its recording in the List.

Legal protection of a well-known trademark shall have unlimited duration.

CHAPTER 7. COLLECTIVE TRADEMARK

Article 25. Right in a collective trademark

In conformity with an international treaty recognized by the Republic of Tajikistan an association of persons, the establishment and business activities of which are not contrary to the legislation of the country where it has been established, shall have the right to register a collective trademark in the Republic of Tajikistan, which shall be a trademark of a business association, intended to designate the goods manufactured and (or) marketed by the persons, being members of this association, and possessing uniform qualitative or other common characteristics.

A collective trademark and the right to use it may not be transferred to other persons.

Article 26. Registration of a collective trademark

An application for a collective trademark registration shall be accompanied by the Charter of the collective trademark, which shall contain the name of the association authorized to register the collective trademark in its own name, a list of persons entitled to use the mark, the objective of its registration, a list of the goods to be designated by the collective trademark with a description of their uniform qualitative or other common characteristics, conditions of its use, the procedure for control over its use, and liability for breaching the Charter of the collective trademark.

In the Register and in the certificate for a collective trademark in addition to information provided for in Article 16 of this Law the information about persons entitled to use the collective trademark shall be entered. Such information and an excerpt from the Charter of the collective trademark about uniform qualitative and other common characteristics of the goods in respect of which the collective trademark has been registered shall be published by the Patent Office in the Official Gazette.

In the event that a collective trademark is used on the goods not possessing uniform qualitative or other common characteristics, its legal protection may be terminated in full or in part pursuant to a court judgment passed upon the request of any interested person.

A collective trademark and an application for its registration may be converted, accordingly, into a trademark and an application for the registration of a trademark and vice versa. The procedure for such conversion shall be laid down by the Patent Office.

CHAPTER 8. USE OF A TRADEMARK

Article 27. Use of a trademark and consequences of its non-use

Use of a trademark shall be understood to mean its use on the goods in respect of which it has been registered and (or) on packaging thereof by the right holder or a person to whom such right has been conferred under a contract in accordance with Article 31 of this Law.

Use of a trademark in advertising, printed publications, on letterheads, on signboards, during demonstration of exhibits displayed at exhibitions and fairs held in the Republic of Tajikistan, may be recognized as its use, provided valid reasons exist for non-use of the trademark on the goods and (or) packaging thereof.

Natural persons and legal entities engaged in business as intermediaries may, on the basis of an agreement, use their own trademark alongside with that of the manufacturer of the goods, or instead of the trademark of the latter.

Legal protection of a trademark may be invalidated prematurely in respect of all or part of the goods in connection with non-use of the trademark for any continuous period of three years after its registration. A petition for premature invalidation in connection with non-use of the trademark may be submitted to the Appeal Board on the expiry of the above-mentioned three years provided that the trademark had not been used before such a petition was submitted.

Proof of use of a trademark shall be adduced by the right holder

The use of a trademark with changes in some of its elements that do not alter its substance shall be recognized as the use of a trademark.

Whenever a decision is to be taken on a premature invalidation of legal protection of a trademark in connection with its non-use, a proof adduced by the right holder to the effect that the trademark has not been used for reasons beyond the right holder's control shall be taken into consideration.

Article 28. Exhaustion of rights based on trademark registration

Registration of a trademark shall not entitle its right holder to prohibit other persons from using such trademark in respect of the goods, which have been commercially introduced in the territory of the Republic of Tajikistan either directly by the right holder or with the consent thereof.

Article 29. Precautionary marking

The right holder of a trademark may affix, next to the trademark, a marking in the form of the Latin letter "R" or a circled letter "R" (®) or a verbal designation indicating that the applied designation is a trademark registered in the Republic of Tajikistan.

CHAPTER 9.

TRANSFER OF AN EXCLUSIVE RIGHT IN A TRADEMARK

Article 30. Transfer of an exclusive right in a trademark (assignment of a trademark)

An exclusive right in a trademark in respect of all or part of the goods in respect of which it has been registered may be assigned by the right holder to a natural person or a legal entity engaged in entrepreneurial activity under a contract of transfer of an exclusive right in a trademark (contract of assignment of a trademark).

Assignment of a trademark shall not be allowed if it may be the reason for misleading the consumer with respect to goods or its manufacturer.

Article 31. Grant of the right for use of a trademark

The right for use of a trademark, in respect of all or part of the goods in respect of which it has been registered, may be granted by the right holder (the licensor) to another legal entity or a natural person engaged in entrepreneurial activity (the licensee) under a license contract.

The above-mentioned license contract must contain a clause that the quality of the goods of the licensee will not be inferior to those of the licensor, and that the licensor shall exercise control over the observation of this clause.

Article 32. Registration of contracts

A contract of the transfer of an exclusive right in a trademark (contract on assignment of a trademark) or a contract on grant of the right to use a trademark shall be registered with the Patent Office. Without such registration the said contracts shall be deemed invalid.

The procedure for registration of the above-mentioned contracts shall be laid down by the Patent Office.

CHAPTER 10.

TERMINATION OF LEGAL PROTECTION OF A TRADEMARK

Article 33. Contestation and recognition of the grant of legal protection to a trademark as invalid

Grant of legal protection to a trademark in the following cases and time periods may be contested and invalidated:

- in full or in part at any time during its term of validity, if effected in breach of the requirements set out in Article 8 and Part 4 of Article 9 of this Law or within five years after the publication of information in the Official Gazette, if effected in breach of the requirements set out in Paragraph 1 and 3 of Article 9 of this Law;
- in full or in part at any time during its term of validity, if effected in breach of the requirements set out in Paragraph 3 of Article 4 of this Law;
- in full at any time during its term of validity, if effected in the name of an agent or representative of the person which is the right holder of an exclusive right in this trademark in one of the countries - members of the Paris Convention, in breach of the requirements set out in that Convention;
- in full or in part at any time during its term of validity, if actions undertaken by the right holder in registering the trademark have been recognized, in the order set by the law, to be an act of unfair competition.

The grant of legal protection to a trademark well known in the Republic of Tajikistan may be challenged and invalidated in full or in part at any time during its term of validity, if effected in breach of the requirements set out in Part 2 of Article 23 of this Law.

Any person may file an opposition with the Appeal Board, within such time and on such grounds as provided by Paragraph 1 and 2 of Part 1 of this Article, against the grant of legal protection to a trademark.

An opposition against the grant of legal protection to a trademark, if by reason provided for by Paragraph 3, Part 1 of this Article, shall be filed with the Appeal Board by the interested right holder of an exclusive right in the trademark in one of the countries - members of the Paris Convention.

An opposition against the grant of legal protection to a trademark, well-known in the Republic of Tajikistan on the grounds provided for by Part 2 of this Article, may be filed by any person with the Appeal Board.

A request for invalidating a grant of legal protection to a trademark pursuant to a decision made in order provided for by Paragraph 4 of Part 1 of this Article shall be filed with the Patent Office by any person.

The grant of legal protection to a trademark shall be declared invalid in full or in part pursuant to a decision made on the basis of opposition or a request submitted in accordance with Part 3 of this Article.

Article 34. Termination of legal protection of a trademark

Legal protection of a trademark is terminated in the following cases:

- in connection with the expiration of the term of validity of a trademark registration;
- on the grounds of a court judgment that has taken legal effect concerning an early termination of the legal protection of a collective mark due to the use of that mark on the goods that do not possess uniform qualitative or other common characteristics as set forth in Part 3 of Article 26 of this Law;
- on the basis of a decision on earlier termination of the legal protection of a trademark on the grounds of its non-use as set forth in Part 4 of Article 27 of this Law;
- on the basis of a decision of the Patent Office on earlier termination of the legal protection of a trademark in the event of liquidation of the legal entity- the right holder or in the event of discontinuance of the entrepreneurial activity of the natural person - the right holder;
- in the event that the right holder abandons it;
- on the basis of the decision taken on the application of any person filed with the Appeal Board on earlier termination of legal protection of a trademark where a registered trademark has become a commonplace designation used to designate a certain kind of goods.

Legal protection of a well-known trademark shall be terminated on the grounds set forth by Paragraphs 4 to 7 of Part 1 of this Article, and also on the basis of the decision of the Appeal Board in the event that a well-known trademark loses the features set forth in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Article 23 of this Law.

CHAPTER 11.

PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE RIGHT HOLDER OF A TRADEMARK

Article 35. Disputes examined by courts

Disputes related to the implementation of this Law shall be examined by courts within the limits of their jurisdiction in accordance with the procedure laid down by the legislation of the Republic of Tajikistan, including disputes over:

- infringement of the exclusive right in a trademark;
- early termination of the legal protection of a collective mark due to its use on goods which do not possess uniform qualitative and other common characteristics;
- conclusion and implementation of contracts on grant of the right to use a trademark and contracts of transfer of an exclusive right in a trademark (contract on assignment of a trademark);

CHAPTER 12.

CONCLUDING PROVISIONS

Article 36. Decisions of the Appeal Board

A procedure for filing oppositions and requests with the Appeal Board and a procedure for their consideration shall be prescribed by the Patent Office.

Decisions of the Appeal Board taken on oppositions and requests, filed in the order set forth in Articles 15, 24, 27, 33, and 34 of this Law shall be approved by the Head of the Patent Office and shall come into force from the date of their approval and may be appealed in Court in conformity with legislation of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Article 37. Obligatory charges and procedural payment

For filing of an application, registration and issuing a certificate for a trademark, renewal of registration and reinstatement of missed time periods as well as for all other legally significant acts connected with registration and renewal of trademark registrations obligatory charges shall be charged.

For carrying out examination, entering changes and corrections in the documents of the application, publication of particulars of a trademark registration, consideration of oppositions and application by the Appeal Board, as well as for performance of other acts connected with examination of the application the Patent Office shall charge a procedural payment.

The obligatory charges and procedural payment shall be paid by the applicant, right holder, or, in agreement with them, by any natural person or legal entity.

The amount of obligatory charges and procedural payment shall be determined by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Article 38. Rights of foreign individuals and legal entities

Foreign individuals and legal entities shall enjoy those rights granted by this Law on a par with individuals and legal entities of the Republic of Tajikistan by virtue of international legal acts recognized by the Republic of Tajikistan or on the basis of reciprocity.

Article 39. International legal acts

Where an international legal act recognized by Tajikistan establishes rules that differ from those set out in this Law, the rules of such international legal act shall apply.

Article 40. Liability for Breaches of This Law

Natural persons and legal entities shall be liable for breaches of this Law pursuant to legislation of the Republic of Tajikistan

Article 41. On recognition of voidance of the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan “On trademarks and service marks”

Recognize void the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan “On trademarks and service marks” (Bulletin of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan, 1992, № 4, p. 41).

Article 42. Procedure for entry into force of this Law

This Law shall enter into force after its official publication.

President of the Republic of Tajikistan

E. RAKHMONOV

05 March 2007

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