Every cent counts: China slashes certain IP application fees

April 2017



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

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Software copyright registrations and plant variety rights

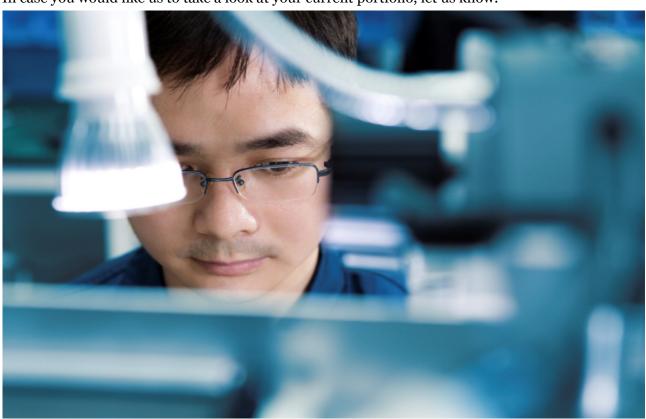
Type	Current	After the Change
Registration of copyright in computer	RMB 200	WAIVED
software (per work)	(App. USD 29)	
Issuing fee per certificate of registration	RMB 10	WAIVED
	(App. USD 1.5)	
Application for registration of a plant	RMB 1000	WAIVED
variety right	(App. USD 146)	

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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