

Every cent counts: China slashes certain IP application fees

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Reducing filing fees finally comes in China!

On 15 March 2017, the National Development and Reform Commission and Ministry of Finance jointly issued a notice (财税[2017] No.20, "Notice") to reduce filing fees for various IP registrations. The reduced fees will come into force on **1 April 2017**.

Here is a breakdown. The official fees are on average half the original fees:

Trademark prosecution matters

Type	Remarks	Current	After the Change
Application for registration	per mark per class (up to 10 items)	RMB 600 <i>(App. USD 88)</i>	RMB 300 <i>(App. USD 44)</i>
	additional fee for each item in excess of 10 items per class	RMB 60 <i>(App. USD 8)</i>	RMB 30 <i>(App. USD 4)</i>
Application for change of owner's name/address	per mark per class	RMB 500 <i>(App. USD 72)</i>	RMB 250 <i>(App. USD 36)</i>
Trademark assignment	per mark per class	RMB 1000 <i>(App. USD 146)</i>	RMB 500 <i>(App. USD 73)</i>
Trademark renewal	per mark per class	RMB 2000 <i>(App. USD 290)</i>	RMB 1000 <i>(App. USD 145)</i>
	additional fee for late filing per mark per class	RMB 500 <i>(App. USD 72)</i>	RMB 250 <i>(App. USD 36)</i>
Application for certificate of trademark registration	per mark per class	RMB 100 <i>(App. USD 14)</i>	RMB 50 <i>(App. USD 7)</i>
Recordal of license agreement	per mark per class	RMB 300 <i>(App. USD 44)</i>	RMB 150 <i>(App. USD 22)</i>
Re-issuance of Certificate of Registration	per mark per class	RMB 1000 <i>(App. USD 146)</i>	RMB 500 <i>(App. USD 73)</i>
Application for collective mark	per mark per class	RMB 3000 <i>(App. USD 436)</i>	RMB 1500 <i>(App. USD 218)</i>
Application for certification mark	per mark per class	RMB 3000 <i>(App. USD 436)</i>	RMB 1500 <i>(App. USD 218)</i>
Trademark opposition	per mark per class	RMB 1000 <i>(App. USD 146)</i>	RMB 500 <i>(App. USD 73)</i>
Trademark cancellation	per mark per class	RMB 1000 <i>(App. USD 146)</i>	RMB 500 <i>(App. USD 73)</i>
Trademark review case	per mark per class	RMB 1500 <i>(App. USD 218)</i>	RMB 750 <i>(App. USD 109)</i>

Software copyright registrations and plant variety rights

Type	Current	After the Change
Registration of copyright in computer software (per work)	RMB 200 <i>(App. USD 29)</i>	WAIVED
Issuing fee per certificate of registration	RMB 10 <i>(App. USD 1.5)</i>	WAIVED
Application for registration of a plant variety right	RMB 1000 <i>(App. USD 146)</i>	WAIVED

The reduced or waived administrative fees will certainly be beneficial for enterprises active in China, particularly for smaller enterprises and start-ups, as well as for companies that intend to register trademarks for a large amount of classes, or companies that want to prevent the hijacking of their marks through defensive filings.

With reduced fees, we suggest companies to reconsider the status of their whole Chinese trademark portfolio, and to file additional defensive applications as appropriate.

Moreover, waiving the official fee for computer software copyright registrations will also encourage small software, IT or game companies to apply for copyright registration for their software products before launching them in the PRC.

In case you would like us to take a look at your current portfolio, let us know.



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