

In reply please quote our reference

Your reference : N.A.  
Our reference : 2016/21122251013Q  
Date : 06 June 2016  
Writer's direct number : +65 6330 2703

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION  
INTERNATIONAL REGISTRATIONS DEPARTMENT  
34, CHEMIN DES COLOMBETTES, 1211 GENEVA 20  
SWITZERLAND

Dear Sir/Madam

**NOTIFICATION OF PROVISIONAL REFUSAL OF PROTECTION TO THE INTERNATIONAL BUREAU OF THE WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 5 OF THE PROTOCOL RELATING TO THE MADRID AGREEMENT CONCERNING THE INTERNATIONAL REGISTRATION OF MARKS**

**1. Office making the notification:**

Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS)

**2. International Registration Number:**

1286951

**3. Trade Mark Number(s) issued by the IPOS for this International Registration:**

Trade Mark Number : 40201602642Y

Class Number(s) : 39

**4. Name of holder of the International Registration:**

ETIHAD AIRWAYS

**5. Ground(s) of the Provisional Refusal:**

**5.1 Section 7(1)(b)**

The mark is objectionable under section 7(1) of the Trade Marks Act (Cap. 332, 2005 Rev. Ed.) as:

it is devoid of any distinctive character. We are of the view that the mark is not a sign which will be able to signify the services of a single undertaking. That is, the mark does not seem to possess the function to distinguish the services from other traders and does not appear to serve as a badge of origin without first educating the public.

**5.2 Section 7(1)(c)**

it consists exclusively of signs or indications which may serve, in trade, to designate the



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quality of services. The mark does not suggest any unusual connotation over and above its obvious descriptive meaning. The phrase "Fast Track" is a grammatically proper expression that can be interpreted as a direct message conveying the intrinsic quality of the services. Our research shows that "Fast Track" has a meaning of a route or method which provides for more rapid results than usual (<https://www.google.com.sg/#q=fast+track+meaning>). The consumer has likelihood to perceive the mark as a message to indicate that the services provided are faster than usual. The fast forward device gives further impression that the services provided are quicker than usual.

### 5.3 **How to overcome our objection(s) under section 7(1)(b), (c) and/or (d)**

Please file evidence showing that the mark has, before the date of application, in fact acquired a distinctive character as a result of the use made of it. The evidence should relate to at least 5 years of use prior to the date of application of the mark. The evidence of use should be filed by way of a statutory declaration. For guidance as to how the evidence of use should be presented, please refer to the Registry's web site at <http://goo.gl/EcaHSY>.

### 5.4 **Specification of goods and/or services**

We note that you have applied for protection of the mark for goods and/or services in Class 39. However, we have raised objections under rule 19(2)(b)(ii)(A) of the Trade Marks Rules as the following goods and/or services do not follow the guidelines provided under the International Classification of Goods and Services (ICGS):

#### Class 39

"rental services including vehicle, garage and parking place rental" – please consider amending to "rental services namely vehicle, garage and parking place rental".

"transport services including chauffeur, car, taxi, bus, rail and place services" – please clarify "place services". Please also amend to "transport services including chauffeur, car hire, taxi, bus ferry, rail transport services".

"travel services including the provision of reservation service" – please amend to "travel services including the provision of travel reservation service".

"airport services including services connected with processing passengers through an airline terminal, processing passengers' luggage and cargo, portorage and services relating to loading and unloading cargo" – please consider amending to "airport services in relation to processing passengers through an airline terminal, processing passengers' luggage and cargo, portorage relating to loading and unloading cargo".

"provision of warehouses including rental of warehouse storage space and storage of freight" – please consider amending to "provision of warehousing services including rental of warehouse storage space and storage of freight".

"provision of information in relation to all these services including provision of information on these services via global computer network"- please consider amending to "provision of information in relation to the aforesaid services including provision of information of the aforesaid services via global computer network".



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Please note that no form or fee is required for an amendment to the specification of goods or services of an international registration designating Singapore.

**6. Goods and/or services affected by the refusal:**

This refusal applies to all the services in Class(es) 39 of the international registration.

**7. Request for review:**

The holder of the international registration may file a request for a review of this refusal with IPOS.

The request for review must comply with the following:

- (a) quote the International Registration number, relevant trade mark number(s), corresponding class number(s) and Singapore reference number(s).
- (b) furnish an address for service in Singapore. The holder may appoint an agent by filing Form CM1.

Please note that any form(s) filed with the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization in response to this refusal, will not be treated as a request for a review of this refusal unless the above has been complied with.

**8. Extension of time:**

The holder may seek an extension of time to request for a review of this refusal by filing Form CM5.

**9. Deadline to observe:**

If the holder does not file a request for review or apply for an extension of time to do so by **6 October 2016**, the application for the refused goods and/or services indicated in paragraph 6 of this refusal will be treated as withdrawn (reinstatable).

**10. Reinstatement of an application that is treated as withdrawn (reinstatable):**

If the application becomes treated as withdrawn (reinstatable), the holder may request to reinstate the application by filing Form CM13 together with the request for review within six months from the deadline in paragraph 9.

Please note that reinstatement is not automatic. Reinstatement will be allowed only after we have conducted a new conflicting mark search and are satisfied that the mark to be reinstated does not conflict with any trade mark applications filed with IPOS prior to the filing of the required documents.

If the holder also does not request to reinstate the application in time, the application for goods and/or services that are not refused will proceed to publication.

**11. Forms and fees:**

The forms referred to in this provisional refusal and the relevant fees may be found at <http://www.ipos.gov.sg/Services/FilingandRegistration/FormsandFees/TradeMarks.aspx>



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**12. Further refusal of protection:**

Please note that a further refusal of protection may result from an opposition, which may be filed after the expiry of 18 months from the date on which the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore was notified of the international registration. This applies to all goods and/or services claimed in the international registration.

This refusal is issued by:

Ms Khong Hui Mian  
Assistant Registrar  
for Registrar of Trade Marks  
Singapore

*IP2SG is IPOS' one-stop electronic portal for all transactions. IPOS strongly encourages all our customers to transact with us using the IP2SG customer portal for all matters relating to Trade Marks, Patents and Registered Designs. If you do not have an IP2SG customer portal account, you may register for one at [www.ip2.sg](http://www.ip2.sg) to enjoy the benefits of corresponding with IPOS and monitoring your transactions electronically. More information on IP2SG is also available at <http://www.ipos.gov.sg/Services/FilingandRegistration/FAQs/IP2SGFAQ.aspx>.*



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## PROVISIONS OF SINGAPORE LAW

### TRADE MARKS ACT (CHAPTER 332)

#### Section 2(1) Interpretation

"trade mark" means any sign capable of being represented graphically and which is capable of distinguishing goods or services dealt with or provided in the course of trade by a person from goods or services so dealt with or provided by any other person.

#### Section 7 Absolute grounds for refusal of registration

(1) The following shall not be registered:

- (a) signs which do not satisfy the definition of a trade mark in section 2(1);
- (b) trade marks which are devoid of any distinctive character;
- (c) trade marks which consist exclusively of signs or indications which may serve, in trade, to designate the kind, quality, quantity, intended purpose, value, geographical origin, the time of production of goods or of rendering of services, or other characteristics of goods or services; and
- (d) trade marks which consist exclusively of signs or indications which have become customary in the current language or in the bona fide and established practices of the trade.

(2) A trade mark shall not be refused registration by virtue of subsection (1) (b), (c) or (d), if, before the date of application for registration, it has in fact acquired a distinctive character as a result of the use made of it.

### TRADE MARKS RULES

#### Rule 19 Specification

(2) Every application form shall contain, for each class of goods or services to which the application relates

- (a) the class number as set out in the Nice Classification as in force on the date of that application; and
- (b) a specification of those goods or services which
  - (i) is appropriate to that class;
  - (ii) is described in such a manner as to
    - (A) indicate clearly the nature of those goods or services; and
    - (B) allow those goods or services to be classified in accordance with the Nice Classification as in force on the date of that application; and
  - (iii) complies with any other requirement of the Registrar.



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