



Australian Government

IP Australia

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Official Notice

2006 Christmas Holiday Close Down

IP Australia's Certified Agreement provides for a Christmas close down period between Christmas Day and New Year's Day. This means that the majority of IP Australia's staff will be on leave for the period 25 December 2006 until 2 January 2007 inclusive. However, Thursday 28 and Friday 29 December 2006 are not public holidays for the purposes of the Patents, Trade Marks, Designs or Plant Breeder's Rights Acts. This means that all deadlines that fall due on the 28 and 29 December 2006 will still need to be met by customers.

In order to provide essential services to our customers on the days of 28 and 29 December 2006, all State Offices with the exception of Hobart, will remain open on these two days to receive applications, payments and other documents and to provide searching facilities. Our Customer Service Number, 1300 651 010, will also be available to answer enquiries.

Tasmanian customers requiring essential services during the close down are asked to use the national customer service number 1300 651 010.

Customers calling from outside Australia should call +61 2 6283 2999.

It should also be noted that no administrative or examination work will be undertaken during the close down period 25 December 2006 - 2 January 2007

To assist us to deal with urgent matters, customers are requested to send all non-urgent work outside of the Christmas close down period.

Where critical deadlines fall due on a day during the Christmas close down (25 December 2006 to 2 January 2006 inclusive), customers are advised to undertake necessary action prior to the Christmas close down. Some examples of these critical deadlines include:

- the 21-month finalisation date for patent examination;
- making a response to place a design application in order for registration;
- urgent requirement for a certified copy;
- the end of the 6 month period in which a person may file an application for registration of a trade mark in Australia and claim a right of priority from an application they filed overseas in a convention country for the same trade mark;

- final date for acceptance of a trade mark;
- the end of the 15 month period in which a request for deferment of acceptance of a trade mark application may be made; and
- lodgement of Part 1 applications for Plant Breeder's Rights where the period for prior sale is likely to expire during the closedown period.

If you have any specific enquiries regarding the close down period please contact the Customer Service Numbers provided below for referral to a designated contact officer, depending on the nature of your enquiry.

Customers are also reminded of IP Australia's contact details, as listed below. All business correspondence during the close down period should be via these means. It is particularly important to use these contact details over the Christmas close down period, as other numbers may not be staffed.

Queries: Renata Rose
Customer Services Network
+61 2 6283 2193

Contact: IP Australia
Phone: 1300 651 010
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E-mail: assist@ipaaustralia.gov.au
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