

Patents

Extension of Time Pilot for Search and/or Examination Report Requests Extended by One Year (Circular No. 4/2026)

On 12 August 2026, the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS) issued [Circular No. 4/2026](#) announcing that it will be extending, by one year, its pilot initiative allowing eligible applicants to extend the period prescribed for filing requests for search and/or examination reports (**S&E requests**) by 18 months, at no cost. This pilot initiative was announced in IPOS' [Circular No. 4/2024](#) dated 19 August 2024 and first launched in August 2024.

With the extension, applicants whose period prescribed for filing S&E requests expires between 1 September 2024 and 31 August 2027, both dates inclusive, are eligible for this pilot initiative.

All other aspects of the pilot initiative published under Circular No. 4/2024 remain the same.

Key Features of the Pilot Initiative

As set out in IPOS' Circular No. 4/2024, the key features of the pilot initiative include the following:

- (a) **Scope of the initiative:** The initiative is for applicants who intend to file requests for search and examination reports under section 29(1)(b), and requests for examination reports under section 29(1)(c) or section 29(3), of the Patents Act 1994. Under the Patents Rules, the period prescribed for filing a request is 36 months under rule 43(1), but this duration will be extended by up to 18 months by the filing of Patents Form 45 within 18 months after the end of the period prescribed under rule 108(4).
- (b) **Requirements to benefit from the initiative:** Applicants must ensure that the period prescribed for the application expires within the eligible window, select the new option in Patents Form 45 to extend the period prescribed by 18 months, and ensure compliance with all relevant provisions.
- (c) **Effect of approval:** On approval, the period prescribed will be extended by 18 months, at no cost. Where an applicant had already obtained a previous extension of less than 18 months, a request under this pilot initiative will allow the period prescribed to be extended at no cost, up to the maximum extension of 18 months.
- (d) **Continued flexibility to leverage patent acceleration programmes:** Applicants who prefer to receive earlier search and/or examination reports from IPOS and use the reports to advance their corresponding patent applications overseas may continue to tap IPOS' suite of acceleration programmes with SG Patents Fast and SG Trade Marks Fast (which have superseded SG IP FAST), the ASEAN Patent Examination Co-operation (ASPEC), Collaborative Search and Examination (CS&E) with Vietnam and the Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH).

Circular No. 4/2024 also states that applicants may obtain positive outcomes from corresponding applications during the extended period, which can be used to leverage PPH programmes for acceleration at IPOS. For applicants relying on PPH, IPOS endeavours to produce a first written opinion within 10 months of the PPH request.

Enquiries may be directed to IPOS.

If you would like information and/or assistance on the above or any other area of law, you may wish to contact the Partner at WongPartnership whom you normally work with or any of the following Partners:



LAM Chung Nian

Head – Intellectual Property,
Technology & Data



Kylie PEH

Partner – Intellectual Property,
Technology & Data

 **Connect with WongPartnership.**

WPG MEMBERS AND OFFICES

- contactus@wongpartnership.com

SINGAPORE

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WongPartnership LLP
12 Marina Boulevard Level 28
Marina Bay Financial Centre Tower 3
Singapore 018982
t +65 6416 8000
f +65 6532 5711/5722

CHINA

-

WongPartnership LLP
Shanghai Representative Office
Unit 1015 Link Square 1
222 Hubin Road
Shanghai 200021, PRC
t +86 21 6340 3131
f +86 21 6340 3315

INDONESIA

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Makes & Partners Law Firm
Menara Batavia, 7th Floor
Jl. KH. Mas Mansyur Kav. 126
Jakarta 10220, Indonesia
t +62 21 574 7181
f +62 21 574 7180
w makeslaw.com

MALAYSIA

-

Cheang & Ariff
Advocates & Solicitors
Loke Mansion
273A, Jalan Medan Tuanku
50300 Kuala Lumpur
t +60 3 2691 0803
f +60 3 2693 4475
w cheangariff.com

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Foong & Partners
Advocates & Solicitors
13-1, Menara 1MK, Kompleks 1 Mont' Kiara
No 1 Jalan Kiara, Mont' Kiara
50480 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
t +60 3 6419 0822
f +60 3 6419 0823
w foongpartners.com

MIDDLE EAST

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Al Aidarous Advocates and Legal Consultants
Abdullah Al Mulla Building, Mezzanine Suite 02
39 Hameem Street (side street of Al Murroor Street)
Al Nahyan Camp Area
P.O. Box No. 71284
Abu Dhabi, UAE
t +971 2 6439 222
f +971 2 6349 229
w aidarous.com

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Al Aidarous Advocates and Legal Consultants
Oberoi Centre, 13th Floor, Marasi Drive, Business Bay
P.O. Box No. 33299
Dubai, UAE
t +971 4 2828 000
f +971 4 2828 011

PHILIPPINES

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Gruba Law
27/F 88 Corporate Center
141 Valero St., Salcedo Village
Makati City 1227, Philippines
t +63 2 889 6060
f +63 2 889 6066
w grubalaw.com