



Trade Marks Act 1994

1994 CHAPTER 26

PART II U.K.

[^{F1}EUROPEAN UNION] TRADE MARKS AND INTERNATIONAL MATTERS

The Paris Convention: supplementary provisions

55 The Paris Convention. U.K.

(1) In this Act—

(a) “the Paris Convention” means the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property of March 20th 1883, as revised or amended from time to time,^{F1} . . .

^{F2}[(aa) “the WTO agreement” means the Agreement establishing the World Trade Organisation signed at Marrakesh on 15th April 1994^{F3}, and]

(b) a “Convention country” means a country, other than the United Kingdom, which is a party to that Convention [^{F4}or to that Agreement].

(2) The Secretary of State may by order make such amendments of this Act, and rules made under this Act, as appear to him appropriate in consequence of any revision or amendment of the Paris Convention [^{F5}or the WTO agreement] after the passing of this Act.

(3) Any such order shall be made by statutory instrument which shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.

Textual Amendments

F1 Word in s. 55(1) omitted (29.7.1999) by virtue of [S.I. 1999/1899, reg. 13\(2\)](#)

F2 S. 55(1)(aa) inserted (29.7.1999) by [S.I. 1999/1899, reg. 13\(2\)](#)

F3 Cm. 2556–59, 2561–2, 2564–69, 2571–74. The Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organisation was declared a Community Treaty as defined in section 1(2) of the European Communities Act 1972 by [S.I. 1995/265](#).

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Trade Marks Act 1994,
Cross Heading: The Paris Convention: supplementary provisions. (See end of Document for details)

- F4** Words in s. 55(1)(b) inserted (29.4.2006) by Intellectual Property (Enforcement, etc) Regulations 2006 (S.I. 2006/1028), art. 1, **Sch. 2 para. 18**
- F5** Words in s. 55(2) inserted (29.7.1999) by S.I. 1999/1899, **reg. 13(3)**

56 Protection of well-known trade marks: Article 6bis. **U.K.**

- (1) References in this Act to a trade mark which is entitled to protection under the Paris Convention [^{F6}or the WTO agreement] as a well known trade mark are to a mark which is well-known in the United Kingdom as being the mark of a person who—
- (a) is a national of [^{F7}the United Kingdom or] a Convention country, or
 - (b) is domiciled in, or has a real and effective industrial or commercial establishment in, [^{F8}the United Kingdom or] a Convention country,
- whether or not that person carries on business, or has any goodwill, in the United Kingdom.

References to the proprietor of such a mark shall be construed accordingly.

- (2) The proprietor of a trade mark which is entitled to protection under the Paris Convention [^{F6}or the WTO agreement] as a well known trade mark is entitled to restrain by injunction the use in the United Kingdom of a trade mark which, or the essential part of which, is identical or similar to [^{F9}the well known trade mark—
- (a) in relation to identical or similar goods or services, where the use is likely to cause confusion, or
 - (b) where the well known trade mark has a reputation in the United Kingdom and the use of the other trade mark—
 - (i) is without due cause, and
 - (ii) takes unfair advantage of, or is detrimental to, the distinctive character or the repute of the well known trade mark.]

This right is subject to section 48 (effect of acquiescence by proprietor of earlier trade mark).

[^{F10}(2A) Subsection (2)(b) applies irrespective of whether the goods or services in relation to which the other trade mark is used are identical with, similar to or not similar to those for which the well known trade mark is entitled to protection.]

- (3) Nothing in subsection (2) affects the continuation of any *bona fide* use of a trade mark begun before the commencement of this section.

Textual Amendments

- F6** Words in s. 56(1)(2) inserted (29.7.1999) by S.I. 1999/1899, **reg. 13(4)** (with **reg. 14(1)**)
- F7** Words in s. 56(1)(a) inserted (27.12.2022) by The Trade Marks (Amendment) Regulations 2022 (S.I. 2022/1303), **regs. 1, 3(a)**
- F8** Words in s. 56(1)(b) inserted (27.12.2022) by The Trade Marks (Amendment) Regulations 2022 (S.I. 2022/1303), **regs. 1, 3(b)**
- F9** Words in s. 56(2) substituted (27.12.2022) by The Trade Marks (Amendment) Regulations 2022 (S.I. 2022/1303), **regs. 1, 4**
- F10** S. 56(2A) inserted (27.12.2022) by The Trade Marks (Amendment) Regulations 2022 (S.I. 2022/1303), **regs. 1, 5**

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Trade Marks Act 1994.
Cross Heading: The Paris Convention: supplementary provisions. (See end of Document for details)

57 National emblems, &c. of Convention countries: Article 6ter. U.K.

- (1) A trade mark which consists of or contains the flag of a Convention country shall not be registered without the authorisation of the competent authorities of that country, unless it appears to the registrar that use of the flag in the manner proposed is permitted without such authorisation.
- (2) A trade mark which consists of or contains the armorial bearings or any other state emblem of a Convention country which is protected under the Paris Convention [^{F11}or the WTO agreement] shall not be registered without the authorisation of the competent authorities of that country.
- (3) A trade mark which consists of or contains an official sign or hallmark adopted by a Convention country and indicating control and warranty shall not, where the sign or hallmark is protected under the Paris Convention [^{F11}or the WTO agreement], be registered in relation to goods or services of the same, or a similar kind, as those in relation to which it indicates control and warranty, without the authorisation of the competent authorities of the country concerned.
- (4) The provisions of this section as to national flags and other state emblems, and official signs or hallmarks, apply equally to anything which from a heraldic point of view imitates any such flag or other emblem, or sign or hallmark.
- (5) Nothing in this section prevents the registration of a trade mark on the application of a national of a country who is authorised to make use of a state emblem, or official sign or hallmark, of that country, notwithstanding that it is similar to that of another country.
- (6) Where by virtue of this section the authorisation of the competent authorities of a Convention country is or would be required for the registration of a trade mark, those authorities are entitled to restrain by injunction any use of the mark in the United Kingdom without their authorisation.

Textual Amendments

F11 Words in s. 57(2)(3) inserted (29.7.1999) by [S.I. 1999/1899, reg. 13\(5\)](#)

58 Emblems, &c. of certain international organisations: Article 6ter. U.K.

- (1) This section applies to—
 - (a) the armorial bearings, flags or other emblems, and
 - (b) the abbreviations and names,of international intergovernmental organisations of which one or more Convention countries are members.
- (2) A trade mark which consists of or contains any such emblem, abbreviation or name which is protected under the Paris Convention [^{F12}or the WTO agreement] shall not be registered without the authorisation of the international organisation concerned, unless it appears to the registrar that the use of the emblem, abbreviation or name in the manner proposed—
 - (a) is not such as to suggest to the public that a connection exists between the organisation and the trade mark, or
 - (b) is not likely to mislead the public as to the existence of a connection between the user and the organisation.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Trade Marks Act 1994,
Cross Heading: The Paris Convention: supplementary provisions. (See end of Document for details)

- (3) The provisions of this section as to emblems of an international organisation apply equally to anything which from a heraldic point of view imitates any such emblem.
- (4) Where by virtue of this section the authorisation of an international organisation is or would be required for the registration of a trade mark, that organisation is entitled to restrain by injunction any use of the mark in the United Kingdom without its authorisation.
- (5) Nothing in this section affects the rights of a person whose *bona fide* use of the trade mark in question began before 4th January 1962 (when the relevant provisions of the Paris Convention entered into force in relation to the United Kingdom).

Textual Amendments

F12 Words in s. 58(2) inserted (29.7.1999) by S.I. 1999/1899, reg. 13(6) (with art. 14(2))

59 Notification under Article 6ter of the Convention. **U.K.**

- (1) For the purposes of section 57 state emblems of a Convention country (other than the national flag), and official signs or hallmarks, shall be regarded as protected under the Paris Convention only if, or to the extent that—
 - (a) the country in question has notified the United Kingdom in accordance with Article 6ter(3) of the Convention that it desires to protect that emblem, sign or hallmark,
 - (b) the notification remains in force, and
 - (c) the United Kingdom has not objected to it in accordance with Article 6ter(4) or any such objection has been withdrawn.
- (2) For the purposes of section 58 the emblems, abbreviations and names of an international organisation shall be regarded as protected under the Paris Convention only if, or to the extent that—
 - (a) the organisation in question has notified the United Kingdom in accordance with Article 6ter(3) of the Convention that it desires to protect that emblem, abbreviation or name,
 - (b) the notification remains in force, and
 - (c) the United Kingdom has not objected to it in accordance with Article 6ter(4) or any such objection has been withdrawn.
- (3) Notification under Article 6ter(3) of the Paris Convention shall have effect only in relation to applications for registration made more than two months after the receipt of the notification.
- (4) The registrar shall keep and make available for public inspection by any person, at all reasonable hours and free of charge, a list of—
 - (a) the state emblems and official signs or hallmarks, and
 - (b) the emblems, abbreviations and names of international organisations,
 which are for the time being protected under the Paris Convention by virtue of notification under Article 6ter(3).
- ^{F13}(5) Any reference in this section to Article 6ter of the Paris Convention shall be construed as including a reference to that Article as applied by the WTO agreement]

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Trade Marks Act 1994,
Cross Heading: The Paris Convention: supplementary provisions. (See end of Document for details)

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Textual Amendments

F13 S. 59(5) inserted (29.7.1999) by S.I. 1999/1899, reg. 13(7)

^{F14} **60 Acts of agent or representative: Article 6septies. U.K.**

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Textual Amendments

F14 S. 60 omitted (14.1.2019) by virtue of The Trade Marks Regulations 2018 (S.I. 2018/825), regs. 1(1),
28 (with Pt. 5)

Changes to legislation:

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Trade Marks Act 1994, Cross Heading:
The Paris Convention: supplementary provisions.