



## Trade mark searches

### Why would I need to search the trade mark register?

A search of the trade mark register may be performed by clients for a number of reasons:

- To find out the current information held on the Intellectual Property Register regarding a particular trade mark, patent or design right.
- To find if there are any earlier and potentially conflicting intellectual property rights that are already registered in the Bailiwick of Guernsey. This is useful when making an application for a trade mark as the applicant must declare that a search of the register has been performed.
- To ensure that rights owners have maintained and documented the protection of their intellectual property as it relates to this jurisdiction.

### How can I search the trade mark register?

There are two ways to search the trade mark register in Guernsey: using the online service, or using a search performed by the Intellectual Property Office.

#### Online trade mark search (free of charge):

1. Visit the Intellectual Property Office website at [www.guernseyregistry.com/ipo](http://www.guernseyregistry.com/ipo) and click on 'Register Search' on the right hand side of the page.
2. From here it is possible to search by trade mark number or perform an advanced search.
3. When performing an advanced search, the register can be searched by the mark text, mark text and image or mark image.
4. If you wish to search by image you will need to search using the Vienna classification. This enables you to describe the image you are searching for. The Vienna classification is divided into 'Category', 'Division' and 'Section'. 'Category' is the most general description, followed by 'Division' then 'Section' which is the most detailed. It is possible to search more than one Vienna code at once.
5. When performing a search you can also choose to only include results in the goods and services you specify. This is done by choosing Nice Class numbers (see separate guidance on Nice Classification').
6. To see further information on any marks, click the 'View Details' icon to the left of the mark number in the table of results.

**Please note:** it is not possible to carry out a proprietor search using the online service.

## Is it possible to search by proprietor?

Yes, however proprietor searches are not available through the online service.

In order to carry out a search by proprietor you will need to request a search of the IP register by the Intellectual Property Office. This can be requested by completing and returning a 'Request for a search of the IP register' form (see below for more information).

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## Requesting a search of the IP register from the IPO

For a formal search of the register (including searches by proprietor) you can apply to the Intellectual Property Office for a search of the IP register. The IPO will perform the search on your behalf and provide you with an official statement of the results found.

To apply for a search you will need to complete a Request for a search of the IP register' form (available on the IPO website), return it to the Intellectual Property Office at the address below and provide the search fee of £25.

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## Would you like more information or assistance?

For more information or assistance regarding trade mark searches please do not hesitate to contact the Intellectual Property Office.

Telephone: +44(0)1481 743800

Fax: +44(0)1481 743801

Email: [ipo@guernseyregistry.com](mailto:ipo@guernseyregistry.com)

Website: [www.guernseyregistry.com/ipo](http://www.guernseyregistry.com/ipo)

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The purpose of this guidance note is to provide a information regarding searching the trade mark register.

**It is not intended to be definitive legal advice and should not be relied upon as such.**

The interpretation of Intellectual Property legislation is a matter on which the Intellectual Property Office cannot advise.

Independent legal advice is advised where there is any uncertainty.