

UPDATED TO APRIL 2, 2020

NATIONAL OFFICES EXTENSIONS/CLOSURES DURING CORONA PANDEMIC

EUROPE and former USSR

COUNTRY (OFFICE)	PROCESS AVAILABILITY		EXCEPTIONAL MEASURES	
	ON-SITE PROCESS	ON-LINE PROCESS	TERMS / DEADLINES	OTHER COMMENTS
EURASIA	Limited	Available	Applicants and their representatives will not be able to access the EAPO premises until April 15, 2020. Original documents will not be processed and filed with the Russian PTO and the Eurasian Patent Office until the isolation period is over	
EUROPEAN UNION (EUIPO)	Limited	Available	<p>Periods expiring are extended to May 1st 2020 (in practice this will be 4 May, since 1 May is a public holiday, followed by a weekend)</p> <p>The reference to 'all time limits' is to be read literally and encompasses all procedural deadlines, irrespective of whether they have been set by the Office or are statutory in nature (i.e. are stipulated directly in the Regulations)</p> <p>This effect is automatic - affected parties are not required to file a request to the Office for the extension of the time limit to take effect.</p>	
EPO	Limited	Available	<p>Next working day: suspended</p> <p>Periods expiring are extended to April 17th 2020; If the disruption should continue after 17 April 2020, the EPO may publish another notice informing users about further extensions and remedies in respect of time limits. Please contact us for specific advice and do not assume that every EPO time limit is automatically extended.</p>	
WIPO	Limited	Available	<p>The International Bureau remains in full operation. However, given the unreliability of postal systems worldwide due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the International Bureau (also as receiving Office) has suspended all communication by postal mail until further notice. avoid PCT-related submissions by postal mail and to communicate with the International Bureau exclusively by appropriate electronic means</p>	
ALBANIA		Available	<p>PTO – applications and requests should be submitted electronically</p> <p>Courts – not working until March 24, 2020, or until further notice, but lawsuits can be filed</p> <p>Note: Ordinary / registered mail cannot be sent outside the country</p>	
ARMENIA		Available	<p>PTO – closed to visitors; electronic filing possible; deadlines not postponed; receipt of all official documents (e.g. registration certificates and original extracts) postponed at least until April 14, 2020</p> <p>Courts - not officially closed, but hearings are being postponed</p>	

AUSTRIA		Available	All office deadlines in proceedings before the registry (eg, notice periods) are ex officio extended by two months without the need for users to request a further extension. However, all deadlines "directly resulting from the law" (e.g., deadlines for submitting appeals or for paying annual and protection fees) cannot be extended	
AZERBAIJAN			The Patent Office of Azerbaijan will be closed until 29 April 2020. This means that currently no official notifications, certificates or decisions will be issued. Further, it will be possible to file documents and obtain any information only starting from 30 April 2020. All due dates during the closure will be postponed to 30 April 2020	
BELARUS	Available	Available	Is currently operating as usual	
BELGIUM		Available	Closed for visitors; electronic filing possible and also by mail, deadlines postponed. The measures apply until April 6, 2020	
BENELUX (BOIP)	Not available	Available	From now until the end of the imposed public restrictions in the Benelux countries, BOIP will not withdraw any requests or procedures because a given deadline has not been met. This also applies to opposition proceedings not submitted on time or payments not received on time. After this period has ended, an additional period of one month will be granted for all requests and proceedings for which the time limits have expired or which are less than one month at that time. This month will be counted from the moment that there are no longer any limitations in society in the Benelux countries. BOIP will set a date for this in due course and communicate it by means of a new communication from the Director General BOIP will not communicate on a case by case basis regarding the deadline – they apply automatically	
BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA	Limited	Available	PTO – open with shorter hours; communication and filing by e-mail; a drop-off point available outside the PTO premises Courts - working only on urgent matters (detention cases); other sessions postponed	
BULGARIA	Limited	Available	PTO – electronic filings are preferred Courts – postponed all hearings until after April 13, 2020	
CROATIA	Available	Available	Is currently operating as usual	
CZECH REPUBLIC	Limited	Available	PTO – visitor access granted in special cases only; electronic filing and filing by mail is recommended; deadlines not extended yet Courts - non-urgent oral hearings are being postponed	
ESTONIA		Available	PTO – closed to visitors; electronic filing and filing by mail possible; no announcements yet on the postponement of deadlines Courts – working as usual; no announcements yet on the postponement of deadlines; electronic means of communication recommended during the state of emergency	
FINLAND(PHR)		Available	Office closed but available via online services. Suspension of deadlines that fall between 16-22 March.	

FRANCE		Available	Deadlines from March 12 to the end of COVID-19 crisis will be extended to 1 month from the end date if the period is 1 month, 2 months from the end date if the period is 2 months (not applicable to priority dates of international applications, payment due dates of filing fees, etc.)	
GEORGIA		Available	Georgia has announced State Emergency until 21 April 2020. This means that there will be several restrictions, including the Patent Office. For example, all Court hearings are currently postponed until further notice.	
GERMANY		Available	Deadlines until May 3 have been extended to May 4. The announcement of the extended period is not planned. Not affected are loss of the novelty and deadline of a request of opposition	
GREAT BRITAIN		Available	<p>Next working day: complicated – call the agent Operating normally. However, deadlines from March 24 to April 30 have been extended to May 1.(check!!!) The Intellectual Property Office is declaring 24 March 2020 and subsequent days until .further notice to be interrupted days This means that dead-lines for patents, trademarks, designs, and supplementary protection certificates since 24th March will be extended until the UK IPO notifies the end of the interrupted days period</p> <p>It does not apply to time periods set out under the various international IP treaties e.g. the Patent Cooperation Treaty, European Patent Convention, or the Madrid sys-tem, where the Office may be acting as a Receiving Office. Remedies are available un-der the various international systems</p> <p>This period of interruption does not affect filing dates of IP applications which are filed at the Office and do not claim priority from a previous application. These will be as-signed a filing date under the usual rules</p> <p>Will continue to operate hearings by electronic means. No physical hearings until at least 1 June 20</p> <p>The UK IPO will extend time periods where national and international legislation allows. They are willing to support affected customers using the discretionary powers available to them. The IPO is willing to consider requests for extensions of time as favourably as possible on a case-by-case basis. Where a failure to meet a time period has resulted in a loss of rights, those rights may be reinstated or restored in certain circumstances.</p> <p>Legal provisions depend on the nature of the late response and the circumstances of the delay and need to be applied for on a case by case basis</p>	
GREECE		Available	F Trademarks: e-filings and renewals continues usual. . Civil actions suspended till April 10, All hearings suspended. Deadlines set by the examiner suspended till May 11, but are can be lengthened r shortened by TMO	

HUNGARY	Limited	Available	<p>PTO - Customer service is reducing hours e-filing and by mail; personal visits only in exceptional situations</p> <p>Courts – e-filing is preferred; court judgements suspended on March 15, 2020, but the courts can proceed in those cases where hearings are not necessary</p>	
ITALY			<p>Next working day: April 16, 2020</p> <p>The new law suspends all terms provided for by the Italian Industrial Property Code and by the Ipto falling from 23 February to 15 April 2020, and will remain valid until 15 June 2020.</p> <p>Where terms for a certain activity (such as the filing of a deed or an answer to the office) start running from a date falling from 23 February to 15 April 2020, the initial running date is postponed to 15 April 2020.</p> <p>Annuities and renewals</p> <p>The validity of intellectual property rights expiring on 23 February 2020 or later is extended until 15 June 2020. Therefore annuity payments and/or requests for renewals concerning patents, trademarks or designs that unless renewed would expire during the period between 23 February and 15 April 2020 must be finalized by 15 June 2020.</p>	
IRELAND	Not available	Available	<p>Next working day: March 31,, 2020</p> <p>Office closed but available via online services</p> <p>The Intellectual Property Office of Ireland, is now closed until Sunday 29 March 2020 inclusive. As a result of this closure, these days are to be considered “excluded days”. These days are to be regarded as “excluded days” for all purposes. Therefore any official office deadlines which fall within these dates, shall now fall “on the first day which is not an excluded day next following such excluded day(s)”; Monday 30 March 2020.</p>	
KAZAKHSTAN	Not available	Available	<p>From 16 March to 15 April, public consultations will no longer be possible at the registry's headquarters. Instead, consultations can be carried out by phone or email</p> <p>PTO – no visitors allowed; all communication conducted by electronic means, unless a document must bear a handwritten signature;</p> <p>no deadlines extended yet</p> <p>Courts – no visitors allowed; most cases and hearings postponed until further notice or conducted via video conferencing if possible; new filings and applications only in urgent cases</p>	
KOSOVO (UNSCR 1244)			<p>PTO – working with reduced staff; filing receipts usually collected only after a few days; no decision on postponement of deadlines; refusal to switch to electronic filing despite the representatives' request</p> <p>Courts - all hearings cancelled, except those of urgent nature; lawsuits and other motions can still be filed, but the courts are working with reduced staff; deadlines have been cancelled - no consequences for failure to take any procedural actions</p> <p>Customs - switched to electronic filing; no decision on postponement of deadlines</p> <p>Note: We do not recommend sending original documents, unless particularly necessary, and</p>	

			in those situations with DHL only. Original PoAs are not needed; a scanned copy will suffice. We recommend checking with us if an original is necessary	
KYRGYZSTAN	Available	Available	Is currently operating as usual	
LATVIA		Available	<p>State of emergency until 14 April 2020.</p> <p>PTO - open but no visitors allowed; communication only by e-mail and e-filing systems</p> <p>Courts - open but no visitors allowed; hearings are being postponed</p>	
LITHUANIA		Available	<p>PTO – staff working remotely; no need for deadline extensions</p> <p>Courts – a general recommendation is not to hold oral hearings until at least March 30; deadlines are not extended because complaints can be submitted electronically</p>	
MALTA			<p>Schools closed till end of June, Tax returned delayed till July 31. No word about the Patent Office</p>	
MOLDOVA		Available	<p>Deadlines for proceedings before the AGEPI are suspended until the lifting of the country's state of emergency.</p> <p>PTO – during the state of emergency (until May 15, 2020) visitors will not be permitted; electronic filing possible</p> <p>Courts – closed until March 23, 2020, extension beyond that date is probable</p> <p>Note: Courier and other postal services do not send/receive letters and packages</p>	
MONTENEGRO	Limited	Available soon	<p>PTO – electronic filing to be enabled soon</p> <p>Courts – open and receiving filings; all hearings postponed until further notice</p> <p>Customs - open to receive filings but issuing notifications electronically</p> <p>Note: Most local courier services are not operating, because there are no flights in and out of the country. DHL should be used, but delays are possible</p>	
NORTH MACEDONIA			<p>PTO - communication only by mail (we file and receive documents from the PTO by registered mail); deadlines are not extended</p> <p>Customs – operating as usual; deadlines are not extended</p> <p>Courts - most hearings postponed until further notice; deadlines and procedural time limits are not extended; new filings accepted</p>	
NORWAY		Available	<p>Office closed but available via online services. Deadline extensions for “at least two months” granted for designs and trademarks.</p> <p>Requests for re-establishment of rights may be available for failure to meet a specific deadline or loses registered rights during this period.</p>	
POLAND		Available	<p>PTO – still operational; applications and responses to official actions may be filed electronically; deadlines are not postponed; hearings postponed until further notice</p> <p>Courts – still operational, but as from March 13, 2020 until March 31, 2020, hearings held only in most urgent matters</p>	
PORTUGAL	Limited	Available	All deadlines frozen, save for renewal deadlines..	

ROMANIA	Not available	Available	Closed until April 16. However, applications and filing renewals are available via online . All deadlines are suspended and the validation applications will only be filed once the Office reopens. Courts – closed until May 1, 2020; deadlines postponed until after May 1 e-platforms available	
RUSSIA		Available	Next working day: April 6, 2020 The Patent Office of Russia will be closed from 28 March until 5 April 2020. All due dates during closure will be postponed to 6 April 2020. Original documents will not be processed and filed with the Russian PTO and the Eurasian Patent Office until the isolation period is over PTO –electronic filing is available Courts – electronic filing recommended; only urgent cases (criminal mainly) are considered via video conferencing if possible; other hearings postponed until after April 10, 2020 Hearings at Rospatent's Chamber for Patent Disputes will be held remotely as teleconferences until May 8, 2020. Paper documents will only be accepted by Rospatent through the Russian Post and via a contactless box.	
SAN MARINO			Next working day: April 6, 2020	
SERBIA	Limited	Available	PTO - open but accepting only electronic filings or filings by mail; deadlines not extended yet; the parties are required to comply with time limits Courts – dealing with urgent matters (urgent proceedings, expedited proceedings); most hearings postponed until further notice; the procedural time limits remain unchanged and the parties are required to comply with those time limits; briefs can be sent by mail or filed through receiving offices	
SLOVAK REPUBLIC		Available	PTO – All buildings are closed; e-filing and filing by mail is possible; deadlines not postponed Courts - non-essential oral hearings are being postponed	
SLOVENIA	Limited	Available	PTO – applications should be filed either electronically (if applicable) or by registered mail or by fax; e-filing may be enabled soon; no decisions regarding deadline extensions Courts - only urgent matters are being considered, otherwise procedural time limits are not running and the court documents will not be served; in case court documents are served while special measures are in place, the procedural time limits will begin to run on the first day after the special measures expire	
SPAIN (OEPM)			Next working day: March 29, 2020 State of emergency extended to end of COVID crisis. All deadlines for pending proceedings are suspended until further notice.	
SWITZERLAND		Available	Office closed until further notice. Assessment of requests for extensions of time limits on a case-by-case basis and pursuant to national and international law. Extension of two	

			<p>months of the usual time limits followed by a third extension of an appropriate duration for important reasons. This means specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Time limits set by the IPI with a specific end date between 21 March and 19 April 2020 will now expire on 20 April 2020. ■ Time limits for the payment of renewal fees and annual fees with a specific end date between 21 March and 19 April 2020 will also now expire on 20 April 2020. ■ Statutory time limits or those set by the IPI that are stipulated in days are suspended until 19 April 2020 and will run again starting 20 April 2020. This also concerns time limits for appeals. <p>The following time limits are not affected by the suspension:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Time limits determined by months or years (e.g. priority periods, the time limit for filing an opposition or for the payment of the opposition fee) are not affected by the suspension. ■ Time limits with a specific end date after 19 April 2020. <p>Time limits for international procedures (PCT, EPC, the Madrid System, the Hague System).</p>	
TAJIKISTAN	Available	Available	<p>Is currently operating as usual</p> <p>Note: Original documents cannot be sent via courier services since all flights in and out of the country are cancelled.</p>	
TURKEY		Available	<p>Next working day: May 4, 2020</p> <p>The Turkish Parliament has approved Law No. 2/2633 adapting the measures to suspend time limits for various administrative and legal proceedings including those concerning IP rights. It came into force March 26, 2020. Time limits for administrative proceedings, including before the Turkish PTO, expiring between 13 March and 30 April 2020 have been suspended to 1 May 2020 (in practice on May, 4 2020, due to the weekend and national holiday on May 1, 2020). The suspended time limits for administrative and legal procedures will start running again after 30 April 2020. And there will be another 15 days extension for the deadlines which would have ended in or less than 15 days to 13 March so this means these deadlines will be ending on 18 May 2020. In case of continuation of the pandemic, this suspension term may be extended for once up to six months by the President without prejudice to change of its scope and term</p>	
TURKMENISTAN	Available	Available	<p>Is currently operating as usual</p>	
UKRAINE		Available	<p>PTO – meetings with applicants/representatives cancelled until further notice; documents (including applications) to be filed either electronically or by mail; no decision regarding deadline extensions</p> <p>Courts - still functional, but all scheduled hearings (other than for exceptional criminal cases) are being postponed; parties are asked to communicate with courts by electronic means</p>	

UZBEKISTAN	Available	Available	PTO - functional; applications and documents can be filed electronically; deadlines have not been extended Courts - functional; deadlines not extended	
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NORTH AMERICA

COUNTRY (OFFICE)	PROCESS AVAILABILITY		EXCEPTIONAL MEASURES TERMS / DEADLINES	OTHER COMMENTS
	ON-SITE PROCESS	ON-LINE PROCES S		
USA	Limited	Available	<p>Congress Gives Patent and Trademark Office Temporary Authorization to Move Deadlines in Light of COVID-19 Pandemic</p> <p>the USPTO has acted to extend all Patent and Trademark Prosecution deadlines falling between 27 March and 30 April by up to 30 days where rights-holder or representative states that the delay in meeting the deadline occurred because they were ““personally affected by the COVID-19 outbreak.” This is not a blanket extension, but one limited to situations where a cause is stated.</p> <p>Moreover, even though the act of claiming convention priority is covered, the U.S. filing date is not. Put another way, the U.S. application must still have been filed in time to qualify for convention priority. Will waive the requirement for an original handwritten ink signature for certain documents and payments. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, copies of signatures will be accepted in both instances.</p> <p>Will waive petition fees in certain situations for customers impacted by the coronavirus. This notice does not grant waivers or extensions of dates or requirements set by statute.</p>	
CANADA	Limited	Available	<p>Next working day: May 1, 2020</p> <p>Patent, trademark, and industrial design deadlines that from March 16, will be extended to May 1, 2020.</p>	
MEXICO (IMPI)		Available	<p>Next working day: April 20, 2020</p> <p>The Mexican Institute of Intellectual Property (IMPI) has issued an official communication establishing the suspension of all deadlines as of today, March 24th until April 19th, 2020. Therefore, all deadlines expiring within this period are passed to the first business day, that is April 20th, 2020.</p> <p>Similarly, the Federal Court for Administrative Affairs, in line with the Agreement 4/2020 of the Council of Federal Judicature, has suspended activities and procedural deadlines from March 18th to April 19th, 2020.</p> <p>Despite the suspension of deadlines, the Mexican PTO is working and UNGRIA Mexico remains open and fully operating for business as usual to serve your legal needs.</p>	

SOUTH AMERICA & CENTRAL AMERICA

COUNTRY (OFFICE)	PROCESS AVAILABILITY		EXCEPTIONAL MEASURES	
	ON-SITE PROCESS	ON-LINE PROCESS	TERMS / DEADLINES	OTHER COMMENTS
ARGENTINA (INPI)	Limited	Available	Terms suspended from March 12, 2020 until April 3, 2020. Next working day: April 4, 2020	
BELIZE	Available	Available	Is currently operating as usual	
BOLIVIA			Closed from March 22 to April 15. Deadlines therebetween have been extended, however, no exact extension plan is announced.	
BRAZIL (INPI)	Limited	Available	Terms suspended from March 16th 2020 until April 14th, 2020 Next working day: April 15, 2020 Meetings with examiners are suspended for an indefinite period - no indication for now on when face-to-face services will resume	
COSTA RICA			Operating limitedly.	
CHILE (INAPI)	Limited	Available	As long as this situation is maintained, administrative deadlines are extended Extensions are planned, however, not yet announced particularly. Available via online services.	
COLOMBIA (SIC)	Limited	Available	Next working day: April 13, 2020 Terms suspended from March 17th, 2020 Lockdown from March 25 th – April 13 th , will likely allow for extension of already suspended deadlines	
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	Not available		Next working day: April 16, 2020 Closed since March 20th. Deadlines from March 30 to April 15 have been extended to April 16.	
ECUADOR	Not available	Available	Operating via online only.	
EL SALVADOR			Operating limitedly	
GUATEMALA	Not available	Not available	Next working day: April 2, 2020 Closed until March 31st inclusive	
HONDURAS	Not available	Not available	Next working day: March 31, 2020 Closed until March 29th inclusive	
NICARAGUA	Available	Available	Is currently operating as usual	
PANAMA	Not available	Not available	Next working day: Suspended indefinitely Closed since March 23rd.	
PARAGUAY			Closed until April 12, 20	
PERU (INDECOP)	Not available	Not available	Next working day: May 7, 2020 Extension of all time limits to 31 March 2020. The Peruvian Patent and Trademark Office has closed its operations from March 16, 2020 to April 2, 2020. All deadlines expiring between such dates have been suspended. After the end of the suspension period, terms will run again based on their residual duration.	
PUERTO RICO			Next working day: April 16,, 2020 Closed. Deadlines before April 15 have been extended to April 16	
URUGUAY (DNPI)	Limited	Available	No news on the date of publication of this report	

VENEZUELA (SAPI)	Not available	Limited	Next working day: Suspended indefinitely New periods of "Boletín 600" will run once they are operational	
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OCEANA

COUNTRY (OFFICE)	PROCESS AVAILABILITY		EXCEPTIONAL MEASURES	
	ON-SITE PROCESS	ON-LINE PROCESS	TERMS / DEADLINES	OTHER COMMENTS
AUSTRALIA	Limited	Available	The IP offices in Australia and New Zealand are currently operating as usual. Where an applicant cannot carry out an action within time due to the COVID-19 outbreak an extension of time may be available and will be considered on a case by case basis as per the current practice. Applicants should note that some time periods cannot be extended. Please contact us to check if an extension of time is possible for your application in Australia or New Zealand.	
NEW ZEALAND	Limited	Available	As of March 23, the Federal Court's public-facing counters and face-to-face services have been suspended up to June 30, 2020; although in urgent circumstances face-to-face services may be provided after an initial telephone assessment	
PAPUA NEW GUINEA		Available	Next working day: April 9, 2020 Office closed for 14 days as of 24 March 2020 but available via online services	

ASIA

COUNTRY (OFFICE)	PROCESS AVAILABILITY		EXCEPTIONAL MEASURES	
	ON-SITE PROCESS	ON-LINE PROCESS	TERMS / DEADLINES	OTHER COMMENTS
AFGHANISTAN			Next working day: April 19, 2020 (assumed) As of 28 March 2020, all government offices in Kabul have been shut down for an initial three-week period (which will be reassessed by the government at the end of such period). The Afghanistan Patent and Trademark Office (APTO) still hasn't issued any official statement on the deadlines that fall into the indicated period but it can be assumed that any deadlines are automatically extended to the first working day.	
BANGLADESH			Closed from March 26 to April 4.	
BRUNEI	Available	Available	Is currently operating as usual	
CAMBODIA	Available	Available	Is currently operating as usual	
CHINA	Available	Available	Next working day: Contact agent According to the official interpretation issued on March 27, 2020, the force majeure relief under the Announcement No. 350 of CNIPA applies to all	

			<p>foreign parties, including patent applicants, patentees, or their patent attorneys</p> <p>Will waive late fees for missed patent annuity payments if the reason can be traced back to the COVID-19 epidemic.</p> <p>CNIPA has resumed operations as of 3 February 2020 with reduced staff numbers for trade marks</p> <p>Hearings appear to be delayed or moved to written proceedings (no policy announcement)</p>	
HONG KONG	Limited	Available	<p>With effect from 23 – 29 March, the HK IPD will maintain the following limited services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Online search; <input type="checkbox"/> E-filing and submission of documents by post; <input type="checkbox"/> Publication of the Hong Kong Intellectual Property Journal; <input type="checkbox"/> Limited Public Service Counter hours (open on 23 to 27 March from 13:00 to 17:45 hours); and <input type="checkbox"/> Enquiry hotline. <p>The HK IPD will contact parties with hearings scheduled during the period of 23 to 27 March to make appropriate arrangements.</p> <p>Any documents or other things with deadlines that fall due in the period of 23 – 27 March, will have their deadline automatically extended to 30 March 2020.</p>	
INDIA	Not available		<p>Next working day: April 15, 2020</p> <p>Due to the graveness of the COVID-19 situation, the Government of India has extended the nationwide complete lockdown for 21 days up to 15 April, 2020. The Patent and Trademark Offices have been closed.</p> <p>No filings will be possible at the Patent and Trademark Offices in this period or till the lock down is lifted. All deadlines will be automatically extended or extendable with petitions</p> <p>(earlier notification)All the hearings in the Patent Office through VC scheduled between 23 March 2020 and 31 March 2020 stands cancelled. Rescheduled hearing dates will be communicated shortly.</p> <p>Trademarks- all hearings scheduled between MARCH 17, 2020 and APRIL 15, 2020 have been adjourned & will be rescheduled in due course</p> <p>Copyright- All hearings scheduled between MARCH 17, 2020 and MARCH 31, 2020 have been adjourned & will be rescheduled in due course</p> <p>The Intellectual Property Appellate Board (IPAB) has also issued notifications which convey that matters which were earlier due to be heard MARCH 16 onwards were being rescheduled to a series of dates beginning APRIL 15, 2020</p> <p>The Supreme Court of India too has limited its functioning to urgent matters only</p> <p>As regards condonation of delay/extension of timelines to file responses and/or documents relating to various proceedings, basis sub-rule 6 of Rule 6 of Patent Rules, 2003, such delay would be condoned/timeline be extended by the Controller on a petition for such condonation of delay/extension of time made not later than one month from the date when COVID-19 outbreak ceases to exist.</p>	
INDONESIA	Not available	Available	<p>The Indonesian IP Office extended the closure period of its receiving counter until Tuesday, 21 April 2020. It will resume operations on Wednesday, 22 April 2020.</p> <p>Patents: •</p> <p>This closure does not affect online filings, which are possible for:</p> <p>.1 New applications; and</p>	

			<p>.2 Requests for substantive examination for patent applications that were filed online.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For all online filings, the original deadlines remain unchanged. Filings other than the above are handled manually, through the receiving counter at the Indonesian IP Registry. Accordingly, for such manual filings, any deadlines that fall during the said closure will automatically be extended to the next working day, April 1, 2020 <p>Trademarks:</p> <p>Applications such as new applications, renewals, assignment of rights, changes of name and address, responses, rebuttals, oppositions may be filed online, whereas trademark appeals and supporting documents must be submitted manually.</p> <p>For trade mark and/or patent-related actions that can be filed online, the original deadlines remain unchanged.</p>	
JAPAN	Available	Available	The JPO (Japanese Patent Office) is functioning normally	
LAOS			<p>Next working day: April 1, 2020</p> <p>The official closure for quarantine of the Department of Intellectual Property (DIP) of Laos from April 01, 2020 to the end of April 19, 2020 (in combination with Laos New Year Holidays – Pi Mai).</p>	
MACAU	Available	Available	Is currently operating as usual	
MALAYSIA	Not available	Available	<p>Next working day: April 15, 2020</p> <p>The Malaysian Government has announced an extension of the countrywide Movement Control Order (MCO) that will now be effective from 18 March to 14 April, 2020 inclusive. Throughout this period, all government and private offices as well as businesses shall remain closed except essential services</p> <p>Patent Office closed from 18 - 31 March 2020 but online filing system available</p> <p>The IP Office will be closed but e-filing is still operating as usual for forms relating to patents and designs, and only new filings are allowed for trademarks. All manual filings with priority deadlines due within the affected period are extended to 1 April 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deadlines applicable to office actions and oppositions will be extended to 30 April 2020 • Patent and design renewals falling due will be extended to 1 April 2020 • Trademarks expiring between 27 December 2019 and 27 March 2020 may be renewed by 30 April 2020 	
MONGOLIA	Available	Available	Is currently operating as usual	
NICMAR	Available	Available	Is currently operating as usual	
NEPAL	Not available	Not available	<p>Nepal entered lock-down on March 24, the IP office is closed until 4th April and all deadlines will be extended to 5th April.</p> <p>Office closed until 4 April 2020 and all deadlines extended to 5 April 2020</p>	
PAKISTAN			<p>Office closed from 24 March 2020 to 7 April 2020. (check – may be closed entirely)</p>	
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	Not available	Available	<p>Temporary shutdown of the Office for 14 days as of Tuesday 24 March 2020.</p> <p>The Office will not accept lodgments over the counter at the Office. However, clients can continue to do lodgments by sending documents via email to the email address: IPOLodgements@ipa.gov.pg. (Please</p>	

			<p>do not copy any other officers' email address whilst doing your lodgment via email(.</p> <p>2Temporary cease to Walk-in Client Appointments and Client Face to Face interactions</p> <p>The Office will further advise after a period of 1 month from the date of this notice when this service will resume. As such, all client enquiries must be done via telephone on 308 4432 or via email to the registrar.ipopng@ipa.gov.pg.</p>	
PHILIPPINES	Limited	Available	<p>Next working day: April 15, 2020</p> <p>Extension of all deadlines until 15 April 2020.</p> <p>Will operate exclusively via electronic means until at least 14 April 2020</p> <p>New applications for patents, utility models, industrial designs, trademarks and trademark related documents may be filed online via the electronic filing system</p> <p>Responses to official actions, declarations, and other documents including motions for extension of the period to file oppositions, answers, position papers, and appeals that fall due during the quarantine period must be filed on 15 April 2020, and will be considered as having been filed on their due dates;</p> <p>Payments that are due during the quarantine period must be paid on 15 April 2020;</p> <p>All scheduled hearings and mediations before the IPOPHL are suspended</p>	
REPUBLIC OF KOREA (SOUTH)			<p>Ex-officio designated official due dates that end on any date between March 31, 2020 and April 29, 2020, will be automatically extended up to April 30, 2020, even if no request for such extension of the term is filed.</p> <p>Indeed, the due dates would be extended further to May 4, 2020, given that both April 30 and May 1, 2020 are national holidays and May 2 and 3, 2020 fall on a weekend</p> <p>The above due dates refer to the period during which the KIPO allows the applicant to submit specific or missing documents or a response to an outstanding Non-Final Office Action. Such Non-Final Office Actions exclude Provisional Refusals issued against a Korean Designation of International Trademark Registration, but include provisional refusals based on an Opposition</p> <p>If documents such as a written statement or response or amendment are submitted by the designated due date, the procedures related to patents, trademarks or designs may proceed without any unnecessary delay, as if the due date were not extended</p> <p>On the other hand, due dates based on the statutory period in the Patent Act (Trademark Act, Design Act, etc.) and the period for a possible dispute between parties are excluded from the above ex-officio extension. For example, the deadline for filing an appeal against a Refusal Decision will not be automatically extended</p> <p>(OLD NOTICE) Will grant an automatic deadline extension to 30 April 2020 for applicants who have failed to comply with the statutory time limits for submitting documents or paying fees to KIPO, for any reasons relating to the coronavirus. Affected applicants will be asked to submit a relief measure request or a statement of payment, together with an explanatory statement and evidential materials.</p> <p>Specifically, the deadline for entering the national phase for a PCT international application, requesting examination, requesting continued examination or appealing a Final Rejection, filing an opposition against a trademark application, or responding to an Office Action of an International</p>	

			trademark registration through the Madrid System and deadlines related to an appeal against the IPTAB's decision are excluded from the extension granted by the ex officio authority	
SINGAPORE	Available	Available	Is currently operating as usual	
SRI LANKA	Not available	Not available	<p>Next working day: March 30, 2020 Sri Lankan authorities have declared to extend the holiday for all nonessential public and private entities through at least 27 March 2020. However, as per the usual practice if a deadline falls on a public holiday, the right holder is allowed to file such application on the next working day without affecting the rights of such right holder. In these special circumstances it is presumed that NIPO will follow the usual practice and allow applicants to file Amended Claims on the first working day once the holiday is over without affecting the rights to enter national phase</p>	
TAIWAN	Available	Available	Is currently operating as usual	
THAILAND			The Thailand Department of Intellectual Property is implementing a grace period that will extend the usual deadlines for anyone who is directly affected by COVID-19. The grace period will apply to all IP-related prosecution processes, including deadlines related to applications, oppositions, registrations, office actions or any payment	
VIETNAM	Limited	Available	<p>Next working day: May 30, 2020 All deadlines for IP-related works that need to submit to the National Office of Intellectual Property (NOIP) of Vietnam between March 30, 2020 to April 30, 2020 will be automatically extended to May 30, 2020 The postal service is disrupted; face to face meetings are being discouraged The starting date for fast-tracked examination PPH requests has moved from 1 April 2020 to 4 May 2020.</p>	

Middle East

COUNTRY (OFFICE)	PROCESS AVAILABILITY		EXCEPTIONAL MEASURES	
	ON-SITE PROCESS	ON-LINE PROCESS	TERMS / DEADLINES	OTHER COMMENTS
EGYPT			<p>Next working day: April 9, 2020 The Trademark Office and the Patent Office in Egypt suspended all operations until April 8, 2020</p>	
GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council)			Operating as usual	
IRAN			Operating before the noon only.	
IRAQ			<p>Next working day: April 12, 2020 Following a government-imposed curfew till March 29, the Trademark Office in Iraq now has suspended all operations until April 11, 2020.</p>	
ISRAEL			Recordations of assignments and other formalities will be postponed until after 16 April 2020. Extensions of time	

			may be available on request by 1 May 2020 for deadlines missed due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Deadlines relating to oppositions, payments of annuities/renewals fees and grace periods are not covered by the suspension. All deadlines relating to legal proceedings before the ILPTO are automatically postponed until 1 May 2020.	
JORDAN	Not available	Available	<p>Next working day: April 14, 2020 Country on lock-down All operations suspended until 1 April 2020. Automatic extension of any deadlines falling between 18 March 2020 and 31 March 2020 to 1 April 2020.</p> <p>The government of Jordan as re-assessed its initial closure period and on 29 March issued a notification to extend the closure of all public and private entities to another 14 days (to be expired on April 14, 2020)</p> <p>In light of the above the Trademarks and Patent Office in Jordan will remain closed. Though the e-filing system of all Trademarks and Patents had been enacted since the beginning of this year it is practically suspended and any application submitted online will not be dealt with until the TMO re-opens.</p>	
KUWAIT	Not available	Not available	<p>Next working day: April 13,, 2020 Office closed until 12 April.</p>	
LEBANON			<p>Next working day: March 29, 2020 Operations suspended until 29 March 2020 (check – may be closed entirely)</p>	
OMAN	Limited		Pursuant to Head of Intellectual Property directives under circular no. WTS/2020 issued on 29 March 2020 it has been decided to suspend legal deadlines for all IP cases and submission of supporting documents noting that the Oman IP Directorate is still operational but with curtailed office hours.	
SAUDI ARABIA	Not available	Available	<p>May now be working normally - check Has suspended operations for at least 16 days from March 16 but available via online services</p>	
SYRIA			<p>Next working day: Suspended indefinitely The Syrian Intellectual Property Office suspended all operations until further notice.</p>	
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES			Operating normally.	

AFRICA

COUNTRY (OFFICE)	PROCESS AVAILABILITY		EXCEPTIONAL MEASURES	
	ON-SITE PROCESS	ON-LINE PROCESS	TERMS / DEADLINES	OTHER COMMENTS
ALGERIA			Operating before the noon only.	
ARIPO	Limited	Available	Discouraging walk-in enquiries and strongly encouraging users to take advantage of the office's online services and email/phone communications.	
ETHIOPIA			<p>Next working day: Suspended indefinitely The Ethiopian Intellectual Property Office suspended all operations until further notice.</p> <p>Closed from March 25. Extensions will be announced later.</p>	

LYBIA			Next working day: March 30, 2020 Office closed until 29 March 2020.	
MAURITIUS			Closed from March 20 to April 3.	
MOROCCO	Limited	Available	Operating via online submission only. Submitting records not possible until further notice.	
NIGERIA			Closed. All deadlines which fall from March 30 have been extended to April 13 by 2 weeks	
SOUTH AFRICA	Not available	Not available	Next working day: May 4, 2020 Due to national lockdown, the South African Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC) will be closed through April 16, including online systems. the Patents and Trade Marks Office will be closed from 26 March until 30 April. During this period it will not be possible to file any patent, trade mark or design applications in South Africa. These days will be regarded as dies non and any deadlines that fall within this period will automatically be extended to the next normal business day. As the 1st of May is also a public holiday in South Africa we expect the first normal business day to be 4 May 2020. Certain automated services will become available again on April 1. Deadlines for filing Annual Returns between March 25 and April 15 will be automatically extended until April 30	
SRI LANKA			Office closed until at least 27 March 2020.	
SUDAN		Available	New filings accepted only; all other services suspended as from 18 March until 31 March.	
SYRIA			Closed. Extensions will be announced later.	
TUNISIA		Available	Next working day: May 4, 2020 The Patent and Trademark Office in Tunisia has suspended operations until April 6, 2020. Any deadlines are automatically extended to April 6, 2020. Operating via online submission only	