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## IP office gets new name and undergoes structural changes - what you need to know

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- **New Regulation on Organisation and Operation of National Office of Intellectual Property has been issued**
- **The NOIP is now the Intellectual Property Office of Vietnam (IP Vietnam for short)**
- **Trademark Examination Centre has been established by combining former Trademark Divisions**

In order to replace the previous Regulation on the Organisation and Operation of the National Office of Intellectual Property (NOIP) of 2014, on 4 September 2018 the Ministry of Science and Technology issued Decision No 2525/QD-BKHCHN, which unveiled a new organisational structure.

According to the new Regulation on the Organisation and Operation of the National Office of Intellectual Property, starting from 4 September 2018 the name of the NOIP is now the Intellectual Property Office of Vietnam (IP Vietnam for short).

The structure of IP Vietnam has also been changed. The administrative departments remain the same, but the professional divisions have been modified as follows:

- A new examination centre - the Post-grant of Protection Examination Centre - has been established. It is responsible for handling the recordal of renewals, maintenance, assignments and changes in granted patents and certificates of registrations.
- A Trademark Examination Centre has been established by combining the two former Trademark Divisions.
- The Geographical Indication and International Trademark Division is now the Geographical Indication and International Trademark Centre, and is responsible for handling the examination of applications for geographical indications and international trademarks filed through the Madrid system.
- A Patent Examination Centre has been established by combining the three former Patent Divisions.

- The Industrial Design Division has been upgraded and is now the Industrial Design Examination Centre.
- The IP Administration and Promotion Division and the IP Assets Development Centre have been dissolved, and have now been combined to form the Research and Training Centre under the new name Research, Training, Support and Advice Centre.

IP Vietnam is taking the necessary steps to proceed with these structural changes by conducting internal meetings and updating its IT systems to comply with the new regulation. The restructuring of IP Vietnam will have an impact on examination proceedings to some extent, as the new system will take time to run smoothly. It is hoped that the merger of the former Trademark Divisions into a single centre - and, similarly, the merger of the former Patent Divisions into one centre - will help minimise inconsistencies in the examination decisions of these divisions, which sometimes occurred in the past.

## Van-Anh Hoang

IPMAX Law Firm

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