

About BIP:

BIP SXM is the official agency responsible for the implementation of the National Ordinance on Trademarks as well as providing information to the public about Intellectual Property rights on Sint Maarten.

In close cooperation with the Benelux Office for Intellectual Property we provide an online registration system allowing the entire procedure to be considerably fast and transparent.

We register National and International Trademarks for private persons as well as domestic and foreign companies.

The office consists of a professional team, who will be happy to provide you with the necessary information for the registration of your Trademark(s).

We value your time and privacy. Therefore we advise you to make an appointment with us so we can schedule a meeting with one of our team members.



How can I find out if *my trademark* is available?
www.bip.sx



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GENERAL INFORMATION

Intellectual Property

Intellectual Property is the collective term for rights to intellectual creations such as books, music, trademarks, inventions, designs, software, texts and photographs. A single creation may be protected by multiple rights at the same time. The best-known Intellectual Property rights are Trademark rights, Copyrights and Patent rights.

Trademarks

A Trademark is a sign that distinguishes your products or services from those of your competitors. It is your company's calling card.

There are two things to consider before you start the registration process:

- 1) Check whether your Trademark is still available.
- 2) Search the official Trademarks Register, to find out if your Trademark is already being used.

Registering your Trademark gives you the exclusive right to use it for an (extendable) period of 10 years.

Not all signs can be Trademarks!

Make sure your creation is unique and not against the accepted principals of morality in the country you choose to register.

Trademark Registration

National

By registering with us you will have the protection of your Trademark in (Dutch) Sint Maarten.

International

Protection is also available for those who (plan to) sell their products and services outside of Sint Maarten. The protection can vary from a single country to worldwide.

Through our office international Trademarks are registered with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in Geneva, Switzerland.

Copyright

Copyright is established automatically by law as soon as a work is created, provided that said work is original. This Intellectual Property right is not obtained by registration.

It gives the creator of an original work the exclusive right to publish and/or duplicate the work.

For example, if you have made a movie, you would want to prevent others from publishing or duplicating your work without your permission.

Therefore, it is recommendable to officially record the date the work was created so that, if your Copyright is challenged, you have a more defensible right. This is what the i-Envelope aims to do. It does not create the right, but it serves to prove it.

I-Envelope

The i-Envelope allows you to prove that your creation existed on a certain date. By means of a time and date stamp on the seal. This may be quite useful: if somebody else claims the creation is his or hers, your i-Envelope will allow you to disprove that claim.

Anyone can file an i-Envelope at BIP SXM. You can be an artist, a writer, a musician, a software developer, a poet, an inventor, a professional, a graphic designer, an architect, a cartoonist, a choreographer, a cinematographer, a fashion designer, a screenwriter and the list goes on.

Regardless of your form of art, it is important for you to be able to prove that you came up with the idea or concept. The i-Envelope is an excellent, affordable, reliable, fast and easy method for recording your idea(s). However, be aware that the i-Envelope in itself does not offer (Intellectual) Property rights.

Nevertheless, it can serve as evidence in and out of court in the event of a dispute between potential partners or even strangers.

Patents

A Patent right is an exclusive right to a technical or other type of invention. This right enables you to prevent others from marketing your invention. A Patent right other than Copyright requires a formal registration. This can be done through our office or directly at the Patent Office in the Hague, the Netherlands.