

Intellectual Property Department
24/F., Wu Chung House,
213 Queen's Road East,
Wanchai, Hong Kong

13 December, 1996

Circular No. 11 of 1996

Registration of Surnames in Parts A and B

The Registry has recently reviewed its practice relating to the registration of surnames in Part A and Part B of the Register and has decided to revise and relax its practice as follows :-

(a) Relevant Telephone Directory

The Registry will only search in the Hong Kong Telephone Directory to ascertain whether a word is, according to its ordinary signification, a surname.

(b) The Registry will allow registration of surnames, prima facie, on the de minimis principle, in Part A if they appear no more than 50 times in the Hong Kong Directory and in Part B if they appear no more than 100 times in the Hong Kong Directory.

(c) Surnames outside the above limits remain registrable upon evidence of distinctiveness.

2. The revised practice referred to above will apply to applications filed *on or after 1.1.95* which are part examined or still unexamined at present. Applications which have already been advertised or for which leave to advertise has been issued will not be re-opened for discussion.

3. This Circular supersedes Circular No. 3 of 1993.



(R.J. Perera)

p. Registrar of Trade Marks