World Trademark Law and Practice

2 Ethan Horwitz

WORLD TRADEMARK LAW AND PRACTICE

by

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CHAPTER 9

Cancellations

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- § 9.01 Procedure
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 - [1] Rights
 - [2] Non-Use

§ 9.01 Procedure

Australia

An application for rectification or cancellation may be made to the Supreme Court of a State, the Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory, the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory of Australia or the Supreme Court of Norfolk Island by an "aggrieved" person¹ or by the Registrar if it is in the public interest.² When an application is made by an "aggrieved" person, the Registrar may appear and be heard.³ The procedure is similar to the procedure in an infringement action.⁴ A non-use cancellation is before the Patent Office.⁵

Australia

- ¹ Act, Section 22(1).
- ² Act, Section 22(4).
- ³ Act, Section 22(5).
- 4 See § 10.03 infra.
- ⁵ See § 9.02[2] infra for the procedure in a non-use cancellation.

Austria

A mark is cancelled if:1

- (a) the owner requests it;
- (b) it is not renewed on time;
- (c) rights have lapsed for reason other than (a) or (b);
- (d) there is a final decision by the Nullity Section granting cancellation in a cancellation suit.

An action for cancellation proceeds before the Nullity Division and may be initiated upon request of a party, but the Patent Office may proceed with the cancellation even though the original action is withdrawn.² A petition for cancellation³ must include a summary of the reasons the registration is claimed to be invalid and an outline of the evidence to be used in support of the cancellation request.⁴ If the plaintiff is not an Austrian domiciliary, the trademark owner may, within fourteen days, request security for costs.⁵ The cancellation may be filed by a local associate with a power of attorney which may follow.⁶ The action for cancellation may be rejected ex-parte by the Nullity Division if it is not based on valid reasons for cancellation.⁷ The cancellation may be for all or for only part of the registered goods or services. After its filing, the registrant is sent a copy of the action for cancellation and given a period within which to reply. If no timely reply is given, the registration is cancelled.⁸

If the registrant replies, the parties may then take part in preliminary proceedings to clarify the issues and to take evidence.

Austria

- ¹ Law, Article 29(1).
- ² Patent Law, Article 112 adopted by Law, Article 42.
- ³ See § 9.02 infra for details as to the substantive issues of cancellation.
- ⁴ Patent Law, Article 114 adopted by Law 42.
- ⁵ Patent Law, Article 112 adopted by Law, Article 42. But see Section 17 of the Hague Trial Agreement which exempts parties of signatories to the convention from granting security. This applied to proceedings before the Patent Office in Austria. See Decision of the Nullity Division dated 19 September 1975, PatB1. 1976 122, 1977 IIC Abstract No. 567.
 - ⁶ Law, Article 61(6).
 - ⁷ Patent Law, Article 113 adopted by Law, Article 42.
 - 8 Law, Article 42(4).

Such proceedings are highly unusual and practically never occur. When the preliminary proceedings, if any, are complete,⁹ an oral hearing is scheduled.¹⁰ The hearing is a trial at which the parties may introduce evidence through witnesses, through the sworn statements of parties or through the prior testimony of witnesses who testified during the preliminary proceedings.¹¹

The decision of the Nullity Division then issues and includes a summary of the facts and the arguments of the parties and advice regarding appeal.¹² Costs are usually awarded to the successful party.¹³ An appeal from the Nullity Division to the Supreme Patent and Trademark Senate¹⁴ is possible and must be made within two months of the decision.¹⁵

The Senate only reviews the decision of the Nullity Division and does not hear new evidence. ¹⁶ The Senate may, in certain circumstances, issue a decision without an oral hearing. However, it must have an oral hearing if either party requests it and such a hearing is held in most instances. ¹⁷

Benelux

A cancellation action is brought in a court in one of the Benelux countries. The court with jurisdiction is that of the residence or domicile of the registrant. The place where the mark was registered is not sufficient grounds for basing jurisdiction. If registrant has no residence or domicile, then the residence, domicile or abode in Benelux of the cancellor controls. If cancellor also has no such

Benelux

⁹ Patent Law, Article 116 adopted by Law, Article 42. Professor Schönherr advises that those proceedings almost never occur.

¹⁰ Patent Law, Article 118 adopted by Law, Article 42.

¹¹ Patent Law, Articles 119-120 adopted by Law, Article 42.

¹² Patent Law, Article 123 adopted by Law, Article 42.

¹³ Patent Law, Article 122 adopted by Law, Article 42.

¹⁴ Law, Article 39(1).

¹⁵ Patent Law, Article 138 adopted by Law, Article 42.

¹⁶ Patent Law, Article 140 adopted by Law, Article 42.

¹⁷ Patent Law, Articles 142-3 adopted by Law, Article 42.

¹ Law, Article 37. (a) The different available courts are those of Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg.

² Id.

residence, domicile or abode in Benelux, he may bring the action in any jurisdiction.³

The procedure is different for each jurisdiction and follows the same procedure as in actions for infringement.⁴

Any interested party or the Public Prosecutor may institute the action; if the Public Prosecutor brings the action, it must be in the courts of The Hague, Brussels or Luxembourg.⁵

After a judicial decision of the nullity of a registration, the cancellation of that registration takes place ex-officio or at the request of any party.⁶

Brazil

There are four ways a registration may be cancelled:

- (a) Extinction—the registration was not renewed or was voluntarily surrendered;¹
- (b) Forfeiture—the registration lapsed through non-use;2
- (c) Administrative Revision—the registration may be cancelled by the Patent Office within six months of the registration as improperly granted.³ When the granting of a registration violates any provision under Title II of the Act,⁴ the Patent Office has six months from acceptance to review the registration.⁵ If the Patent Office institutes a revision of the registration, it notifies the registrant who may file a defense within sixty (60) days.⁶ A decision must issue within sixty (60) days⁷ and can be appealed within another sixty (60)

Brazil

³ Id.

⁴ See § 10.03 infra.

⁵ Law, Article 37.

⁶ Rules, Article 10(4).

¹ Law, Article 93(1) and (2).

² Law, Articles 93(3) and 94–97; See § 9.02[2] infra.

³ Law, Article 101

⁴ Id.

⁵ Law, Article 101(1).

⁶ Law. Article 101(2).

⁷ Id.

⁸ Footnote omitted.

days;8

(d) Annulment—the registration may be cancelled by a court procedure.⁹ The proceeding may be instituted by any concerned party or by the National Institute of Industrial Property.¹⁰ The procedure is the same as that for an infringement action.¹¹ At the termination of the action, the result is recorded in the official record of the registration.¹² In fact, any cancellation (as well as any suspension, limitation or expiration) by administrative or judicial decision must be recorded.¹³

Foreign registrants must appoint an agent in Brazil which appointment becomes effective as of the date of filing and remains in effect throughout the entire registration period. If such an agent is not appointed, the registration is automatically cancelled.¹⁴

An appeal of a decision in the cancellation may be taken within sixty (60) days.¹⁵

Canada

A cancellation action may be filed by any person or the Registrar before the Federal Court of Canada.¹ Such an action may be filed for complete or partial cancellation or for the correction of the dates expressed in the registration, such as the claimed date of first use.²

Cancellation proceedings are instituted by the filing of an originating notice of motion or by introducing the claim in an existing action, such as by way of a counterclaim in an infringement

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⁸ Law, Article 101(3).

⁹ Law, Articles 98-100.

¹⁰ Law, Article 100.

¹¹ See § 10.03 infra.

¹² Law, Article 88(3).

¹³ Id.

¹⁴ Law, Article 96.

¹⁵ Law. Article 97.

¹ Act, Section 57(1).

² Id.