

Filing a design application

The procedure and requirements for filing a design application in the UK or the EU are very similar. Both provide protection for the appearance of all or part of a product, for up to 25 years, renewable every five years.

Why file a UK/EU registered design?

- Provides a registered right that is deemed to be valid until proven otherwise.
- Has deterrent value to competitors.
- Option to defer publication to keep details confidential e.g. before a product launch.
- Can include multiple designs in one application, providing greater cost savings.
- 12 months grace period for filing application after first public disclosure.

What are the benefits of an EU Registered Design?

If protection outside of the UK is needed, an EU design provides multiple benefits:

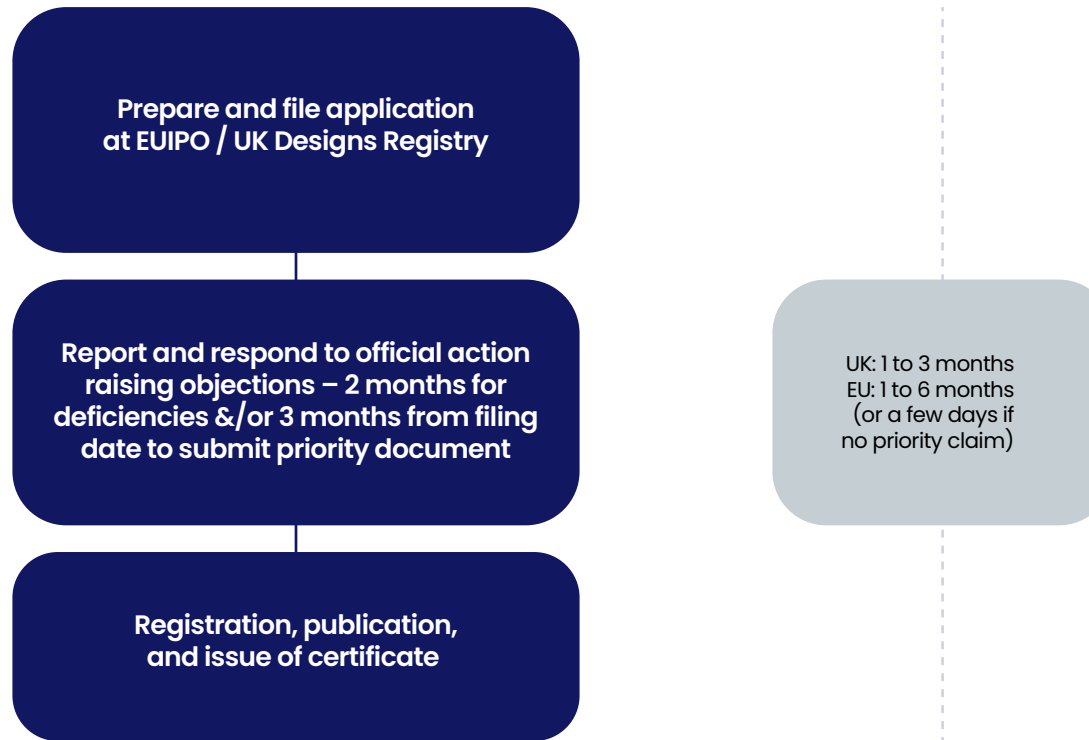
- Cost effective – single cost for EU coverage – compared with filing separately in multiple countries.
- Central prosecution at one IP office, and all proceedings can be in English.
- Fast and simple – registration in around three to six months maximum.
- Predictable costs, less administration.
- Provides a single registration enforceable throughout the whole of the EU.

Things to consider

How best to proceed will depend on your requirements and budget. We can work with you to advise on the best and most cost-effective filing strategies. For example:

- Filing ad-hoc applications on a design-by-design basis to secure a filing date, or a bundle of designs together to reduce costs.
- Considering filing an international (Hague application) for further cost savings for multi-country protection.

Filing and prosecuting a single design in the UK and Europe



At Barker Brettell, we have a large group dedicated to designs and copyright, made up of a mix of patent and trade mark attorneys. Please contact designs@barkerbrettell.co.uk if we can be of any assistance.

For further information, please contact info@barkerbrettell.co.uk

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