

Accelerated Examination for Trademark Applications in Japan

A successful request for accelerated examination usually delivers the first Office Action (or notice of allowance) **about two months** after filing the request. No official fee is required for the request.

Accelerated examination is available for three categories.

	Requirements	Typical evidence
Category 1 – “Urgency”	Both of the following: 1. The applicant (or licensee) is already using (or is well advanced in preparing to use) the mark for at least one of the designated goods/services, and 2. One “urgency trigger” exists: (a) unauthorized third-party use; (b) warning letter received; (c) license demand; (d) corresponding foreign trademark application pending; (e) International trademark application via Madrid system is to be filed based on this JP trademark application.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of use / preparation for at least one of the designated goods/services (photos, invoices, web-shop captures, etc.) • Warning letter, foreign filing documents, Declaration of intention to file an international application, etc.
Category 2 – “Use of the mark for all designated goods/services”	The mark is already in use (or use preparations are well advanced) for every designated good/service.	Same kinds of evidence, but covering <i>all</i> items.
Category 3 –	Both of the following: 1. The applicant (or licensee) is already	Evidence of use / preparation for at least

“All of designated goods/services appear in an official wording list”	<p>using (or is well advanced in preparing to use) the mark for at least one of the designated goods/services, and</p> <p>2. All of the designated goods/services are expressed exactly as they appear in the official wording list (i.e. Appendix to the Trademark Law Enforcement Regulations, the JPO Examination Guidelines for Similar Goods and Services, or International Classification of Goods and Services (Nice Classification)).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Even a single character deviation (kanji, kana, punctuation, spacing) disqualifies the request.• If any non-listed wording remains, file an amendment to delete it.	<p>one of the designated goods/services (photos, invoices, web-shop captures, etc.)</p>
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