



Trade Marks Act 1994

1994 CHAPTER 26

PART I

REGISTERED TRADE MARKS

Grounds for refusal of registration

3 Absolute grounds for refusal of registration

(1) The following shall not be registered—

- (a) signs which do not satisfy the requirements of section 1(1),
- (b) trade marks which are devoid of any distinctive character,
- (c) trade marks which consist exclusively of signs or indications which may serve, in trade, to designate the kind, quality, quantity, intended purpose, value, geographical origin, the time of production of goods or of rendering of services, or other characteristics of goods or services,
- (d) trade marks which consist exclusively of signs or indications which have become customary in the current language or in the *bona fide* and established practices of the trade:

Provided that, a trade mark shall not be refused registration by virtue of paragraph (b), (c) or (d) above if, before the date of application for registration, it has in fact acquired a distinctive character as a result of the use made of it.

(2) A sign shall not be registered as a trade mark if it consists exclusively of—

- (a) the shape which results from the nature of the goods themselves,
- (b) the shape of goods which is necessary to obtain a technical result, or
- (c) the shape which gives substantial value to the goods.

(3) A trade mark shall not be registered if it is—

- (a) contrary to public policy or to accepted principles of morality, or
- (b) of such a nature as to deceive the public (for instance as to the nature, quality or geographical origin of the goods or service).

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).

- (4) A trade mark shall not be registered if or to the extent that its use is prohibited in the United Kingdom by any enactment or rule of law or by any provision of Community law.
- (5) A trade mark shall not be registered in the cases specified, or referred to, in section 4 (specially protected emblems).
- (6) A trade mark shall not be registered if or to the extent that the application is made in bad faith.