



PRACTICAL GUIDE ON **TRADEMARK RECORDATION** IN TANZANIA





TRADEMARK RECORDATION IN TANZANIA



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FROM 1 DECEMBER, 2025 TANZANIA has started the implementation of the Merchandise Marks (Recordation) Regulations, 2025, where it is currently mandatory to record all trademarks on goods intended for importation into Mainland Tanzania, regardless of where the trademark was initially registered. With this new system, all trademarks linked to imported goods must be officially recorded with the Chief Inspector of Merchandise Marks before those goods can legally enter the country.

The system aim to strengthen intellectual property enforcement and combat the inflow of counterfeit goods at the national borders.

It is important to note that recordation is distinct from trademark registration; registration confers proprietary exclusive rights, while recordation enables border enforcement and anti-counterfeit inspections.

Once trademarks recorded, only goods bearing trademarks that are officially recorded can be imported into Tanzania.



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MODE OF APPLICATION

Application is made in prescribed form (Form FCC 1) to the Chief Inspector of Merchandise Marks. If a trademark is registered for more than one class of goods, the fees for recordation shall be for each class.

REQUIREMENTS FOR RECORDATION

Trademark to be recorded	
Copy of trademark registration certificate	
Full particulars of the applicant; name, business address, and telephone number.	
Information on parent, subsidiary, or affiliated companies	
Nationality or jurisdiction of incorporation of the trade mark owner	
Description of goods: The type of goods to which the trademark relates	
Place of manufacture of the goods	
A sample or clear digital photographs of the goods	
Details of licensees and the nature of their authorisation (if any)	
Proof of payment of the application fee	
Power of attorney- Indicating name, address and phone number of the agent	

Timeline for processing applications

Upon submission, the application for recordation will be reviewed and determined by the Chief Inspector within 21 days. Applicants or the agent will then be notified of the decision within 5 days from the date a decision is made.

Validity of recordation

The validity of recordation is for a period of one year counted from date of approval by the Chief Inspector

Assignment or transmission of ownership

When ownership of a recorded trademark is assigned or transferred, the new owner must notify the Chief Inspector within 30 days.

Change in name of the recorded trademark

In cases where there is a change in the name of the registrant without a transfer of ownership, the registrant to notify the Chief Inspector in writing within (7) seven days, accompanied by a certified copy of the name change and relevant supporting documents.



Appointment of agents

Trademark owners may appoint authorised agents to handle their recordation responsibilities, by a valid Power of Attorney.

Renewal of recordation

Renewal recordation not later than 30 days before its expiry.

Offences and penalties

It is an offence to deceive, give false information or unauthorized alterations of trademark records. Any person found guilty of such offences may face a fine of up to TZS 10 million, imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months, or both.

Key Point to Consider.

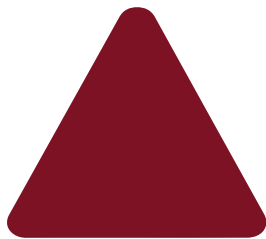
1. Recordation is not registration; it serves as a database of registered trademarks.
2. Recordation applies only to trademarks that have already been registered.
3. You can use foreign registered mark to apply for trademark recordation
4. Only trademarks relating to finished goods intended for direct consumer sale are eligible for trademark recordation.
5. The appointment of an agent for trademark recordation or related procedures must be authorised through a Power of Attorney.
6. There is now a robust and reliable trademark recordation system in place.
7. The trademark recordation system is integrated with other government authorities' systems, enabling officers to identify the types of products entering the country within one hour and determine their authenticity.
8. The system will notify agents about any identified counterfeit products or goods.
9. In the trademark recordation process, the country or place of manufacture is essential for determining counterfeiting.
10. The trademark recordation system will play a significant role in promoting and protecting business within the country.

ABOUT US

DARSTATE ATTORNEYS is a Tanzanian registered IP agent coordinating global intellectual property filing programs for clients. The firm passionately coordinates global intellectual property filing programs for clients in Tanzania, Zanzibar; before the African Regional Intellectual Property Organisation (ARIPO) and in other African Countries such as Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Malawi, Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda, Zambia, Mozambique and South Africa and giving training in the area of Intellectual property. Darstate Attorneys consist Senior Intellectual Property, brand protection/anti-counterfeiting lawyers for Global Companies and Individual. The firm dedicates their work on advising on enforcement of intellectual property rights on civil and administrative procedures and measures; provisional measure; special requirements related to border measures and criminal procedures.



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IP Scope of Services

- IP Portfolio Management services
- Freedom to operate analysis
- IP Audits and due diligence
- Drafting and negotiating license agreements, distribution agreements, franchise agreements, agency agreement and assignments.
- Advising on breach of privacy and breach of confidence claims
- Advising brands including many globally recognized names on implementations anti-counterfeiting strategies both in Tanzania and international
- Coordinating global intellectual property filing programs for clients
- Advising on various policy options and how each on the options can effectively strengthen, protect and nurture Traditional Knowledge and Folklore
- Brand watch services
- Searching, filing, prosecution and maintenance of patents, trademarks and designs.
- IP policy formulation and policy review
- IP opposition and litigation

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