



INPI

**INTELECTUAL
PROPERTY GUIDE
FOR EXPORTERS**

SINGAPORE

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Introduction

This guide is part of a collection developed to help Brazilian exporters protect their Intellectual Property (IP) assets in the countries to which they wish to export.

Each country has its own particularities regarding the IP system and this volume is dedicated to Singapore.

The IP topics covered in this guide are: trademarks, patents, industrial designs, geographical indications, new plant varieties and copyright.

The guide is divided into three parts. In the first, we indicate reliable sources where you can deepen your knowledge of Intellectual Property. In the second, we present the Singapore IP system, providing guidance on how to protect your IP assets in the country and addressing issues to be considered before starting to export there. At the end, we provide information on what to do if you suffer any type of violation of your rights.

Our goal is to provide important and easy-to-understand information so that you can safely navigate the IP challenges and make the most of the opportunities of exporting to Singapore.

Before start exporting

Before starting your export process, what steps need to be taken in the area of IP?

1. Know what IP is;
2. Have in-depth knowledge of your business's IP and protect it in your country of origin;
3. Develop a strategic export plan that includes IP-related issues;
4. Research whether there is anything similar to your IP assets that is already protected in the countries to which you wish to export;
5. Protect your IP in these countries and _ only after that;
6. Take your product or service abroad.

This guide will show you:

1. The main mistakes exporters make in the area of IP;

2. Where to learn more about IP;
3. Where and how to protect your IP in Brazil;
4. Where to conduct research to see if there are IP assets similar to yours in other countries;
5. What is Singapore's international IP legislation;
6. Where and how to protect your IP in Singapore;
7. Some cost estimates for this process;
8. What to do to protect yourself in case of being copied.

We hope this helps you in your export process!

Five biggest mistakes exporters make in the area of Intellectual Property

Some common IP mistakes made by those starting to export that we want to help you avoid:

1. Did you know that your trademark, patent and industrial design are only valid in the country in which they are registered?

One of the most common mistakes made by exporters is not knowing that Intellectual Property rights, such as trademarks, patents and industrial designs, are **TERRITORIAL**. This means that, although we live in a globalized world, IP rights are not. They are only valid in the country or territory in which they were protected.

The only exception to this rule refers to what is protected by copyright. This is because the 181 signatory countries of the Berne Convention agreed that the protection of rights to artistic and literary works, among others, should not be subject to compliance with any formality, nor depend on the existence of protection of the work in its country of origin. The author has moral and patrimonial rights in relation to his work, as long as it was produced, regardless of registration.

However, all other intellectual property rights need to be protected **IN EACH COUNTRY** to which you wish to export, so that you have rights over these assets.

Therefore, **BEFORE** you start your export activities, it is crucial that you decide **WHERE** you want to protect your IP assets. This is a fundamental decision that should be made with caution and planning, as the costs involved can be high.

2. Do you want to have your trademark, patent and design protected?

Did you know that disclosing an invention or industrial design without a previously filed protection application can make your rights over these assets unviable?

We are sure that you do not want your IP copied, inadvertently made public or protected by third parties. Imagine, for example, not being able to use your own brand in another country because someone else has already registered it before you.

That is why it is essential that you seek to guarantee your IP rights **BEFORE** entering and introducing your products in a new market. Remember: **what guarantees IP rights in a territory is its REGISTRATION, not just its use.**

When planning your international expansion, pay special attention to the protection of your IP assets. This way, you will avoid unpleasant surprises and maintain control over your resources.

3. Do you want to protect yourself from being sued for IP infringement in another country?

Did you know that it is essential to **RESEARCH** whether there are already trademarks, patents or industrial designs similar to yours that are already protected in the country to which you wish to export? This is an important step to avoid the risk of infringing the rights of a third party in a new market.

Most countries provide databases for research in their IP offices. You can search these systems online to see if there is any prior art that could make your application unfeasible. This prior search can help you save a lot of time and money. In addition, there are also international databases that allow you to conduct research. Several of them are listed in this guide.

4. Does an IP right obtained in one country guarantee the same right in another?

Many exporters believe that if they have obtained an IP right in one country, they will automatically obtain the same right in another. Unfortunately, this is not the case.

Although there are some common parameters established by international agreements, the IP area presents great variation between countries in terms of legislation and rules for granting rights.

Therefore, there is no guarantee that what was granted in one country will also be granted in another. Each nation has its own particularities and requirements when it comes to protecting Intellectual Property, which makes the decision of each country **INDEPENDENT**.

This means that, when planning your export strategy, you need to carefully analyze the IP situation in each destination country. It is not possible to assume that a right obtained in one place will automatically be recognized in another.

5. Did you include IP issues when you did your export project?

Developing a good **STRATEGIC PLAN** is key to export success. Many exporters make the mistake of neglecting IP-related issues when planning their export activities. However, it is essential to consider these issues as an essential part of this process.

IP assets can be some of the most valuable assets your company has. Therefore, it is essential that your planning is careful and includes a detailed analysis of these assets.

Depending on the number of countries in which you decide to protect these assets, the costs can be significant. Therefore, it is necessary to evaluate in advance what, and where, you want to protect¹.

Regarding the time limits you have to protect your IP assets, according to the Paris Agreement, an international treaty of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) valid in 176 countries, when you file an application for a patent, utility model (MU), trademark or industrial design (ID) with an IP office, you have a period of 12 months (for patents and utility models) and 6 months (for industrial designs and trademarks) to request protection in any other country, without losing the “right of

¹ Some important questions that need to be answered in strategic planning: why, what, when, where, with whom, how and how much it costs to export.

priority”, that is, during this period you will have priority over another depositor who files something similar to what you filed, anywhere in the world. After this period, what you protected in one territory will be free and available to anyone, in all countries where your asset was not protected.

We emphasize that this happens when you choose to make national deposits, in each country individually. There is also the option of making international deposits, in a group of countries, all at once, through WIPO, which greatly facilitates the process. We will detail this option later.

For these reasons, it is essential that you carry out good strategic planning regarding the IP area in the initial phase of the project, even before starting export activities, when you decide to protect your IP assets. This way, you will avoid missing opportunities, reduce risks and reduce unnecessary costs.

By prioritizing IP planning in your export project, you will be taking a crucial step towards the success of your business in the international market.

Courses on Intellectual Property

Intellectual Property is traditionally divided into three branches:

- **Copyright**, which protects literary, artistic, technological works and software;
- **Industrial property**, such as trademarks, patents, utility models, industrial designs and geographical indications; and
- **Sui generis protection**, such as the protection of cultivars.



If you wish to deepen your knowledge of IP before deciding to use it when exporting to Singapore, you can consult the schedule of free courses on the subject available on the website of the National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI).



You can also participate in the free IP course, in Portuguese, offered twice a year by WIPO, called: DL 730 “Executive Course on Intellectual Property and Exports”.




Intellectual Property information and tools for companies

WIPO also offers a range of freely available tools, guides and information that can help you explore IP possibilities for your business.





INPI offers guides on intellectual property for businesses that can help you explore the possibilities of IP for your company.

Table 1: INPI Information and tools on IP for companies

Tools	Link
IP Information for Businesses	

WIPO also offers a series of tools, guides and information on IP available free of charge that can help you.

Table 2: IP information and tools for businesses from WIPO

Tools	Link
IP information for companies	
IP self-diagnosis for companies	
IP guides for companies*	
IP strategic step-by-step guide for SMEs	

* Some of the guides made available by WIPO, in Spanish, English and French, are:

1. **Secrets of Intellectual Property: A Guide for Small and Medium-sized Exporters;**
2. **Inventing the Future: An Introduction to Patents for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises;**
3. **Making a Mark: An Introduction to Trademarks for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises;**
4. **Looking Good: An Introduction to Industrial Designs for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises;**
5. **Exchanging Value - Negotiating Technology Licensing Agreements: A Training Manual;**
6. **A Guide to Intellectual Property for Startups; entre outros.**

How to protect your Intellectual Property in Brazil

Before you start exporting, consider protecting your IP in Brazil. Here we provide a step-by-step guide to trademarks, patents, industrial designs, new variety of plants protection and copyrighted works.

Table 3: Step-by-step guide to filing Intellectual Property in Brazil









Type of IP Institution	Type of IP Institution	Link
Trademarks	National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI)	
Patents	National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI)	
Industrial Design	National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI)	
New Variety of Plants Protection	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAPA)	

Table 4: Institutions for voluntary registration of copyrighted works in Brazil

Type of Copyrighted Work	Institution	Link
Musical Works	School of Music of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ)	
Architectural Works	Brazilian Council of Architecture and Urbanism (CAU)	
Audiovisual Works	National Film Agency (ANCINE)	
Computer Programs	National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI)	

National Intellectual Property Rights Institutions in Singapore

In Singapore, the **Intellectual Property Office of Singapore** is primarily responsible for the country's Intellectual Property system, which includes the registration and administration of trademarks, patents, industrial designs, copyrights, geographical indications, registration of new plant varieties (cultivar protection), industrial secrets and Layout-Designs of Integrated Circuits.



Where to conduct your IP research in Singapore

How to search for IP protection in Singapore?

As we said, before applying for an IP right in another country, you need to check whether your trademark, invention, industrial design or plant variety already exists and is protected.

If you find something similar in the market you want to explore, it may be difficult to get the protection you want.

Your search should include the Internet, social media, international IP research databases and research databases in the country where you are filing.

Make sure your search is as broad as possible to avoid unnecessary costs in the future.

With the advancement of Artificial Intelligence technology, it will soon be much easier and faster to find out whether there are already protected assets similar to the ones you want to protect.

Trademark search

Before applying for a trademark, you can start by searching the **IPOS Digital Hub** for trademarks for products and services similar to yours.



You can also search the WIPO **Global Brand Database**, which contains data from over 80 countries and includes registered trademarks, appellations of origin and official emblems.



Search Madrid Monitor, in turn, allows access to international applications and registrations made through the Madrid System, with millions of registered trademarks from its more than 130 member countries. In this database, your search can include words, numbers, dates, classes and countries.



Another database available in the trademark area is **Search TMview**. TMview contains trademarks from all over the European Union and parts of Africa, Asia, America and Oceania. This database allows searches by words, numbers, dates, classes and countries.



If you find the process complex, you can hire a professional specialized in IP to help you.

Patent search

Before you file a patent and apply for protection for an invention, you need to make sure that it is new and inventive. Since the invention must be new, it cannot have been published anywhere in the world, not just in the country where you want to protect it.

The **IPOS Digital Hub** is a good place to start your search.



You can continue your search on **Google Patent Advanced Search**, which allows you to search by name, date, inventor, applicant, patent office and language, among other options.



You can also search WIPO's **Patentscope**, which contains data on over 100 million patents. Here you can search by title, abstract, name and filing date.



INPI examiners prepared, based on material provided by WIPO, a Guide that indicates how to conduct a search in **Patentscope**.



The patent search process is more complex than the trademark and industrial design search process. Because of this, you may want to hire a professional specialized in IP to help you.

Industrial Design search

Your industrial design needs to be new and distinctive worldwide in order for you to be able to protect it. You will therefore need to search for any published designs and see if they are similar to yours.

In addition to design databases, your search should include trademark and patent databases, the internet and social media. Any similar results, even if they are not registered, may prevent your right to register the design.

In the databases, you can search by image, product name, classification, number and owner.

The **IPOS Digital Hub** is a good place to start your searches.



The **Global Design Database** is a worldwide collection of data organized by WIPO, based on the filings made through the Hague System. You can search by description, name, applicant, date and country.



DesignView, on the other hand, allows you to search for designs from across the European Union and parts of Africa, Asia, America and Oceania. You can search by name, number, designer, Locarno classification, filing date and country.



Plant Variety search

If you want to sell your plant variety internationally, you will need to do an international search to verify that your plant variety is truly new.

First, you can check online to see if there are any similar varieties to yours.

Then, you can search the cultivar databases of the country where you want to protect and market your new variety. In most databases, you will find information regarding the plant's common name, genus, species, title holder, and term of protection.

In the European Union, there is a plant variety database at the **Community Plant Variety Office** (CPVO), with information on plant registrations from over 70 countries.



You can also search the **International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants** (UPOV) PLUTO plant variety database, which provides name results for plant varieties protected by members of UPOV and other international organizations. To access PLUTO, you will need to create a user account.



Relevant facts about Intellectual Property in Singapore

Trademarks

A trademark in Singapore is a sign that you can use to distinguish your company's goods or services from those of other traders. It can be in the form of letters, words, names,

signatures, numerals, devices (figurative elements), brands, headings, labels, tickets, shapes and colors, or any combination of these elements.

In Singapore, there are three types of trademarks: conventional (words, figures, combination of images with words); unconventional (sound, movement, holograms, colors, packaging, 3D shapes) and collective and certification marks.

The criteria to have your trademark registered in Singapore, you can find here.



Remember that, differently from other IP actives, trademark needs to be distinctive just in Singapore in order for it to be approved in the country.

In the country, a trademark is acquired through **Trademark Registration**, which is valid for **10 years** and **can be renewed indefinitely every 10 years**, subject to payment of the corresponding fees.

There are two ways to register a trademark in Singapore:

1. **National Route:** Register a **National Trademark** with the IPOS.
2. **International Route:** Register an **International Trademark** through the WIPO Madrid International System. In this system, you choose from over 130 member countries those in which you wish to have your trademark protected, with a single application, in a single language (English, French or Spanish) and with the payment of a single set of fees.

The purpose of the Madrid System is to facilitate the registration of trademarks worldwide. The registration request must be made through one of the IP offices of the countries that are part of the agreement. The INPI, in Brazil, is a member. Therefore, if your company wishes to renew or expand its global portfolio of trademarks, it can do so easily through this centralized model.

After the International Registration has been certified by the office of origin (the office where the application for registration was filed), the registration will be sent to WIPO and distributed to the countries you have designated, those where you want to protect your trademark. This is where a second stage begins, known

as the national phase, in which your application will be examined by the IP offices of the designated countries. When examining the application, these offices will use local laws and practices for their examination, which means that **each country's decision is independent**. After your application has been reviewed by each of them, the offices will communicate their decisions to WIPO, which will in turn inform you of the decisions of each of the designated countries.

The path you choose will depend on your business needs. Further on in this guide, there are cost links so you can make analyses that will facilitate your decision-making process, as well as links to make deposits for each of the IP rights presented here, through the different existing routes.

Patents

A patent is a right granted for an invention. It can take the form of a new product, process or technical improvement to existing technology.

Patents are granted for inventions that are new, involve an inventive step and are industrially applicable.

The protection of a **Patent** in Singapore is **20 years** from the date of filing. After grant, the patent must be maintained annually, starting from the 5th year.

In Singapore, there are three different ways to apply for a Patent:

1. **National Route:** you file your patent directly with IPOS.
2. **Regional Route:** Singapore is part of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which has the ASEAN Patent Examination Cooperation (ASPEC). Intellectual Property Offices from 9 countries participate in ASPEC. These countries are: Brunei, Cambodia, Singapore, Philippines, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam. You can apply for your patent via the ASEAN and choose in which of these countries you want to protect it. This route may be interesting if you want to protect your patent in several Southeast Asian countries.
3. **International Route:** As Singapore is a signatory to the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), you can choose it from among the countries in the WIPO PCT International Patent System. Through this system, with a single patent

application, in one language and one set of rates, you can apply for protection in over 150 countries at the same time.

The international application via PCT has two phases: international and national

- International Phase - There are two ways to file an international application: directly at the Office of a country that is part of the PCT (where the applicant is domiciled or a national of that country); or, at the International Bureau of WIPO.

When making an international deposit, it is necessary to indicate an Office that is approved by the PCT to carry out the international search (International Search Authority – ISA), among those indicated by the country where the international deposit occurred.

The language of the international application must comply with that defined by the country in which it was filed and by the chosen ISA. If Brazil is chosen as the ISA, the filing may be in Portuguese, English or Spanish.

- National Phase - After the international phase, which generally lasts 30 months from the date of international filing or priority (if applicable), you must apply for the granting of your patent directly with the countries in which you are interested. At the end of the process, you will have the patent for your invention, if granted, in each country you chose. **The decision of each country is independent of that of the others.**

Entry into the national phase can be requested in any country that is part of the PCT, adapting your international PCT application to the legislation of that country.

Another relevant topic, regarding patents, is that IPOS is a member of the Global Patent Prosecution Highway (GPPH). This means that you can request accelerated examination of your patent application.

There is no Utility Model Patent in Singapore.

Industrial Design

Industrial Design refers to the features of a shape, configuration, colors, pattern or ornament applied to any article or non-physical product that gives that article or non-

physical product its appearance. It protects the external appearance of the article or non-physical product.

In Singapore, designs can be two-dimensional and/or three-dimensional, and can be applied to everyday items.

In the country, the protection of an **Industrial Design (ID)** is **5 years**, and can be renewed twice, up to a maximum of **15 years**, from the date of filing.

There are two paths to registering your ID in Singapore.

1. **National Route:** The National ID registry, where you request protection directly from IPOS.
2. **International Route:** Registration of an international ID through the Hague System, which allows you to choose the countries where you want to have your ID protected, with a single application, from among the more than 90 countries participating in the WIPO System.

Geographical Indications

Geographical Indication (GI) is an IP right that protects the name of a product that has a specific geographical origin and owes its qualities and/or reputation to this origin.

Once a GI is registered, it will be protected for **10 years** from the date of registration. The registration can be **renewed indefinitely after its expiration every 10 years**.

New Plant Variety Protection

In Singapore, protection of a new plant variety is valid, after it is granted, for **25 years**, provided that it is renewed annually.

Copyright

The length of copyright protection in Singapore varies depending on the type of copyrighted work you own and the specific circumstances.

For literary works, the protection period is from the creation of the work until **70 years after the author's death**.

Since Singapore is a signatory to the Berne Convention, this means that you do not need to register your work in the country in order for your work to be protected by copyright.

Layout-Designs of Integrated Circuits

In Singapore, there is no need for registration of Layout-Designs of Integrated Circuits.

Intellectual Property Laws and Regulations in Singapore

Singapore has adopted a series of regulations and directives to protect and enforce IP rights in the region.

Table 5: Some of Singapore's IP laws

Theme	Law
Copyright and Related Rights (Neighboring Rights) Copy	Copyright Act 2021 (Act No. 22 of 2021, amended by the Statutes (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 2022)
Geographical Indications	Geographical Indications Act 2014 (Act No. 19 of 2014, amended up to the Intellectual Property (Border Enforcement) Act 2018)
Layout Designs of Integrated Circuits	Layout Designs of Integrated Circuits Act 1999 (Revised Edition 2020, amended up to the Courts (Civil and Criminal Justice) reform Act 2021)
Patents (Inventions)	Patents Act 1994 (Revised Edition 2020, amended up to the Statutes (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 2022)
Plant Variety Protection	Plant Varieties Protection Act 2004 (2020 Revised Edition, amended up to the Intellectual Property (Dispute Resolution) Act 2019)
Industrial Designs	Registered Designs Act 2000 (Revised Edition 2020, amended up to the Intellectual Property (Border Enforcement) Act 2018)
Trademarks	Trade Marks Act 1998 (Revised Edition 2020, amended up to the Statutes (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 2022)

A comprehensive list of Singapore's IP legislation can be found on the WIPO website.



International Intellectual Property Agreements in Singapore

Singapore is a signatory to several international IP agreements with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Table 6: International WIPO and WTO IP Administrated Treaties in Singapore

Agreement	Description
Paris Convention	It allows an applicant from another signatory state to apply for a patent or trademark and expect the same rights as a Singaporean holder.
Berne Convention	It ensures that parties to the convention, including Singapore, give equal recognition to copyright holders from other member states of the convention.
UPOV Convention	It establishes a harmonized system for the rights of producers of new plant varieties.
Patent Coopetation Treaty (PCT)	Allows inventors to search and obtain patent protection in over 150 countries. *
Madrid Protocol	Allows trademark holders to register their trademarks in over 120 countries. *
WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty (WPPT)	Deals with copyright in the digital environment.
Hague Agreement	It is an agreement for industrial designs under which it is possible to register designs in more than 90 countries. *
TRIPS	It establishes a minimum level of protection and enforcement of IP rights that all members of the World Trade Organization, including Singapore, must comply with.

* Data for October 2024






A comprehensive list of international IP agreements adopted by Singapore can be found on the WIPO website.



How to protect your Intellectual Property in Singapore

A list of IP objects recognised in Singapore, with a link to websites where information on how to protect each of them can be found in the tables below.













Table 7: Where to protect your IP in Singapore

IP Object	Description	Link
Patents (Invention) (IPOS)	Patents protect inventions, which are products or processes that provide a new way of doing something or offer a new technical solution.	
Trademarks (IPOS)	In Singapore, a trademark is a sign that you can use to distinguish your business's goods or services from those of other traders. It can be in the form of letters, words, names, signatures, numerals, devices (figurative elements), brands, headings, labels, tickets, shapes and colors, or any combination of these elements.	
Industrial Design (IPOS)	Industrial designs protect the external appearance of an article or non-physical product.	
Geographical Indications (IPOS)	GI protects the name of a product that has a specific geographical origin and owes its qualities and/or reputation to its specific origin.	
New Plant Varieties (IPOS)	Protection of new plant varieties.	

How to apply for protection of your Intellectual Property in Singapore via International Treaties and Cooperation Agreements

In the table below, we provide information on how and where to file your IP in Singapore, via international treaties and cooperations agreements.

Table 8: IP Applications in Singapore

IP Object	Description	Link
Patents	INPI information on how to protect your patent abroad.	
	INPI information on international patent filing.	
	INPI information on fees, codes and procedures of the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT).	
	Request for filing an International Patent Application via PCT directly at WIPO.	
	ASEAN Patent Examination Cooperation (ASPEC) Guidelines.	
	ASEAN Regional Patent Application.	
	Global Patent Prosecution Highway (GPPH) Application at IPOS.	
Trademarks	INPI information on the Madrid Protocol and step-by-step guide to applying for international trademark registration.	
	Request for International Trademark Registration directly on the WIPO website – Madrid System.	
Industrial Designs	INPI information on the Hague System and step-by-step guide to requesting an International Industrial Design Registration.	
	Request for international industrial design registration directly on the WIPO website – The Hague System.	
WIPO	All WIPO international filings.	

Intellectual Property costs in Singapore



Before deciding which system to use to file an IP application in Singapore, you need to evaluate the costs involved and each of the options.

Trademarks

In the case of trademarks, you can choose between national filing via IPOS or international filing via the Madrid System.

To make your decision easier, we have provided links to a comparative cost calculation in the table below. Please note that in the Madrid System, you will need to choose the countries in which you want to protect your trademark, from among the more than 130 countries that are part of the System.



Table 9: Information for calculating trademark filing costs

Institution	Link
IPOS Costs	
Madrid System Costs	

Patents

Understanding the costs involved in a patent, on the other hand, is much more complicated. In the table below, you will find information on the amounts of fees requested for a patent in the IPOS, as well as the PCT price list, so that you can get an idea of the costs involved in an international patent application.

Table 10: Information for calculating patent filing costs



Institution	Link
IPOS Costs	
PCT System Costs	

Regarding the costs of the ASPEC Regional Route, there is no additional fee to using it. Applicants only need to pay for the local search and examination fees at the respective IP offices.

Industrial Design

Regarding the costs involved in registering an industrial design, below is a table that allows a comparison of the costs of filing an industrial design with the IPOS and the WIPO Hague System.

Table 11: Information for calculating industrial design filing costs

Instituição	Link
IPOS Costs	
Costs of the Hague System	

How to enforce your Intellectual Property Rights in Singapore

IP enforcement is quite effective in Singapore. If you believe that an entity is using or benefiting from your IP rights without your consent, it is advisable to seek specialist IP legal advice at an early stage.

Collect evidence to prove that your rights have been infringed, such as copies of works, trademark or patent registrations, and communications showing the infringement.

If you already hold intellectual property rights, you can report and request that the country's Customs Authority detain goods suspected of infringing trademark, copyright, industrial design or geographical indication rights when they cross the border.



If assets are detained during this process, you will have up to 10 days to initiate legal proceedings.

In addition to customs seizure, if your IP rights have been violated, you have three other options: mediation, civil litigation or criminal proceedings. Mediation can be carried out by legal professionals and is considered an effective and cost-effective alternative to dispute resolution. IPOS encourages users to seek this alternative to litigation and provides guides to mediation and arbitration in the country.



Another option for international IP protection is the use of the Mediation and Arbitration services for Intellectual Property and Technology Disputes offered to companies by WIPO.



WIPO also offers mediation alternatives for resolving disputes over internet domains.



Closing remarks

After the process outlined in this document, we hope it has become easier to protect your IP before you start exporting.

Remember, since IP rights are territorial, you will need to protect them before introducing, selling or manufacturing your product in a new market. You can also protect them in other markets, even if you do not wish to exploit them at this time, in order to prevent others from copying, manufacturing or importing your brand, product or service and not paying your royalties.

In some countries, it is possible to carry out the procedures described here directly, but many require the hiring of a local IP professional to act on your behalf. Having the support of an IP agent, in general, helps not only with deposits, but also in understanding issues related to local culture that can facilitate your access to the regional market.



Another point worth highlighting is the cost of IP protection. It can be expensive, so it is always important to emphasize the need for good initial planning on how, where and why to invest abroad.

Ultimately, the information provided in this document is intended as a support resource for exporting and protecting your IP in other countries and should not be used as a substitute for expert legal advice.