

To: Our Esteemed Colleagues
From: Takenori Hiroe, Patent Attorney
Noelani Nitz, Foreign Legal Consultant
Date: Thursday, January 27, 2000
Re: REVISED New Electronic Filing Procedures and Filing Fees for Trademarks and Design Registrations

On January 1, 2000, the Japanese Patent Office ("JP.O.") kicked off its new electronic filing system for Trademark and Design applications. Applications and most other procedures, such as arguments or requests for amendments can be filed electronically. This memo outlines changes to the filing process, the impact on first-to-file system and our new charges for paper filings.

Hiroe and Associates has finished testing the filing system to ensure that our filings will be reliably received by the JP.O. With exceptions for filings in need of an earlier filing date, outlined below, we will now be filing all applications and other documents electronically.

1. Electronic Formats Accepted by the JPO: HTML "*.gif", "*.bmp" and "*.jpg"

Applications must be filed in HTML format with pictures submitted in one of three formats: GIF, BMP or JPEG. Applicants who wish to file their devices in full-color must use JPEG format. However, this option is only available if the device is filed in JPEG format. Devices filed in GIF and BMP format will be accepted only as black and white images prepared in accordance with current device standards.

2. Electronic filing dates vs. Paper-filing filing dates

Electronic filings may be done between the hours of 9:00 A.M. and 10:00 P.M. Japan time on all official business days of the JP.O. In situations where a filing must be done during non-business hours, a paper filing may still provide benefits, since the acceptance date at the post office will still be considered the filing date for determining first-to-file and novelty (in the case of designs). In situations where an earliest possible filing date is crucial, we will use the filing method that provides our clients with the earliest filing date for examination purposes.

3. Surcharges Applicable to Paper Filings

To encourage electronic filing, the JP.O. now imposes an extra charge on paper filings based on the number of pages of 1200 Yen plus 700 Yen per page. We will file a hard-copy application via the Postal Service in the event that an electronic filing is not possible or advisable as outlined above.

We will begin charging fees for all filings beginning January 20, 2000 as

follows:

Trademarks	<u>Our Fee</u>	<u>JP.O. Fee</u>	<u>Min. Total</u>
<u>E-Filing</u>	¥3,800	0	¥3,800
<u>Paper Filing</u>	¥3,800	¥1,200	¥5,000 plus per page charge
Each page beyond 1 st page		¥700	

Designs	<u>Our Fee</u>	<u>JP.O. Fee</u>	<u>Min. Total</u>
<u>E-Filing</u>	¥5,800	0	¥5,800
<u>Paper Filing</u>	¥5,800	¥1,200	¥7,000 plus per page charge
Each page beyond 1 st page		¥700	

Patents/Utility Models	<u>Our Fee</u>	<u>JP.O. Fee</u>	<u>Min. Total</u>
<u>E-Filing</u>	¥8,500	0	¥8,500
<u>Paper Filing</u>	¥8,500	¥1,200	¥9,700 plus per page charge
Each page beyond 1 st page		¥700	

If you have any questions about this memorandum, please feel free to contact Mr. Takenori Hiroe info@hiroe.co.jp or Ms. Noelani Nitz at nitz@hiroe.co.jp.