



SAQAAN & PARTNERS

Advocates & Legal Consultants



Trademark Registration Procedures in Egypt

A Structured Legal Overview



Table of Contents

I.Filing Stage.....	4
II.Examination Stage.....	5
III.Decision Issuance.....	7
IV.Appeal Stage.....	8
V.Publication and Opposition Stage.....	9
VI. Final Registration and Certificate Issuance.....	10
VII. Practical Significance of the Registration Process.....	11
Conclusion.....	12

Introduction

Trademarks constitute a fundamental pillar of intellectual property protection and play a central role in safeguarding the commercial identity of both natural and legal persons. By distinguishing the goods or services of one undertaking from those of others, a trademark may acquire substantial commercial value and serve as an important asset in the development and protection of a business.

Accordingly, a clear understanding of the applicable registration procedures, documentary requirements, examination standards, statutory time limits, and available remedies is essential to securing effective and enforceable trademark protection under Egyptian law.

In Egypt, trademark registration is primarily governed by Law No. 82 of 2002 on the Protection of Intellectual Property Rights, as amended, and its Executive Regulations, and is administered by the competent trademark authority within the Egyptian Intellectual Property Authority.

The registration process is administrative in nature, but it incorporates a number of substantive legal safeguards intended to ensure that the mark satisfies the statutory requirements for protection and does not prejudice prior rights or other protected interests.

The following is a structured overview of the principal stages of trademark registration in Egypt.

I. Filing Stage

The process commences with the submission of a formal application for trademark registration before the Trademark Office of the Egyptian Intellectual Property Authority, using the prescribed official form.

At the filing stage, the applicant is required to provide the information and documents necessary for the Authority to identify the applicant, determine the scope of the requested protection, and examine the mark in accordance with the applicable legal requirements.

The application must be accompanied by the following documents:

- **Five clear copies of the trademark representation**, enabling the Authority to identify and record the mark for examination and publication purposes.
- **A literal Arabic transliteration or translation** of any foreign words appearing in the mark, provided that the Arabic script is equal to or larger in size. This requirement is particularly relevant where the mark contains words or expressions written in a language other than Arabic.
- **A copy of the commercial register**, where the applicant is a corporate or other registered business entity, or a copy of the national identification card, where the applicant is an individual.
- **A notarized power of attorney**, where the application is filed through a legal representative, expressly authorizing the representative to undertake trademark registration procedures before the competent authority.

The accuracy and completeness of the filing documents are important, as deficiencies identified at this stage may affect the subsequent examination of the application and may, if not duly remedied within the applicable statutory period, result in the application being rejected or deemed withdrawn.



II. Examination Stage

Following filing, the application enters the examination phase. The examination process typically lasts no less than six months, subject to the circumstances of the application and the procedures undertaken by the competent authority.

The examination is generally understood as comprising two principal levels of review:

1. Formal Examination

At the formal examination stage, the Authority verifies the completeness and correctness of the application and its supporting documents.

The purpose of this stage is to determine whether the application satisfies the applicable procedural and documentary requirements and whether any deficiencies must be rectified before the application can proceed.

Where deficiencies are identified, the applicant may be required to remedy them within the statutory timeframe. Failure to take the required action within that period may result in rejection of the application or the application being deemed withdrawn, as applicable.

Formal compliance is therefore not merely an administrative formality; failure to satisfy the prescribed requirements within the applicable time limits may bring the registration process to an end irrespective of the substantive merits of the mark.

2. Substantive Examination

Following, or as part of, the examination process, the Authority conducts a substantive assessment of the mark to determine whether it is legally capable of registration.

In particular, the Authority assesses:

- **The distinctiveness of the mark**, including whether the mark possesses the requisite capacity to distinguish the goods or services of the applicant from those of others; and
- **The absence of conflict with prior registered or pending trademarks and other legally protected interests**, to the extent relevant under the applicable legislation.

The substantive examination is conducted in accordance with the provisions of Law No. 82 of 2002, including Article 67, which establishes restrictions on the registration of marks falling within the categories prohibited by law.

Accordingly, registration may be refused where the mark, among other prohibited categories:

- **Lacks distinctive character;**
- **Contravenes public order or morality;**
- **Imitates the flags, emblems, or symbols of states or international organizations, where such use is prohibited by law;**
- **Contains religious or legally protected symbols, including protected symbols such as the Red Cross or Red Crescent, without the required authorization;**
- **Includes unauthorized images, names, or logos belonging to third parties, where their use or registration is legally prohibited;**
- **Contains false or misleading indications concerning the origin, source, nature, or characteristics of the goods or services; or**
- **Comprises marks owned by, or forged in the name of, other parties, or otherwise conflicts with legally protected prior rights.**

The substantive examination therefore serves not only to determine whether the mark is inherently registrable, but also to protect the integrity of the trademark register and prevent registration from being used to appropriate signs that are legally unavailable to the applicant.



III. Decision Issuance

Upon completion of the examination process, the competent authority issues a decision concerning the application.

The decision may take one of the following principal forms:

- Approval of the application, whether absolute or conditional; or
- Rejection of the application, whether on statutory grounds, substantive grounds, or because of a conflict with prior rights.

Where acceptance is conditional upon modifications or amendments required by the Authority, the applicant must comply with the required modifications within six months.

Failure to comply with the required modifications within the prescribed timeframe results in the application being deemed withdrawn.

The applicant is notified of the Authority's decision by registered mail with acknowledgment of receipt within thirty days from the date of the decision.

Where the decision is adverse, or where the applicant otherwise seeks to challenge the decision, the applicant may exercise the statutory right of appeal within thirty days from the date of notification.

The applicable time limits at this stage are therefore of particular practical importance, since failure to take the required procedural step within the prescribed period may result in the loss of the corresponding procedural remedy or the deemed withdrawal of the application.



IV. Appeal Stage

Where an application is rejected, the applicant may challenge the decision before the specialized committee within the competent authority, in accordance with the applicable statutory procedures. The appeal is considered by a committee composed of experienced members who were not involved in the original examination, thereby providing an additional level of administrative review.

During the appeal stage:

- **The appellant may submit written memoranda and supporting evidence** in support of the appeal and in response to the grounds relied upon by the Authority;
- **Hearing sessions may be attended by the appellant and representatives of the Authority**, allowing the parties to present and clarify their respective positions before the committee.

The committee is required to issue a reasoned decision within one year from the date of filing the appeal.

The appellant must also be notified of the hearing date at least fifteen days in advance, allowing sufficient time to prepare the relevant submissions and supporting materials.

The appeal stage consequently provides an administrative mechanism through which the applicant may challenge the examination outcome before the matter proceeds further within the registration process or, where appropriate, to subsequent judicial remedies available under Egyptian law.

V. Publication and Opposition Stage

Where the examination and any applicable appeal proceedings result in a final acceptance decision, the details of the trademark are published in the Official Trademark Gazette.

The publication generally includes the essential particulars of the application, including:

- **The representation of the trademark;** and
- **The list of goods and services for which protection is sought or granted.**

Publication serves an important legal function because it gives third parties an opportunity to challenge the registration of the mark where they believe that its registration would prejudice their existing rights or otherwise violate the applicable legal requirements.

From the date of publication, a **sixty-day opposition period** commences.

During this period, **any interested party may file a written opposition**, setting out the legal and factual grounds upon which the opposition is based.

Where an opposition is filed, the applicant is notified of the opposition within thirty days and must submit a written response **within thirty days** from the date of notification.

Failure to submit the required response within the prescribed period results in the application being **deemed withdrawn**.

The opposition mechanism therefore constitutes an important part of the trademark registration system, as registration is not necessarily insulated from third-party challenges merely because the Authority has completed its examination and issued an acceptance decision.

VI. Final Registration and Certificate Issuance

Following the expiry of the opposition period, and after the resolution of any oppositions that may have been duly filed, the registration process proceeds to its final stage.

Subject to completion of the applicable procedures and **payment of the prescribed registration fees**, the competent authority issues the trademark registration certificate.

The issuance of the certificate formally records the trademark in the register and provides the applicant with documentary evidence of registration and the rights arising therefrom under Egyptian law.

The principal legal effects of registration include the following:

- **The registration is deemed effective from the date of filing the application**, subject to the applicable statutory framework and the completion of the registration process.
- **The protection period is ten years from the filing date.**
- **The registration may be renewed for successive ten-year periods**, provided that the applicable statutory renewal procedures and requirements are duly satisfied.

The filing date is therefore of particular legal significance, as it establishes the starting point for the statutory term of protection and may also be relevant in determining priority as between competing trademark rights, subject to the applicable legal rules.

VII. Practical Significance of the Registration Process

The Egyptian trademark registration system should not be viewed as a single administrative filing, but rather as a **multi-stage legal process** involving filing, formal review, substantive examination, decision-making, administrative appeal where applicable, publication, opposition, and final registration.

Each stage serves a distinct legal purpose.

The filing stage establishes the application and its claimed scope of protection. The formal examination ensures compliance with documentary and procedural requirements. The substantive examination addresses the legal registrability of the mark and its compatibility with existing rights and statutory prohibitions. The appeal mechanism provides an additional level of administrative review. Publication and opposition allow interested third parties to protect their rights and interests, while final registration completes the administrative process and formally records the trademark.

For applicants and their legal representatives, strict observance of the applicable **deadlines, documentary requirements, responses to official objections, and opposition procedures** is therefore essential. A failure to act within the prescribed periods may have significant consequences, including rejection, deemed withdrawal, or loss of the opportunity to pursue a particular procedural remedy.



Conclusion

The trademark registration framework in Egypt reflects a structured combination of **administrative examination, substantive legal scrutiny, procedural safeguards, and third-party opposition mechanisms.**

Its objective is not merely to record trademarks on the register, but to maintain the integrity and reliability of the register while ensuring that registrable marks receive appropriate legal protection and that conflicting or legally prohibited marks are excluded.

From the initial filing before the Trademark Office of the Egyptian Intellectual Property Authority through examination, decision issuance, appeal, publication, opposition, and final registration, each stage carries its own requirements and statutory time limits.

Accordingly, effective trademark protection in Egypt depends not only upon selecting a distinctive and legally registrable mark, but also upon properly preparing the application, accurately identifying the relevant goods and services, responding to examination requirements within the prescribed periods, monitoring the application throughout the registration process, and completing the final registration and renewal procedures in accordance with Egyptian law.

This procedural framework ultimately seeks to balance the interests of trademark applicants and owners with the protection of prior rights, consumers, and the broader integrity of the Egyptian trademark register.

Publication Information

Publisher: Saqaan & Partners – Advocates & Legal Consultants

Publication: Legal Guide

Jurisdiction: Egypt

Professional Notice

This Legal Guide is a professional publication of Saqaan & Partners – Advocates & Legal Consultants and provides structured legal guidance on the subject addressed herein.

The content is provided for general informational and professional purposes and is not intended to address the specific circumstances of any particular person or entity or to substitute for professional legal advice in relation to a specific matter. The publication of this Legal Guide does not, by itself, establish a lawyer-client relationship.

Copyright

© Saqaan & Partners – Advocates & Legal Consultants. All Rights Reserved.

The legal content, analysis, and professional commentary contained in this Legal Guide are protected under applicable intellectual property laws as the work of Saqaan & Partners – Advocates & Legal Consultants.

This Legal Guide may be downloaded and shared in its published form for professional, informational, or non-commercial purposes, provided that its attribution to the publisher is maintained. The legal content, analysis, and professional commentary may not be reproduced, modified, republished, translated, or incorporated into any other work.



SAQAAN & PARTNERS

Advocates & Legal Consultants

Saqaan & Partners is a law firm established and registered under No. 211 with the Egyptian Bar Association.