

Intellectual Property Rights in Jamaica

Registered IP Rights:

Trademarks:

- *What is protectable?* Any sign capable of graphical representation that distinguishes goods or services of one undertaking.
- *Where to apply?* With Jamaica Intellectual Property Office (JIPO) or World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) under the Madrid System.
- *Duration of protection?* Ten years.
- *Costs?* USD752.00 for one class, additional classes at USD100.00 each, plus General Consumption Tax (GCT).

Patent:

- *What is protectable?* Novel and useful inventions in machines, technology, manufacturing, or improvements with industrial applicability.
- *Where to apply?* JIPO or WIPO.
- *Duration of protection?* Up to 20 years, maintained by annual fees.
- *Costs?* Up to USD1082.50 for one claim, plus technical representative fees.

Utility Model:

- *What is protectable?* Similar to patents for technical inventions, with a six-month novelty grace period.
- *Where to apply?* Similar to patent applications.
- *Duration of protection?* 10 years.
- *Costs?* USD366 for up to one claim, plus technical representative fees.

Designs:

- *What is protectable?* Industrial or craft products or parts.
- *Where to apply?* JIPO for national designs, or EUIPO for Community Designs.
- *Duration of protection?* Five years, renewable up to 25 years.
- *Costs?* USD244.95 for application, plus legal representative fees.

Non-Registered IP Rights:

Copyright:

- *What is protectable?* Expressions of intellectual creation, granted immediately upon creation.
- *Duration of protection?* 70 years after the author's death.
- *Exploitation?* Exclusive rights for copyright owners, including the right to be named as the author.

Non-Registrable IP Rights:

Trade Secrets:

- *What is protected?* Not recognized as an intellectual property asset but protected under common law, including claims for breach of confidence or employment contract breaches.
- *Duration of protection?* As long as appropriate measures are in place and information has commercial value. Restrictions must be reasonable and not hinder employees' use of their skills or professional training.