

# Lloyd Wise, Singapore

## Singapore Registered Designs Act 2000

The Singapore Registered Designs Act 2000 entered into force on 13 November 2000.

As a result of the new Registered Designs Act, it is no longer possible to obtain registered design protection in Singapore by registering a design in the UK. As of 13 November 2000, it is necessary to file a separate application in Singapore to register the design.

The Registered Designs Act 2000 is generally similar to the UK Registered Designs Act. However, there are some important differences:

- 1) There is a requirement for absolute novelty;
- 2) The maximum period of protection under the new Act will be 15 years. However, UK registered designs extended to Singapore will have a period of protection up to 25 years from the date of registration under the UK Act; and
- 3) There is no requirement for the design to have "eye appeal".

Existing UK registered designs and UK registered designs issued on applications filed in the UK before 13 November 2000 are valid in Singapore up to the due date for payment of the next renewal fee. To protect the design in Singapore after the due date for payment of the next renewal fee, it is necessary to file a request for extension of the UK registered design to Singapore at the next renewal due on or after 13 November 2000. There is a grace period of six months after the renewal date during which the extension request can still be filed with no additional charge.

It should also be noted that the UK registered design must be in force, or the UK registered design application pending, on 13 November 2000 and must not have been cancelled or surrendered at the next renewal date.