



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS



Webinar on the benefits of a regional classification database: TMclass

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Zoom



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1. Which non-EU IP offices use HBD?

87 IP offices participate in TMclass. 18 non-EU IP offices use and accept HDB. They are: AR, BA, BZ, CR, DO, GE, HN, KN, MC, MD, MX, NO, OA, PA, PE, PH, UG & VC.

2. What do you mean by implementations?

The word “Implementations” refers to the number of IP offices that have been incorporated TMclass. As mentioned above, 87 offices participate in TMclass. Occasionally, it is phrased as “87 offices have joined TMclass” or “87 offices have been integrated in TMclass”.

3. Is TMclass interoperable with WIPO IPAS, which is widely used in the Caribbean for TM examination and processing?

TMclass is a tool for users to consult prior to filing a trademark application, which goods and services an IP office accept. TMclass can also be used by the examiners of an IP office to look up and verify if his or her office accepts the goods and service applied for in a trademark application. In other words, TMclass is a consultation tool and there are no technical connections between TMclass and the IP office’s trademark systems, such as IPAS.

4. Can you explain again the supplemental list?

There are 3 ways to join TMclass:

1) Nice

Basic model. The IP offices joins TMclass with the latest version of Nice in its working language.

2) Nice + local goods and services

This model allows the IP office to join TMclass with the latest version of Nice plus supplementary list of terms. Presently Nice contains about 10,200 terms in English. The local list of goods and services is a list of terms besides Nice to be made publicly available for users, so they know which other terms an IP office accepts. These terms can be purely domestic terms only known in your country or region. On the other hand, they can be terms from the Madrid list of goods and services (MGS) or from the harmonized database of goods and services (HDB). Basically, any term your office uses and accepts can be added to your local list.

3) HDB

HDB stands for the harmonized database of goods and services. It contains more than 86,100 terms. With this model, it is not possible to add a supplementary list in TMclass. As understood from the name HDB, all IP offices participating in TMclass with this list have all the same terms in common. This is its primary principle and the biggest asset. Nevertheless, the Caribbean TMclass will allow you to publish a Caribbean local/regional list of terms even if you have joined TMclass with HDB.

5. Anyone who signs on would have HBD + Caribbean list or Nice + Caribbean List?

As mentioned under point 4, an IP office can join TMclass choosing any of the three models available. This same list will also be made available to the Caribbean TMclass. However, regardless of the model chosen for TMclass, the IP office has the possibility to construct a local/regional list of terms, which it can publish in the Caribbean TMclass as well but not in TMclass.

6. Is there a timeline for submission of terms?

A new timeline will be set and communicated by email, ideally it should be set before the next Sub-PSC.