

Beware of Fake Invoices

Owners of intellectual property rights such as trade marks are still regularly being sent fake invoices. The bogus letters or invoices that are sent out can give the impression that they involve an official communication about your trade mark application/registration. However, if you study the small print you will find it's really just an offer or solicitation. Other letters try to get you to renew or extend your registration or sell you a domain name.

We note that a Czech outfit calling itself the WDTP (Worldwide Database of Trademarks and Patents) often sends invoices to trade mark owners, claiming to be owed a few thousand dollars as a "filing fee". The WDTP is just one of many such operations, based in places such as Hungary, Slovak Republic or even within the United Kingdom. These outfits have made a business out of sending unsolicited invoices to legitimate trade-mark owners.

The reason why these fraudulent organisations can get hold of your details is because the IP registers are legally accessible databases and this means that your address details are visible to all. This is necessary in order to check whether the claim that someone owns a trade mark right is correct.

A sample of other company names to beware of include:

- NOVISLINK limited (UK)
- Varemerkeorganisasjonen AS (Norway)
- UPTS s.r.o. (Czech Republic)
- CP S.L. Publicación Companias Marcas Internacionales (Spain)
- ETPR - European Trademark and Patent Register (Netherlands)
- EPTR - European Patent and Trademark Register (Poland)
- Nationales Markenregister AG, handelsmarkenregister.org (Germany)
- Nationales Patentregister AG, deutschepatente.org (Germany)
- E.C.R Euro Central Reg. Ltd (United Kingdom)
- WIPT, Register of International Patents and Trademarks (Slovakia)
- RCE - Registre Central Européen Sprl. (Brussels, Belgium)
- Trademark Selection Inc (Switzerland)
- CRPT - Central Register for Patents and Trademarks (Netherlands)
- TM-Edition Ltd. - International Catalogue of Trademarks (Hungary)
- BMV Benelux Merken Vernieuwing B.V. (Netherlands)
- IOPR - Intellectual Office Property Register (USA)
- European Central Register of Brands and Patents (Belgium)
- OHMI - Office for international registration, Community Trade Marks and Designs Ltd (UK)
- European Trademark Organisation S.A. (Brussels)
- Euro IP Register, Register of European Patents (Czech Republic)
- WOIP - Globex World Organisation Intellectual Property (UK)
- WIPD - World Intellectual Property Database (Czech Republic)
- WDTP - Worldwide Database of Trademarks and Patents (Czech Republic)

- Suomen Tavaramerkkirekisteröint Oy (Finland)
- ECTO S.A. (Belgium)
- European Trademark Application - Register Community Trade marks (London, UK / Bank: Sweden)
- ARPI, Agence de Renouvellement en Propriété Intellectuelle Inc. (Belgium)
- WPTI, World Patent and Trademark Index (Czech Republic)
- ITPD, International Trademarks & Patents Database (Iceland / Singapore)
- IPTD, International Patents & Trademarks Database (UK)
- IPTR - International Patent and Trademark Register (Germany)
- CPTD - Central Patent & Trademark Database (Czech Republic)
- C.R.P.S.L. – International Publication (Spain)
- WBIP – World Bureau Intellectual Property (USA)
- ODM srl - Design Patent Trademark Register (Slovakia)
- RIPT s.r.o. - Register of International Patents and Trademarks (Czech Republic)
- IBIP – International Bureau for Intellectual Property / Register International Patent Applications (USA)
- IOPTS – International Patent & Trademark Service, LLC. / Register International Patent Application (USA)
- I.B.F.T.P.R. International Bureau for Federated Trademark Et Patent Register / "I.B.F.T.P.R. Service" (USA)
- F.I.P.T.R Federated Institute for Patent & Trademark Registry / "Register Community Trademarks" (USA)
- IOIP - International Organization for Intellectual Property / IOIP Processing Office (Switzerland)
- Institut of Commerce Trade and Commerce (Switzerland)
- Commercial Centre for Industry and Trade (Switzerland)
- WIG-Wirtschaftszentrale für Industrie und Gewerbe AG (Switzerland)
- WIHH-Wirtschaftsinstitut für Industrie, Handel, Handwerk AG (Switzerland)
- SES Verzeichnis AG (Switzerland)
- ARK AG Register und Registerkataloge (Switzerland)
- The Company for Publications and Information Anstalt (Liechtenstein)
- The ZDR-Datenregister GmbH / Central Data-Register
- European Patent Bulletin (Germany)
- Trademark Publisher GmbH
- Register-Marken-Observer GmbH (Austria)
- Global Edition KFT. (Hungary)

If you receive any invoices relating to trade mark matters from anyone other than Nucleus IP Ltd, please do not pay and contact your Nucleus IP attorney.