

**Subject: Abolition of paper applications**

**Date: 1 December 2020**

Over the years, the number of applications for trademarks and designs filed on paper has been reduced to a minimum. In 2019, only 0.22% of trademark applications were filed electronically; design applications in 2019 haven't been received on paper.

In view of the fact that the use of BOIP e filing offers advantages over paper for both applicants and their representatives, as well as for BOIP (speed, avoidance of input errors) and in view of the fact that BOIP has to maintain a workflow and know-how for processing paper applications that is hardly used anymore, paper applications of trademarks and designs will no longer be accepted as of 1 January 2021. The developments in the field of electronic filing with other public authorities in the Benelux countries will also be taken into account.

**Decision:**

As from 1 January 2021, pursuant to the provisions of Rule 3.4 of the Implementing Regulations of the BCIP ("IR"), paper applications for trademarks and designs will no longer be accepted. Applications can only be filed by electronic means in accordance with the provisions of Rule 3.4(1) IR. Forms established on the basis of Rule 3.11 IR for the filing of applications will no longer be made available.