As of August 3, 2018





TRADEMARK INFRINGEMENT DETERMINATIONS IN A BORDER ENFORCEMENT CONTEXT (CTI 04 2017)

8 August 2018
International Convention Centre, Room 216/217
Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea

Co-Sponsored with Canada; Chile; Chinese Taipei; Hong Kong, China; Japan; Republic of Korea; Mexico; Papua New Guinea; Peru; and Viet Nam

Organized by
USPTO Global Intellectual Property Academy and the
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative
in cooperation with U.S. Customs and Border Protection
and support from the APEC General Project Account

PROGRAM

8:30-9:00

Registration

9:00-9:05

Welcome Remarks

Peter N. Fowler, Senior Counsel for Enforcement, Office of Policy and International Affairs, United States Patent and Trademark Office

9:05-9:15

Introduction of Participants

9:15-10:15

Session 1:

Brand Owner Concerns and Challenges with Confusingly Similar

Marks

Panel:

Seth Hays, Chief Representative, Asia, International Trademark

Association (INTA), Singapore

Trina De Vera, IP and Anti-Counterfeiting Lead, Asia Pacific, CropLife

Asia, Singapore

Euyseok Han, Deputy Director, Multilateral Affairs Division, Korean

Intellectual Property Office (KIPO)

10:15-10:45

Group Photo and Coffee/Tea Break

10:45-11:45

Session 2:

Defining Confusingly Similar: Judicial Case Decisions and

Approaches

Panel:

Peter N. Fowler, Senior Counsel for Enforcement, Office of Policy and

International Affairs, United States Patent and Trademark Office

Lynell Tuffery Huria, Principal, AJ Park, and Co-Chairperson, International Initiatives Indigenous Rights Subcommittee for the International Trademark Association (INTA), New Zealand

11:45-12:30 Session 3:

Effective Risk Assessment and Ex Officio Actions to Reduce

Commercial-Scale Counterfeiting

Presenters:

Alex Bamiagis, Attorney-Advisor, Intellectual Property Rights Branch,

U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security

Miguel Angel Huaman Rios, Supervisor of Intelligence Division, National Superintendence of Customs and Tax Administration (SUNAT),

Peru

12:30-13:45 Lunch

13:45-14:45 Session 4:

Effective Practices in Transnational Law Enforcement and Border

Enforcement Strategies and Available Technology to Protect IP

Online

Panel:

Peter N. Fowler, Senior Counsel for Enforcement, United States

Patent and Trademark Office

Trina De Vera, IP and Anti-Counterfeiting Lead, Asia Pacific, CropLife

Asia, Singapore

14:45-15:45 Session 5:

Border Measure Obligations and Procedures

Presenters:

Alex Bamiagis, Attorney-Advisor, Intellectual Property Rights Branch, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security

o.s. customs and border Protection, Department of Homelana Security

Miriam Edith Gamio Arata, Customs Specialist, Division of Imports, National Superintendence of Customs and Tax Administration (SUNAT),

Peru

Tomoyoshi Watanabe, Director for Technical Cooperation, Customs

and Tariff Bureau, Ministry of Finance, Japan

Tom B. Vere, Director IPR & Passenger Policy Section,

Compliance & Procedure Division, PNG Customs Service, Papua New

Guinea

15:45-16:00 Coffee/Tea Break

16:00-16:30

Session 6:

Discussion on Possible Next Steps

Moderator:

Peter N. Fowler, Senior Counsel for Enforcement, Office of Policy and

International Affairs, United States Patent and Trademark Office

16:30-16:45

Evaluations

16:45-17:00

Closing Remarks:

TBD





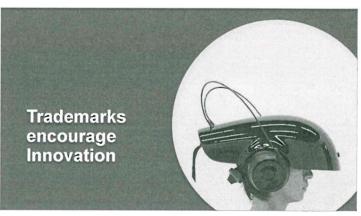
"If you want to be original, be ready to be copied."

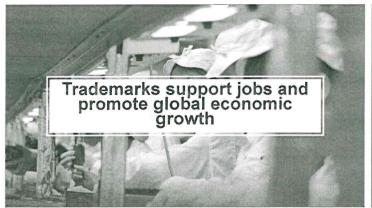
- Coco Chanel

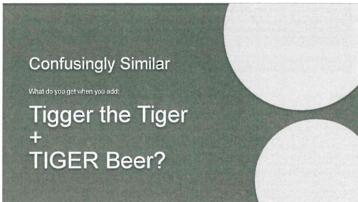


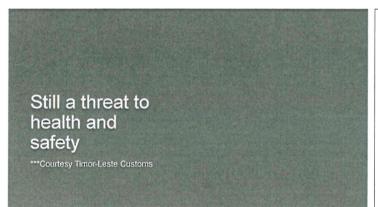




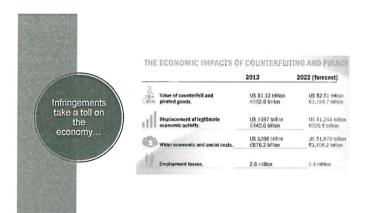


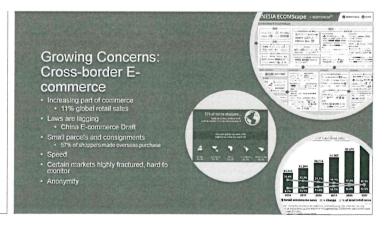












Increasingly difficult to enforce...

- John Doe Laws
 Lawsuits that are filed against unknown defendants i.e.
 John Doe' lawsuits
 Seize domain names
 Seize funds
- General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
 May 25, 2018
 Continuing along on the issue of access to information, there is a new obstacle in getting information about online counterfeiters.
 Access to WHOIS information









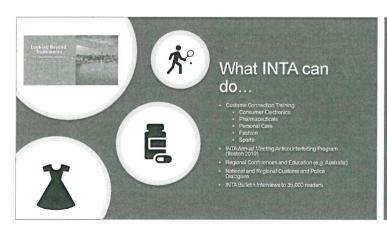


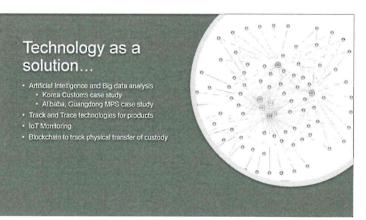


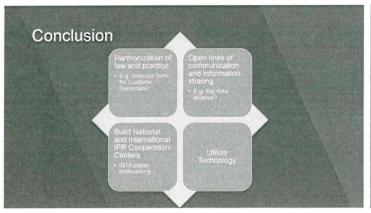
Addressing the Sale of Counterfeits on the Internet



Global Diversity: Confusion Analysis factors from 5 APEC Economies





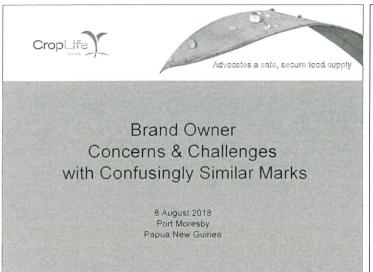




Resources

- INTA Economic Impact of Counterfeiting and Piracy

- INTA Economic Impact of Counterfeiting and Piracy
 INTA Economic Impact of Trademark Intensive Industries ASEAN
 INTA Economic Impact of Trademark Intensive Industries LatAM
 https://www.inta.org/communications/pages/impact-studies.aspx
 INTA Global Survey, Proof of Confusion
 http://www.inta.org/Advocacy/Documents/INTATypesofEvidence2009.pdf
 INTA Customs Connection
 https://www.inta.org/Programs/Pages/2016CustomsConnection.aspx
 Korea Customs Case Study, Data Analysis
 https://mag.wcoomd.org/magazine/wco-news-86/clearance-of-express-cargo-and-postal-items-korea-tests-new-analytical-tools-to-root-out-fraud/
 Alibaha Report 2017
- Alibaba Report 2017
 http://azcms31.alizila.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Alibaba-Group-PG-Annual-Report-2017-FINAL_sm_tinal.pdf





CROPLIFE What we Do

- · We promote sustainable agriculture
- · We support government agencies including regulators and police
- We provide advice and trainings to farmers on the responsible use of agrichemicals
- · We work with Customs
- · We fight against counterfeit and illegal pesticides and seeds



Confusingly Similar Trademarks

- This is a mark that is so related that consumers are <u>likely to mistake it with the first</u> mark
- "identical with a registered mark belonging to a different proprietor or a mark with an
 earlier filing or priority date, in respect of: (i) the same goods or services, or (ii) closely
 related goods or services, or (iii) if it nearly resembles such a mark as to be likely to
 deceive or cause confusion."

There are several factors considered in such an analysis. However, there are $\underline{\text{two (2)}}$ factors that are typically weighted most-heavily:

- (1) the similarity of the marks; and
- (2) the relatedness of the goods and/or services described in the application and registration(s).
- However, several other factors are also considered. The following are just a few of the additional factors:
 - The similarity of the channels of trade the marks are used in;
 - Whether the mark cited against the application has become famous;
 - Whether there has been any actual confusion between the marks; and
 - The conditions under which and buyers to whom sales are made.



Industry Challenges

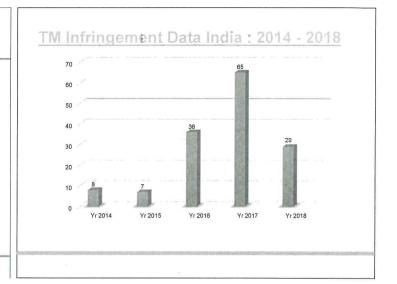
- · Driving Governmental Enforcement and Prosecution is difficult
 - Products not considered as a priority to investigate
 - Lack of resources. Brand owners are left to fend on their own
 - No budget
 - Lack of understanding regarding counterfeit investigation
 - In some case, the authority may visit the retailers and confiscate the infringed products but never provide any updates regarding the outcomes.
- Awareness by users/consumers on the risks involved is low
- Actual Confusion
 - Acceptance of the confusingly similar products is prevalent due to price considerations
- Movement of the goods in the same channels of trade/supply chain and same users (farmers)

Key Challenges in the Region

- The prevalence in the agro chemicals industry is significant and varies in every country.
 - In India, more than 65% of the cases are TM Infringement
- The response to Cease and Desist Letters is quite low and some of the known infringers chose to ignore the repeated attempts to serve them the notice
- In most cases the address mentioned on the products is either fake or nontraceable and investigating the supply chain turns out to be expensive with less probability of an enforcement action
- Litigation on the 'big fish' infringers is the only viable option which is not only
 expensive but involves a long tedious process

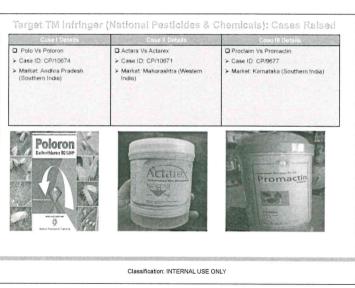
What must be done

- Better protection of IP rights by Government political will, prioritization of infringement issues
- · Better enforcement and prosecution procedures
- Building awareness and capacity- regulators, stakeholders and product users
- Government and Private Sector cooperation

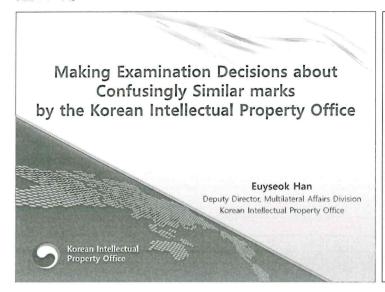












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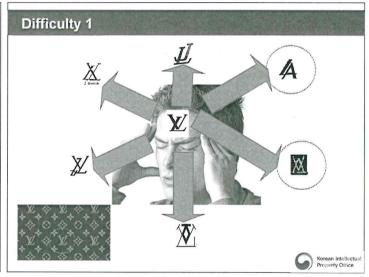
- O1 Difficulties in Making Decisions about Confusingly Similar Marks
- Pactors to be Considered in Making Decisions about Confusingly Similar marks
- 3 Case Studies

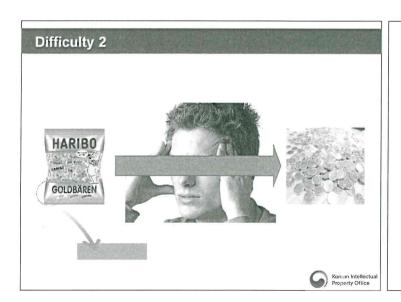


Difficulties in Making Decisions about

Confusingly Similar Marks







2. Factors to be Considered in Making Decisions about Confusingly Similar marks



Factors to be considered

- · The similarity or dissimilarity of marks in their entireties
- · The similarity of goods
- · The strength of the mark
- · The fame of the mark
- · Impulse vs. careful, sophisticated purchasing
- The number and nature of similar marks used (registered) on similar goods



3. Case studies



Similarity of Marks (General Principal)

- Appearance, pronunciation and meaning of compared marks would be considered;
- Compared marks should be observed objectively & as a whole; and
- · Intuitive recognition of relevant consumers to the compared goods would be the standard for determining similarity of marks.



Combination Mark (Mark consists of Name) vs. CALVIN Combination Mark (Mark consists of domain name) Cetizen.com vs. CITIZEN www, http://, @, com, go, edu, org, net, kr, re, pe

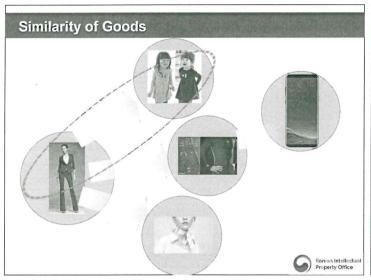
Case No. 2008Heo10948 (rendered on Nov. 2008) POOL Vs. PHOTOIS Senior Mark Junior Mark Whether a senior mark would be recognized as Device or English character of "Photo i"? Korean intellectus Property Office

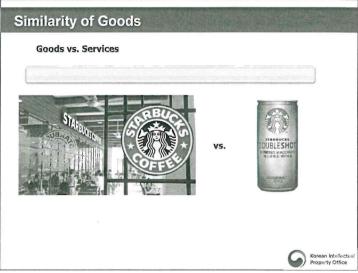
Similarity of goods should be decided in view of the actual market, considering:

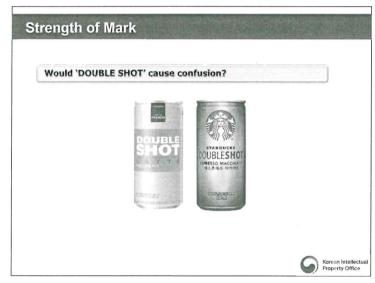
Similarity of Goods (General Principal)

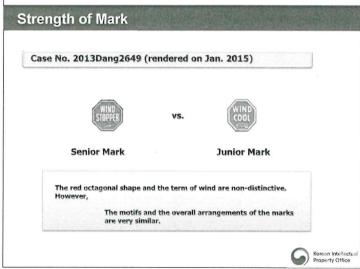
- · quality,
- · shape,
- · usage,
- · routes of manufacture and sales, and
- · scope of consumer, etc. of the goods.

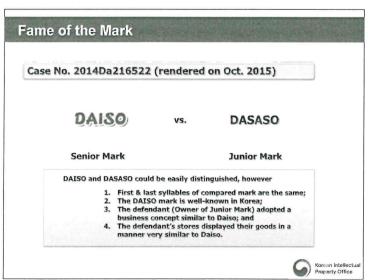


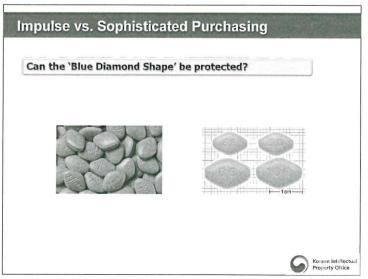


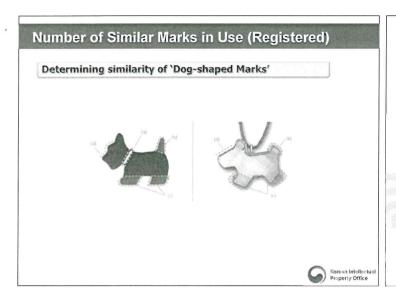














THANK YOU







Examination of Marks for Likelihood of Confusion

Office of Policy and International Affairs United States Patent and Trademark Office

uspto

What is Likelihood of Confusion?

- Likelihood of confusion is a refusal of registration under our trademark law.
- The rationale for the refusal is that the applicant's mark so closely resembles another trademark that is already registered that it would likely cause confusion in the marketplace.

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U.S. Federal Trademark Law

Section 2(d) of the Lanham Act:

No trademark . . . shall be refused registration . . . unless it . . . so resembles a mark registered in the Patent and Trademark Office . . . as to be likely, when used on or in connection with the goods [or services] of the applicant to cause confusion, or to cause mistake, or to deceive . . ."

U.S. Law: Lanham Act

When deciding likelihood of confusion under Section 2(d) of the Act, USPTO Examining Attorneys typically consider the following factors:

- the <u>marks</u> under consideration
 i.e., the applicant's mark compared to the registrant's mark.
 could be trademark and/or service mark
- 2) the goods and/or services that they each identify.

The du Pont Factors

- A U.S. judicial decision, In re *DuPont de Nemours & Co.*, sets out a list of factors for determining whether two marks are confusingly similar.
 - In re DuPont de Nemours & Co., 476 F.2d 1357 (C.C.P.A. 1973)

The du Pont Factors

- · Degree to which the marks are similar in:
 - Appearance;
 - Sound;
 - Connotation; and/or
 - Commercial impression
- Similarity, if any, between the goods/services associated with each mark.
- Similarity, if any, between the trade channels in which the goods are bought and sold.

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The du Pont Factors

- Whether buyers of the goods or services typically make their purchases on *impulse* or after *careful* reflection.
- · The fame, if any, of the prior mark.
- How many, if any, similar marks are used on or in connection with similar goods or services.
- The nature and extent of actual confusion, if any.

The du Pont Factors

- If there has not been actual confusion, the length of time, and the condition, under which, confusion was avoided.
- Whether the mark is used on a variety of goods and services.
- The nature and extent, if any, of interaction between the two parties.

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The du Pont Factors

- The extent to which applicant has the right to exclude others from the use of its mark on its goods.
- · The extent of potential confusion.
- Any other established fact probative of the effect of use.

Determining Whether Two Marks are Confusingly Similar

- United States law views two marks as confusingly similar if each of the following two questions are answered affirmatively:
 - Are the two marks identical or similar; AND
 - Are the goods and or services associated with the marks identical or related.

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Comparing the Marks: Identical or Similar

- · Are the marks identical?
- If the marks are not identical, are they similar?
 - Do they have the same sound, appearance or meaning? Consider the degree of likeness between the marks.
 - Similarity in any one factor (sound, appearance, or meaning) is sufficient to find a likelihood of confusion.
 - Likeness or similarity between the commercial impression engendered by the marks?

Comparing the Marks – Sound

- · Are the marks similar in sound?
- Consider the following when evaluating:
 - There is no correct way to pronounce a mark.
 - ISHINE (stylized) for floor finishing preparations held likely to be confused with ICE SHINE for floor finishing preparations);
 - SEYCOS and design for watches, and SEIKO for watches and clocks, likely to cause confusion
 - Slight differences in sound will <u>not</u> avoid a likelihood of confusion. Beck &Co. v Package Dist., 198 USPQ 573 (TTAB 1978) (Beck's Beer held similar to Ex Bier)
- Phonetic equivalents may be confusingly similar. In re Cresco Mfg, Co., 138
 USPQ 401 (TTAB 1963) (CRESCO and design for leather jackets held likely to be confused with KRESSCO for hosiery)

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Comparing the Marks - Appearance

- · Are the marks similar in appearance?
- Consider the following:
 - Marks may be confusingly similar in appearance notwithstanding the addition, deletion, or substitution of letters, words (including house marks), or designs

Similarity of the Marks: Transposition

Transposed Terms:

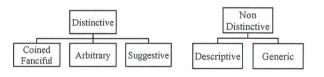
- If two marks are comprised of the same terms, presented in a different order, <u>AND</u> the *meaning* and commercial impression of the two marks is nevertheless the same, the marks are considered to be similar.
- Examples:
 - THE WINE SOCIETY OF AMERICA and AMERICAN WINE SOCIETY
 - AIRZONE and ZONEAIRE
 - RUST BUSTER and BUST RUST

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Similarity of Marks: Composite Marks

- Marks with Multiple Words:
 - If one or both of the marks in question is made up of multiple words, the determination of whether the two marks are similar depends on whether:
 - · One of the terms is dominant; and
 - If so, whether the dominant term is the term that is <u>common</u> to each of the marks; e.g., PRECISE PRICING versus PRECISE LIFE

Determining Whether a Mark is Distinctive in U.S. Practice



Why is this sliding scale important? Because it is used for determining descriptiveness <u>and</u> likelihood of confusion. The more distinctive the mark, the broader the scope of protection.

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Analysis – Comparing the Marks Meaning

- Are the marks similar in meaning?
- · Consider:
 - Similarity in meaning or connotation may be sufficient to find a likelihood of confusion because average purchasers retain only a general, rather than specific, impression of trademarks.
- Examples:
 - ROTOSHAVE v. ROTORAZOR (electric razors)
 - WATER TO GO v. H20 TO GO (retail store services bottled drinking water)

Additional Considerations: Dominance

- Look at each mark in its entirety
- A dominant feature of a mark may be more significant in creating a commercial impression and is given greater weight in determining a likelihood of confusion.
- In word marks, arbitrary terms are generally dominant over descriptive or laudatory terms.
- In composite marks (marks containing a word and a design, separable words, or separable design elements), the non-descriptive words are generally dominant over designs.
- "Commercial Impression" is the overall effect of the mark on consumers. An applicant cannot appropriate the mark of another by adding to it if the commercial impression remains the same.

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Comparing the Goods/Services: Closely Related

Once it is determined that the respective marks are the same or similar, the Office must consider the relationship between the goods/services to determine whether a likelihood of confusion exists.

- Are the goods and/or services identical?
- If not identical, are they closely related?

Relatedness of Goods and Services

- The question is <u>not</u> whether consumers will believe that *goods and/or services are similar*, but whether they will believe that the goods or services originate from the same source.
- Goods do not have to be identical or even competitive, just related.

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Relatedness of Goods/Services

Similar types of goods and/or services RESTAURANTS vs. BARS RADIO BROADCASTING vs. WEBCASTING

Used together
CHIPS vs. DIPS
PHOTOCOPYING vs. FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

Marketed together through the same channels of trade TENNIS RACQUETS vs. TENNIS SHOES CLOTHING ITEMS vs. RETAIL CLOTHING STORES **Relatedness of Goods and Services**

- · Principle of Expansion of Trade:
 - If the registrant's goods or services differ from the applicant's goods, USPTO examiners consider whether the goods are sufficiently close that the registrant might later expand its business to include goods or services that are similar to the later claimant's goods or services.

televisions → computer monitors? televisions → office supplies?

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Relatedness of Goods and Services

CLASSIFICATION

- Goods/services in one class may be considered related to goods/services in another class:
 - Example: barbecue sauce (International Class 30) may be considered related to restaurant services (International Class 43);
 - Example: the automobile dealerships (International Class 35) may be related to automobiles (International Class 12).
- Just because marks involve goods or services in two <u>different</u> classes does not mean they
 are not likely to be confused. Likelihood of confusion in the marketplace is what matters.
- The fact that USPTO classifies goods and services in different classes does not establish
 that the goods and services are unrelated.
- Proper classification of goods and services is a purely <u>administrative determination</u> unrelated to the determination of likelihood of confusion.

Additional Considerations:

Sophisticated Purchasers

- The fact that purchasers are sophisticated or knowledgeable in a particular field does not necessarily mean that they are sophisticated or knowledgeable in the field of trademarks or immune from source confusion.
 - See In re Decombe, 9 USPQ2d 1812 (TTAB 1988);
 In re Pellerin Milnor Corp., 221 USPQ 558 (TTAB 1983).

Additional Considerations:

Balancing Test

- The more similar the marks, the less related the goods and/or services need to be to find a likelihood of confusion.
- The less similar the marks, the more related the goods and/or services need to be to find a likelihood of confusion.

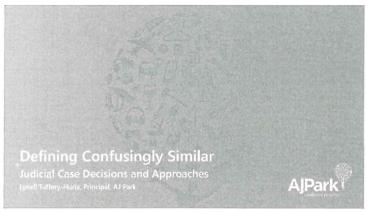
Additional Considerations

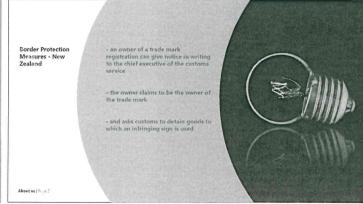
- · Each case is decided on its own merits.
- All doubt with regard to likelihood of confusion is resolved in favor of the registrant.
- Applicants have a legal duty to select a mark which is totally dissimilar to trademarks already registered.
- The test is whether there is a likelihood of confusion, not actual confusion.
- Consider whether the marks are likely to be confusingly similar to an average prudent buyer of such goods/services.

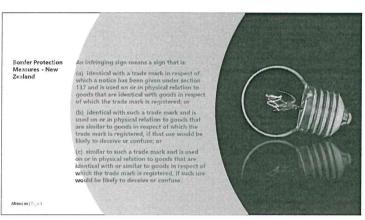
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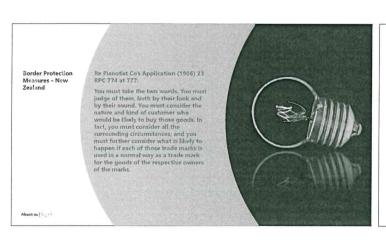


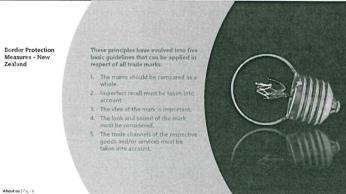


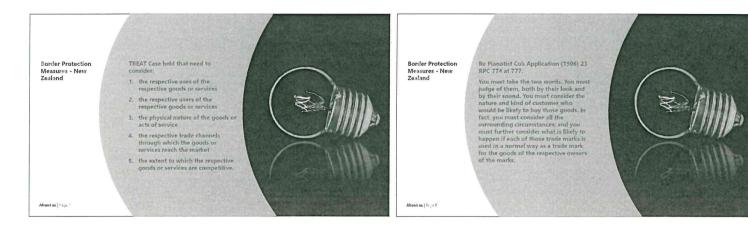


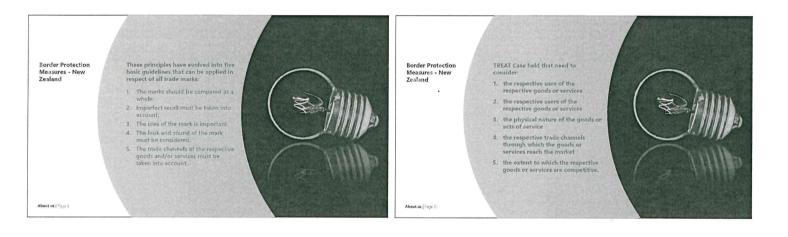


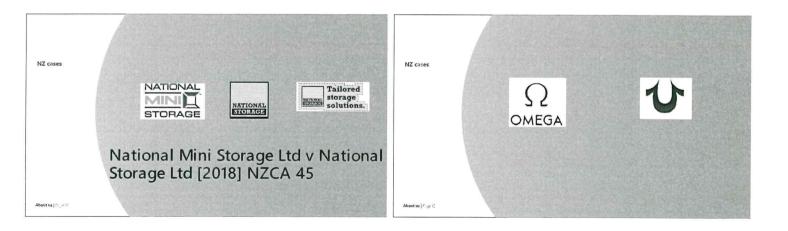


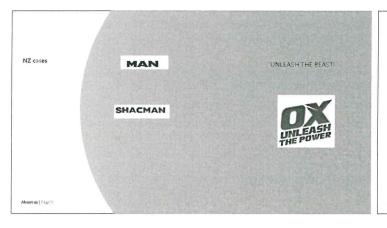












Border Protection Measures -Australia

- an owner of a trade mark registration can:
- give notice in writing to the Comptroller-General of Customs
- objecting to the importation of goods
- 3. that infringe the trade mark



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Border Protection Measures -Australia

An owner of a trade mark registration can:

- give notice in writing to the Comptroller-General of Customs
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Border Protection Measures -Australia

The Comptroller-General can only seize goods that are:

1. imported into Australia

2. are subject to customs control under the Customs Act 1901



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Border Protection Measures -Australia

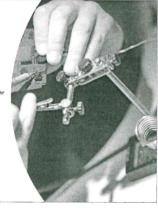
The Comptroller-General must seize any goods that:

- include a sign that is substantially identical with, or deceptively similar, to a notified trade mark
- cover goods in respect of which the trade mark is registered.



Border Protection Measures -Australia The Comptroller-General is required to make an assessment about whether:

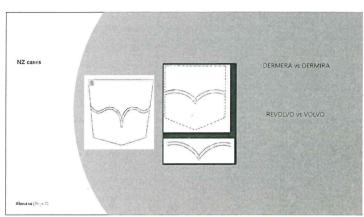
- a trade mark is substantially identical with or deceptively similar
- goods are covered by the registered trade mark



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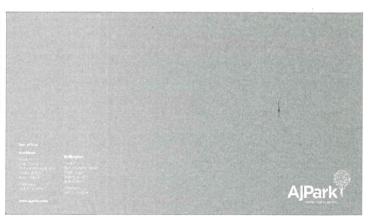
















U.S. Customs & Border Protection's IPR Branch Presentation: Effective Risk Assessment and Ex Officio Actions (APEC SOM 3)







Overview

- · Foiling Larger-Scale Infringer Tactices
 - Challenges We See: Port Shopping
 - Solutions We Use: Coordinated Groups
 - Changing Practices and Authorities
- · Field Authorities and Their Implementation
 - Current Authorities
 - Implementation



Challenges We See

Port Shopping



- · Same merchandise gets different treatment
- · Future CBP ports have no window into past port action
- · Selected ports have less reason to ask the right holder
- · Inconsistent treatment is harder to defend in litigation

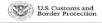
Solutions We Use

Coordinated Groups



- · Same staff has a uniform understanding
- · Broader knowledge dissemination
- · IPR Branch uses a nation-wide approach
- · Back-checking is part of the process
- · Easier for good citizens to comply





Current Authorities

- · What They Are
 - Trademark
 - Copyright
 - Exclusion Order
 - DMCA
- What They Are Not
 - Non-recorded (absent other authority)
 - Independent (for patents)

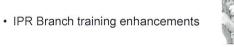


U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Changing Practices and Authorities

· IPR Branch inter partes process





· Newer or Incoming CBP Regulations



Implementation

- · Pre-Seizure Disclosure & Talks
 - Protects importers' trade secrets (Seven Days)
 - Empowers Right Holders who can benefit (Recording More)
 - Involves other law enforcement if useful (Investigating Imports)
- Post-Seizure Supplementation
 - Allows good citizens to support their cases (Adding Records)
 - Crystalizes probable cause basis (Contacting Owners)



CONTACT INFORMATION

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