

**Unofficial translation**  
**FINLAND**

## **Trademarks Act**

(7/1964; amendments up to 56/2000 included)

### Chapter 1 - **General Provisions**

#### Section 1

Registration shall confer exclusive rights in a trademark as a special symbol for distinguishing goods to be offered for sale, or otherwise purveyed in business, from those of others.

Any kind of mark that can be represented graphically and by means of which goods marketed in business can be distinguished from those of others may be a trademark. A trademark may in particular consist of words, including personal names, figures, letters, numerals or the shape of goods or of their packaging.

The provisions of this Act concerning goods shall apply by analogy to services.

#### Section 2

Exclusive rights in a trademark may be acquired, even without registration, after the mark has become established.

Exclusive rights in symbols other than the special business symbols defined in section 1(2) may also be acquired through their becoming established.

A trade symbol shall be considered established if it has become generally known in the appropriate business or consumer circles in Finland as a symbol specific to its proprietor's goods.

#### Section 3

Any person may use his surname, address or trade name in his business as a trade symbol for his goods unless that use is liable to cause confusion with another's protected trademark, or with a name, address or trade name already being lawfully used by another in his business.

The foregoing provision on trade names applies also to the auxiliary trade name and secondary symbol referred to in the Trade Names Act (128/1979).

The name or trade name of another may not be included in a trademark; neither may the auxiliary trade name or secondary symbol of another be included in a trademark except where they lack distinguishing power or where the branches of trade or kinds of goods concerned are different.

## Section 4

The effect of the rights in a trade symbol provided for in sections 1 to 3 of this Act is that no one other than the proprietor of the trade symbol may use in his business any symbol liable to be confused with it for his goods, whether on the goods themselves or on their packaging, in advertising or commercial documents, or in any other way, including oral use. This provision shall apply regardless of whether the goods are offered or intended to be offered for sale in Finland or abroad, or are imported into the Finnish territory to be used, kept or stored for business purposes or to be forwarded to a third country.

Where spare parts, accessories or the like that are suitable for use with another's goods are offered for sale, it shall be unlawful to allude, in the manner specified in the first subsection of this section, to the trade symbol of the other party in any way liable to create the impression that the goods offered for sale originate with the proprietor of the said trade symbol or that the proprietor has permitted the use of the trade symbol.

If goods are offered for sale under a particular trade symbol, and if thereafter a person other than the proprietor of the trade symbol substantially alters them by modification or repair or in another comparable manner, the trade symbol may not be used when the goods are once again offered for sale in Finland unless the alteration is clearly pointed out or announced, or is otherwise plainly apparent.

## Section 5

The exclusive rights in a trade symbol shall not apply to any part of it that is intended mainly to render the goods or their packaging more suitable for their purpose, or serves some other purpose different from that of a trade symbol.

## Section 6

Trade symbols shall be regarded under this Act as liable to cause confusion only if they apply to goods of identical or similar type.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the confusability of trade symbols may be judged in favour of a symbol that has a reputation in Finland where the use of another's trade symbol without due cause would constitute unfair exploitation of, or action detrimental to, the distinctive character or fame of the earlier trade symbol.

The second subsection of this section shall apply also to the auxiliary trade names and secondary symbols referred to in section 3(3).

## Section 7

Where two or more parties demand exclusive rights under section 1 or section 2 in confusingly similar trade symbols, preference shall be given to the party who can claim the earliest entitlement, subject to the provisions of section 8 or 9 below.

## Section 8

Even where a registered trademark that has been used in Finland for a period of five consecutive years is liable to be confused with a mark registered or established earlier the use of the later mark may not be prohibited provided that the application for

registration was made in good faith and the proprietor of the earlier mark was aware of the use of the later mark for the said period.

#### Section 9

Where an established trademark is liable to be confused with another trademark registered or established earlier, but the proprietor of the earlier trademark has not acted within a reasonable period of time to prevent the use of the later trademark, he shall no longer be entitled to prohibit the use of the later trademark.

#### Section 10

In the cases referred to in section 8 or 9 it may be decided, where reasonable, that either or both of the trade symbols may only be used in a particular manner, for example, shaped in a particular way, or with the addition of a place name or some other explanatory feature.

The first subsection of this section shall apply also if there is a risk of confusion in a case provided for in section 3(1) or (2).

#### Section 10a

The proprietor of a trademark may not prevent the use of the trademark on goods that the proprietor, or another person with his consent, has placed on the market under his trademark within the territory of the European Economic Area.

The foregoing subsection shall not apply if the proprietor has justified grounds for objecting to the goods being once again placed on the market, in particular if alterations have been made to the goods or if they have deteriorated after having been placed on the market.

#### Section 11

At the request of the proprietor of a registered trademark, the author, editor or publisher of a dictionary, glossary, manual or other similar printed or in a data network released publication shall ensure that the trademark is not reproduced in the publication without a mention that the trademark is registered.

Any person who fails to observe the foregoing subsection shall ensure that a correction is published in the manner and to the extent considered reasonable, and shall bear the cost of publishing the correction.

### Chapter 2 - **Registration of Trademarks**

#### Section 12

A Register of Trademarks shall be kept by the National Board of Patents and Registration of Finland.

## Section 13

To be eligible for registration, a trademark must be capable of distinguishing its proprietor's goods from those of others. A mark that denotes either alone or with only few alterations or additions, the kind, quality, quantity, use, price or place or time of manufacture of the goods shall not, as such, be regarded as distinctive. Neither shall a mark be regarded as distinctive, if it is solely composed of a form that is characteristic of the goods, necessary for achieving a technical result or that substantially increases the value of the goods. In assessing whether a trademark possesses distinguishing power, all the factual circumstances shall be borne in mind, particularly the length of time and extent to which the mark has been used.

## Section 14

A trademark shall not be registered:

- (1) if it is contrary to law and order, or to morality;
- (2) if it is liable to mislead the public;
- (3) if, without proper permission, it incorporates national armorial bearings, a national flag or other emblem, a sign or hallmark indicating control and warranty used by the State for goods of the same type as those for which the trademark is sought or a similar type, the armorial bearings of a Finnish commune, or the flag, armorial bearings or other emblem, name or abbreviated name of an international organization or any device or emblem, name or abbreviated name liable to be confused with the symbols or emblems, marks, names or abbreviations referred to in this item;
- (4) if it is composed of or contains anything likely to give the impression of being the protected trade name of another or the auxiliary trade name or secondary symbol of another as referred to in section 3(3), or of being the name or likeness of another person, unless such name or likeness plainly relates to a person long dead;
- (5) if it is composed of or contains anything likely to give the impression of being the title of another's protected literary or artistic work, such title being original in character, or if it constitutes an infringement of another's copyright in such a work or of his rights in a photographic illustration or a protected design;
- (6) if it is liable to be confused with the name or protected trade name of another trader, with an auxiliary trade name or secondary symbol of the kind referred to in section 3(3), with the trademark of another which has been registered on the basis of an earlier application or with the trade symbol of another party that is already established when registration is sought;
- (7) if it is liable to be confused with a trade symbol being used by another party for his goods at the time of the application, and if the applicant was aware of that use at the time of his application and had not used his own mark before the other trade symbol came into use;
- (8) if it is liable to be confused with a trademark protected by an international registration valid in Finland that on the basis of this registration enjoys an earlier right in Finland;
- (9) if it is liable to be confused with a Community trademark within the meaning of section 57 that has been registered on the basis of an earlier application or that has seniority from Finland under Article 34 or 35 of the Council Regulation referred to in section 57;
- 10) if it is liable to be confused with a registered name of a plant variety; or
- 11) if there is an obstacle to registration within the meaning of Council Regulation

(EEC) No. 2081/92 on the protection of geographical indications and designations of origin for agricultural products and foodstuffs.

In the cases referred to in paragraphs (4) to (9), registration may be granted if the person whose right is concerned agrees thereto, and provided that the registration does not contravene any of the other provisions of the first subsection of this section.

#### Section 15

The exclusive rights in a trademark acquired by registration do not cover any part of the mark that cannot be registered as such.

If the trademark contains any such part and there are special reasons to believe that its registration may cause uncertainty regarding the extent of the exclusive rights granted, protection of the part may be specifically disclaimed when the registration is made.

If a part of a trademark excluded from protection later becomes registrable, a new registration may be made to cover that part or the entire trademark without the exclusion of the part from protection.

#### Section 16

A trademark shall be registered in one or more classes of goods. The classification of goods shall be established by the National Board of Patents and Registration of Finland.

#### Section 17

The application for registration of a trademark shall be filed in writing with the registering authority. The application shall indicate the name or trade name of the applicant and the goods and classes of goods for which the mark is intended. The mark shall be clearly shown in the application.

A filing fee shall be paid on the filing of the application. The application shall not be considered filed until the fee has been paid.

#### Section 17a

If an application relates to several goods, part of these may at the applicant's request be divided into one or more applications in a manner to be laid down more specifically by decree. The filing date of the original application shall be considered to be the filing date of these applications. If some of the goods in the original application enjoy priority earlier than the filing date, the priority shall accompany the goods in the divisional application.

The provisions of the first subsection in respect of an application shall, *mutatis mutandis*, also apply to registration.

## Section 18

If a trademark that the applicant first used on goods shown at an international exhibition is filed for registration within six months of the date on which the goods were first exhibited, the application shall be regarded as having been made on the said date for the purpose of determining priority over other applications for trademarks or the use of other trade symbols.

## Section 19

If the applicant fails to observe the regulations concerning the filing of an application, or if the registering authority finds that the application cannot be approved for some other reason, the applicant shall submit a statement or rectify his application within a specified time; if he does not his application may be dismissed.

If the registering authority considers the application unacceptable even after the applicant has submitted a statement, the application shall be rejected to the extent there is an obstacle to its acceptance unless there is cause to set a new time limit.

## Section 20

If the application complies with the requirements to which it is subject, and if no obstacle to registration has emerged in connection with it, the registering authority shall enter the trademark in the Register and give public notice thereof.

Any opposition to the registration of the trademark shall be filed in writing with the registering authority within two months of the date of the public notice.

Even if the person who filed the opposition withdraws it, the matter may nevertheless be examined if there are special reasons for doing so.

## Section 21

After an opposition, the registering authority shall revoke the registration to the extent there is an obstacle to registration. Once a decision to revoke a registration has acquired legal effect, public notice shall be given thereof.

The registering authority shall reject the opposition if no obstacle to registration is found.

## Section 22

Registration shall take effect on the date on which the application was filed and shall remain in force for ten years from the date of registration.

Registration may not be renewed earlier than one year before or later than six months after it expires.

Renewal shall be requested in writing from the registering authority if the proprietor wishes to alter any of the particulars entered in the Register, or if no entries have been made in the Register concerning the classes to which the goods belong. In other cases registration shall be considered renewed once the renewal fee has been paid.

The provisions of Section 19 above shall apply as appropriate to the prosecution of applications.

#### Section 23

If the proprietor of a registered trademark so requests, minor changes that do not alter the overall impression of the trademark may be entered in the Register.

### Chapter 3 - **Expiry of Legal Protection and Invalidity of Registration**

#### Section 24

If the proprietor of a registered trademark fails to request renewal of the registration under section 22, the trademark shall be removed from the Register.

A trademark shall also be removed from the Register while the registration is still valid if the proprietor so requests. If, according to an entry in the Register, the trademark is pledged, it may not be removed from the Register without the consent of the pledgee.

At the request of the proprietor of the trademark, the list of goods or of classes of goods for which the mark has been registered may be limited. The provision in the foregoing subsection concerning the consent of the pledgee shall also apply.

#### Section 25

If a trademark has been registered in breach of the provisions of this Act, the registration shall be declared null and void unless the provisions of section 8 or 9 apply or some other change of circumstances affects the issue.

#### Section 26

The exclusive rights in a trademark shall be invalidated:

- (1) if it is obvious that the mark has lost the power to distinguish its proprietor's goods from those of others that it had when it was registered or became established;
- (2) if the mark has become misleading or contrary to law and order or morality since it was registered or became established.

A trademark registration shall be invalidated if the trademark has not been used for the last five years and the proprietor is unable to give a proper reason for the non-use. Use of a trademark with the proprietor's consent shall be considered equivalent to use by the proprietor. Invalidation of a registration may not be sought, however, if the trademark has been used after the expiry of a five-year period of non-use but before the request for invalidation. In such case any use of the trademark that occurred during the three months preceding the request for invalidation shall not be considered if the preparations for use commenced only after the proprietor became aware that a request for invalidation might be filed.

If the ground for invalidation of a registration concerns only some of the goods for which the trademark has been registered, the registration will be invalidated only in respect of those goods.

## Section 27

A court of law shall rule on whether to invalidate a registration and declare a trademark forfeit when a suit to that end is brought against the proprietor of the mark.

A suit of the kind referred to in the foregoing subsection may be brought by any person who has suffered a prejudice due to the registration. If the case is based on section 13, on paragraphs (1) to (3) of section 14(1) or on section 26, the suit may also be brought by the Public Prosecutor or by a body safeguarding the interests of the persons carrying on the trade or profession concerned.

If the plaintiff so requests, an entry to the effect that a suit has been brought shall be made in the Register.

## Chapter 4 - **Special Provisions for the Protection of Foreign Trademarks**

### Section 28

If a trademark applicant does not carry on his business in Finland, his application must be accompanied by a certificate to the effect that he has had the same trademark registered for the same goods in the foreign country in which he carries on his business or is domiciled, or of which he is a national.

No certificate of the kind referred to in the foregoing subsection shall be required if the foreign country does not require a similar statement from a person who is a Finnish national, or is domiciled or carries on his business in Finland.

### Section 29

A trademark registered in a foreign country may be registered in Finland in the form in which it is registered in the foreign country, provided that reciprocal rights exist, that the registration does not contravene section 13 or 14 and that the trademark has not lost its distinguishing power.

Notwithstanding the provisions of the foregoing subsection, minor changes may be made on the basis of reciprocity when a foreign trademark is registered, provided that they do not alter the general impression of the trademark.

### Section 30

The Government may decree that an application for registration of a trademark in Finland if the same trademark has previously been filed for registration abroad, shall at the applicant's request be considered, in relation to other applications or trade symbols in use, to have been made at the same time as the application filed abroad.

Conditions governing the grant of priority under the foregoing subsection may also be laid down by decree.



## Section 31

An applicant for a trademark registration or proprietor of a registered trademark not domiciled in Finland shall appoint a representative resident in Finland to represent him in all matters concerning the trademark. A Finnish corporate body may also act as a representative. The name of the representative shall be entered in the Register. Any person not domiciled in Finland who has filed an opposition shall appoint a representative resident in Finland to represent him in the opposition proceedings.

If the applicant for a trademark registration or the proprietor of a registered trademark does not have a duly authorized representative, the registering authority shall, using his last known address, invite him to remedy the situation within a prescribed time limit, on pain of the application being considered withdrawn or the mark being removed from the Register. If the registering authority has no address for the applicant or proprietor, a public notice has to be published in the Trademark Gazette.

## Chapter 5 - **Assignment and Licensing**

### Section 32

A trademark may be transferred to another party; the transfer may relate to either all or some of the goods for which the trademark has been registered or has become established.

When a firm holding a trademark passes into new ownership, the trademark shall accompany the property unless the condition has been made that it shall remain with the previous owner, or that both the previous and the new owner of the firm may use it for different kinds of goods.

### Section 33

The transfer of a registered trademark shall be recorded in the Register on request. If the registering authority finds that use of a trademark after such transfer is clearly liable to mislead the public, permission to record the transfer in the Register shall be withheld unless the misleading element is removed by means of a change or addition to the trademark.

A transfer not recorded in the Register shall not affect a third party who has obtained the trademark in good faith.

If any person wishes to pledge his trademark rights, a written agreement shall be made and entered in the Register. No right of pledge shall be valid until such an entry has been made.

### Section 34

The proprietor of a registered trademark may license another person to use it in his business without relinquishing property rights in the trademark. A licence may concern the whole or part of the country, and it may cover either all or part of the goods protected by the registration. The number of licensees may be one or more. On request, such a licence shall be entered in the Register. The registering authority may refuse entry, however, if use of the licensed trademark is clearly liable to mislead the public.

When a licence is proved to have expired, the entry shall be deleted from the Register.

A licence not entered in the Register shall not affect a third party who has obtained the trademark in good faith.

Unless otherwise agreed, the licensee may not transfer his rights to a third party.

#### Section 35

Trademark rights shall not be attachable for a debt unless a right of pledge has been established on it.

If the assets of the proprietor of a trademark are surrendered in the event of bankruptcy, his trademark rights shall be included among those assets.

### Chapter 6 - **Prohibition on the Use of Misleading Trade Symbols**

#### Section 36

If a trade symbol that has been transferred or licensed becomes misleading in the form in which it is used by the new proprietor or licensee, a court of law may, at its discretion, prohibit the new proprietor or licensee from using it.

The use of the symbol may also be prohibited in other cases, namely if the trade symbol is misleading or if its proprietor, or another person with his consent, uses it in a manner liable to mislead the public.

Action under this section may be brought by the Public Prosecutor, by any person who suffers a prejudice due to the use of the trade symbol, or by a body dedicated to safeguarding the interests of the persons carrying on the trade or profession concerned.

#### Section 37

If the use of a trade symbol is prohibited under section 36, the court may, where practicable, order that a trade symbol placed on goods, their packaging, brochures, leaflets, commercial documents or the like contrary to a prohibition under section 36 be erased or altered so as to be no longer misleading. If this cannot be done in any other way, the court shall order that the material so marked be destroyed or changed in a specified manner.

Material referred to in the above subsection may be confiscated pending the implementation of the said order in which case the general regulations on confiscation in criminal cases shall apply.

### Chapter 7 - **Consequences of Infringement of Trademark Rights**

#### Section 38

Any person who infringes the right of the proprietor of a trade symbol protected by this Act may be prohibited by court order from proceeding with or repeating the offending act unless there are special reasons for not doing so.

If the infringement is deliberate or due to negligence, the aggrieved party shall be entitled to compensation from the defendant for all the damage he has suffered. If the negligence has only been slight, the court may modify the compensation awarded at its discretion.

Even if the defendant is not found guilty of negligence, the court may, where deemed reasonable in view of his financial and other circumstances, order that he hand over to the aggrieved party the profits he has made from such infringement during a period of not more than the three preceding years.

#### Section 39

Anyone who deliberately infringes the right to a trade symbol protected by this Act shall, unless the act is punishable as an industrial property rights offence under section 2 of chapter 49 of the Penal Code, be sentenced to a fine for a violation of trademark rights.

Prosecution for infringement under the foregoing subsection shall not be brought by the Public Prosecutor except at the instigation of the aggrieved party.

In the case of a registered trademark, no penalty may be imposed unless the infringement occurred after the date of registration.

#### Section 40

A damages suit under Section 38 must be brought within three years of the time at which the plaintiff learned of the infringement and ascertained the identity of the infringer, and in any case not later than within ten years of the time at which the infringement occurred.

Notwithstanding the foregoing subsection, in the case of a registered trademark a suit may be brought for infringement before the date of registration, provided that it is brought within a year of that date.

#### Section 41

At the request of a person whose right to a trade symbol has been infringed, the court may order that, if practicable, a symbol placed on goods, their packaging, leaflets, commercial documents or the like without authorization shall be erased or altered in such a way as to ensure that it will no longer be misused. If this cannot be done in any other way, the court shall order that the material so marked be destroyed or changed in a specified manner. The court may also, on request, order that the material be surrendered to the plaintiff against payment.

Regardless of whether or not the infringement is deliberate, the Public Prosecutor or the court may order that the material referred to in the foregoing subsection be confiscated if the plaintiff so requests and, where considered necessary, gives acceptable security for any damage that the defendant may suffer as a result of the confiscation and for the costs occasioned by it; otherwise, in this case the general provisions on confiscation in criminal cases shall apply.

## Chapter 8 - **Litigation Concerning Trademarks**

### Section 42

The District Court of Helsinki shall be the competent court of law in matters concerning entitlement to a trademark, invalidation of the registration of a trademark, declaring a trademark forfeit, prohibition of the use of a trademark, action under section 46 or infringement of trademark rights.

A suit brought against the proprietor of a trademark not domiciled in Finland shall be heard by the District Court of Helsinki.

The District Court of Helsinki shall serve as the trademark court according to the Council Regulation referred to in section 57(1) below.

### Section 43

An application for an injunction under section 38 may be heard at the same time as an action under section 2 of chapter 49 of the Penal Code or section 39 of this Act.

### Section 44

If the defendant in an action for infringement of registered trademark rights claims that the registration is null and void and the truth of the matter is not immediately clear, the court shall allow him a period within which to bring action in a separate court hearing in order to have the registration declared null and void; no ruling in the original case may be handed down until the matter of the validity of the registration has been finally settled. If the secondary action is not brought within the period allowed, the court shall rule on the case without regard to the counterclaim.

The foregoing subsection shall apply equally if the defendant claims that the trademark has been invalidated.

### Section 45

If a person has been granted the sole right to use a registered trademark in Finland and an entry regarding the licence has been made in the Register, either the proprietor of the mark or the licensee, or both, may be recognized as plaintiffs in actions concerning the infringement of trademark rights.

If the licensee referred to in the foregoing subsection wants to bring an infringement action, he shall inform the proprietor of the trademark accordingly; if he fails to do so, his suit shall not be heard.

This section shall apply equally if the proprietor has reserved the right of parallel use on granting an exclusive licence to another.

### Section 46

An action to determine whether or not a right to a trade symbol exists, or whether or not a particular act infringes that right, may be taken for consideration by the court where there is uncertainty that is detrimental to the plaintiff.

In such cases, section 45 shall apply as appropriate.

#### Section 47

An action for invalidation of a trademark registration may continue against the original defendant in the event of the trademark being assigned to another after legal proceedings have commenced, and, if the court finds for the plaintiff, its decision shall be equally binding upon the party to whom the trademark has been assigned. This shall apply equally in an action seeking to have a trademark declared forfeit.

#### Section 48

When an injunction is applied for under this Act, the court may, at the request of the plaintiff, grant an injunction against the defendant either during the proceedings or in its decision, to remain in force until the main action has been settled with legal effect, or until the same or another court has previously ruled otherwise. Before such an injunction is granted, the plaintiff may be ordered to provide reasonable security for any damage that the defendant might suffer from the injunction.

A separate appeal may be made against court ruling handed down during proceedings concerning an injunction or the lifting thereof.

#### Section 49

A copy of any court decision in an action concerning the expired registration of trade symbols, or in any of the actions referred to in sections 10, 25, 26, 36 and 46, shall be sent by the court to the National Board of Patents and Registration of Finland. In addition the court shall inform the Community Trademark Office referred to in section 57(1) of an action for revocation of a Community Trademark and invalidation of the registration and send a copy of the court's final ruling to the said Office.

### **Chapter 9 - Public Notices, Notifications, Appeals and Revocation of Decisions**

#### Section 50

As well as in the cases referred to in sections 20 and 21, public notice shall be given when a registered trademark is modified under section 23, when a Register entry is removed under sections 24 to 26, 31 or 52, or when an assignment under section 33 or a licence granted under section 34 is recorded in the Register.

#### Section 50a

If it is not possible to notify the applicant at the address given by him, notification may take place by public notice in the Trademark Gazette.

#### Section 51

An appeal against the final decision of the registration authority in a trademark case may be made by the applicant if the decision was unfavourable to him or if the case was dismissed. An appeal against a final decision taken by the registration authority concerning an opposition filed against the registration may be lodged by the losing party. Even if the person who filed the opposition withdraws his appeal, the case may be

examined if there are special reasons for doing so.

#### Section 51a

An appeal against a ruling of the registration authority under this Act shall be filed with the Board of Appeals at the National Board of Patents and Registration of Finland. Separate regulations shall apply to the appeals procedure and the proceedings of the Board of Appeals.

#### Section 52

If the registration authority receives notice of an international registration from the International Bureau referred to in section 53, and if in that registration the date on which the protection begins is earlier than the date on which the protection accorded by the Finnish registration of the same trademark begins and the goods covered by the international registration are wholly or partly the same as in the Finnish registration, the registration authority shall revoke its decision concerning the Finnish registration and take a new decision on the matter.

The provisions of subsection 1 shall by analogy be applied if the registering authority receives from the Community Trademark Office referred to in section 57 a notice of an application for a Community trademark or of an application within the meaning of section 57a for the registration of a trademark in Finland.

If the registration authority finds, after its decision to grant a registration and before the period for filing oppositions has expired, that the decision to grant the registration is based on an obvious error in processing, the registration authority may revoke its incorrect decision and take a new decision on the matter.

### Chapter 10 - **International Registration of Trademarks**

#### Section 53

International trademark registration means the registration of a trademark effected by the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization in accordance with the Protocol of 27 June 1989, Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks concluded on 14 April 1891.

The National Board of Patents and Registration of Finland shall be responsible in Finland for all action relating to international registrations, and shall keep a record of international registrations in force in Finland.

#### Section 54

If a Finnish national or any person domiciled or having a real and effective industrial or commercial establishment in Finland wishes to apply for international registration, he shall file an application for international registration with the National Board of Patents and Registration of Finland. It shall be a condition of applying for international registration that he has a registration or pending application concerning the same trademark in Finland.

## Section 55

An international application shall be filed in writing in accordance with separate provisions. The prescribed fee shall be paid on the filing of the application.

## Section 56

The registration authority shall satisfy itself that the application for international registration corresponds to the registration that the applicant has been granted in Finland or to his pending application in Finland.

If the correspondence referred to in the foregoing subsection does not exist, the registration authority shall call upon the applicant to rectify the international application within a specified time limit, on pain of the application being dismissed.

If the correspondence referred to in the foregoing subsection does exist, the registration authority shall attach a certificate to that effect to the application and convey it with the application to the International Bureau before two months have elapsed from the filing date of the application.

## Section 56a

When the registration authority receives a notification of an international registration having effect in Finland from the International Bureau, it shall examine whether there is any obstacle to the registration.

## Section 56b

If the registration authority finds that a trademark filed for international registration does not comply with the conditions of registration laid down in this Act, it shall notify the International Bureau that the international registration has no effect in Finland. The registration authority shall notify its refusal, together with a statement of all grounds, to the International Bureau before the expiry of a period of 18 months from the date of the International Bureau notification referred to in section 56a.

If the statement issued by the proprietor of an international registration commenting on the notification by the registration authority referred to in the foregoing subsection does not present any grounds on which the trademark could be deemed to comply with the conditions of registration laid down in this Act, the registration authority shall rule that the international registration has no or only a partial effect in Finland.

If the proprietor of an international registration has not within the given time limit submitted his statement commenting on the registration authority's notification referred to in subsection 1, the international registration shall not take effect in Finland. If the said notification only concerned some of the goods in the international registration, the international registration shall take effect in Finland in respect of those of the goods that the notification did not concern.

## Section 56c

If no obstacle to registration is found, the registration authority shall give public notice of the International Bureau notification referred to in section 56a as laid down in section

20(1). The public notice shall specify the date accorded to the international registration by the International Bureau.

Any opposition to an international registration in Finland shall be filed in writing with the registration authority within two months of the date of the public notice.

#### Section 56d

If the registration authority finds, after an opposition has been filed, that the trademark that is the subject of an international registration does not comply with the conditions of registration laid down in this Act, it shall notify the International Bureau, in the manner laid down in section 56b(1), that the international registration has no effect in Finland.

If the time limit specified in section 56c(2) expires more than 18 months after the International Bureau notification referred to in section 56a, the registration authority shall notify the International Bureau within 18 months of the said notification that the registration may later cease to have effect. In that case the notification of the fact that the registration has no effect in Finland shall be conveyed within one month of the expiry of the time limit referred to in section 56c(2).

Once the decision, taken after opposition has been filed, that the international registration has no effect in Finland, has taken legal effect, the registration authority shall give public notice of the fact.

#### Section 56e

An international trademark registration having effect in Finland shall be in force as from the date accorded by the International Bureau under section 56c(1). Provisions laid down in and under this Act shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the international registration.

#### Section 56f

If the proprietor of an international registration who is not domiciled in Finland wishes to submit a statement to the National Board of Patents and Registration of Finland, he shall appoint a representative resident in Finland.

#### Section 56g

If the proprietor of a trademark registered in Finland has been granted an international registration in respect of the same mark that has effect in Finland, the international registration of the trademark replaces the Finnish registration if all the goods covered by the Finnish registration are included in the list of goods covered by the international registration.

The registration authority shall on request make an entry in the Register to the effect that the international registration of the trademark is in force and give public notice of the fact.



#### Section 56h

If a trademark is wholly or partly removed from the International Register, the registration authority shall remove the corresponding parts thereof from the register that it keeps and give public notice of the fact.

#### Section 56i

If an international registration valid in Finland ceases to have effect within five years from the date referred to in section 56c(1) on account of the validity of the national registration or pendency of the national application on which the international registration is based having ceased, and the proprietor of the trademark seeks registration for the same trademark in Finland, that application shall be considered to have been filed on the date referred to in section 56c(1) provided that:

- (1) the application is filed within three months of the expiry of the validity of the international registration;
- (2) the goods covered by the Finnish application were included in the international registration having effect in Finland;
- (3) the application complies in other respects with the requirements laid down for registration and the applicant pays the prescribed fees.

The registration authority shall make an entry in the Register stating that the Finnish application is based on the international registration and give public notice of the fact.

#### Section 56j

If an international registration valid in Finland ceases to have effect because a party to the Protocol referred to in section 53 gives notice of termination in respect of the Protocol, and the proprietor of the trademark files the same trademark for registration in Finland, his application shall be considered to have been made on the date referred to in section 56c(1) provided that:

- (1) the application is filed within two years of the date on which the notice of termination came into force;
- (2) the goods covered by the Finnish application were included in the international registration valid in Finland;
- (3) the application complies in other respects with the requirements laid down for registration and the applicant pays the prescribed fees.

The registration authority shall make an entry in the Register stating that the Finnish application is based on the international registration and give public notice of the fact.

#### Section 56k

Public notice shall be given of renewals, transfers, and removals from the Register of international registrations and of licences that concern international registrations and have been notified to the registering authority.

## Section 56l

An appeal against a decision by the registration authority may be lodged by the applicant for or proprietor of an international registration who has sought such registration in Finland if the decision has been unfavourable to him or if the case has been dismissed.

An appeal against a decision taken by the registration authority declaring an international registration effective in Finland despite an opposition filed may be lodged by the person who filed the opposition. Even if the person who filed the opposition withdraws his appeal, the case may be examined if there are special reasons for doing so.

Section 51a shall apply as appropriate to appeals under the foregoing two subsections.

## Chapter 10a - **Community Trademark**

### Section 57

Community trade mark means a trademark registered by the Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market operating in the Internal Market of the European Community (Community Trademark Office) under Council Regulation (EC) No. 40/94 on the Community Trademark.

An application for a Community trademark may be filed with the National Board of Patents and Registration of Finland, which shall forward it to the Community Trademark Office. The prescribed fee for the application shall be payable to the National Board of Patents and Registration of Finland.

### Section 57a

A request which concerns the conversion of a Community trade mark or an application therefor into an application for a national trademark and which the Community Trade Mark Office has forwarded to the office shall be handled as a national application provided that the applicant:

- (1) pays the prescribed fees;
- (2) submits the registering authority a translation in Finnish or Swedish of the conversion request and the accompanying annex filed in a foreign language;
- (3) gives the address at which the applicant can be reached in Finland; and
- (4) provides a representation of the trademark.

An application made through conversion is considered to have the same filing date, priority or seniority from Finland as the Community trademark or application therefor.

## Chapter 11 - **Enforcement and Implementation of the Act**

### Section 58

Further instructions on the procedure to be followed by applicants for registration, on the giving of public notice and other procedures in that connection and on the maintenance of the Register of Trademarks, including changes to be made in the Register, and other

orders necessary for the implementation of this Act, will be issued by decree.

Fees to be collected under this Act shall be prescribed separately.

#### Section 59

This Act enters into force on 1 June 1964. The following shall be repealed at that time:

The Decree on the Protection of Trademarks of 11 February 1889;

Chapter XXXVI, section 13, of the Penal Code;

Section 2 of the Decree of 21 December 1885 granting greater freedom to the iron industry.

#### Section 60

The validity of trademarks registered before the entry into force of this Act shall be determined in accordance with the earlier provisions.

The right to a trademark may be invalidated under section 26 even where it was granted or became established before the entry into force of this Act.

Pending applications for registration shall be governed by this Act.

#### Section 61

In the case of trademarks registered earlier, the period of five years provided for in section 8 shall be calculated as from the date of entry into force of this Act.

#### Section 62

The provisions of section 40 regarding the period during which damages are to be claimed shall apply equally if the act for which compensation is payable was committed before the entry into force of this Act; if, however, the period of three years referred to in the said section began before the date of entry into force of this Act, it shall be counted as having begun on that date.

#### Section 63

When the registration of an earlier-registered trademark is first renewed after the entry into force of this Act, the registration period based on that renewal shall be regarded as ending on the date corresponding to the original registration date, even if the registration period according to an earlier renewal is calculated differently.

On renewal of registration, the list of classes of goods shall be amended so that it conforms to any changes that have been made in the classification.

## Section 64

A trademark registration that was renewable without an application under the earlier provisions shall henceforth be renewed in accordance with the renewal provisions contained in this Act. If no application for renewal is filed within one year of the date on which this Act enters into force, the trademark shall be removed from the Register.