

HOW CAN I PROTECT MY INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY?

Intellectual property rights fall principally into four main areas: patents, trade marks, copyright, and design rights. They also subsist in other areas including trade secrets, domain names and plant varieties.

Some rights, such as copyright, arise automatically. Other rights, such as patents, are only obtained by a process of registration. In general, registered rights provide stronger protection than unregistered rights.

REGISTERED RIGHTS

Patents protect inventions. Generally, a patent is directed to a product, apparatus, process or use, which embodies a technical innovation.

Registered trade marks are signs, such as words or logos, which connect goods or services with their producer or provider.

Registered designs relate to the appearance of an article, or a part of an article. This may be the shape of the article, a pattern or ornament applied to the article.

UNREGISTERED RIGHTS

A **trade secret** is technical information that provides a commercial advantage in relation to a product, process or use that can be kept confidential.

Trade marks established through use can provide protection under common law if there is an established reputation and goodwill.

Unregistered designs may protect a new design of an article or a part of an article. In the UK this applies to most 3D articles. Protection is limited to copying of the design.





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We work across all fields in the life sciences, including:

- Immunology
- Biochemistry
- Molecular biology
- Protein chemistry
- Pharmaceutical chemistry
- Monoclonal antibodies
- Nutraceuticals

Our life science patent services include:

- Intellectual property strategy
- Drafting and filing UK, European and International patent applications
- Prosecuting applications to grant
- Filing and defending oppositions
- Advice on enforcing your intellectual property rights
- Recording patent assignments
- Assessment of validity and infringement of granted patents
- Budgeting advice on intellectual property spend
- Patent portfolio management advice
- Patentability searching and advice
- Drafting and filing Supplementary Protection Certificates



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