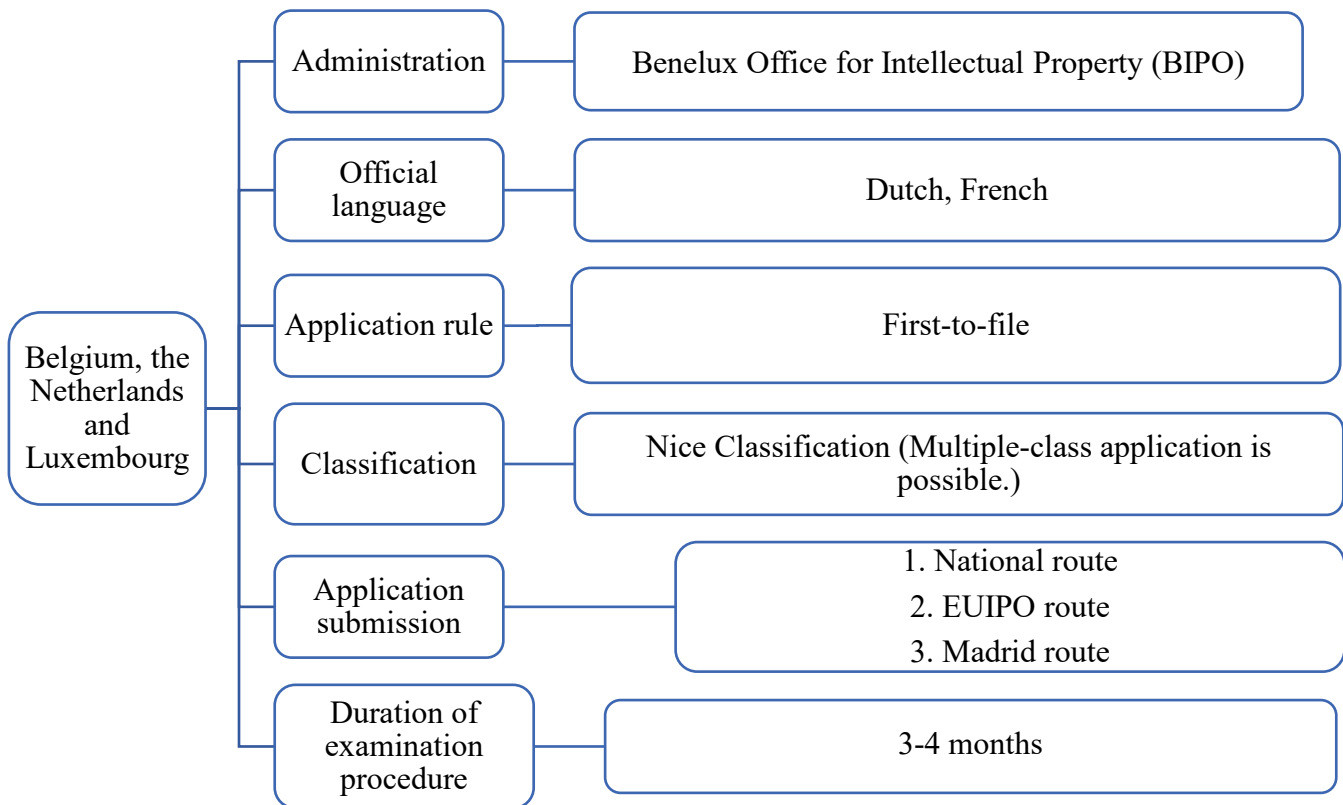
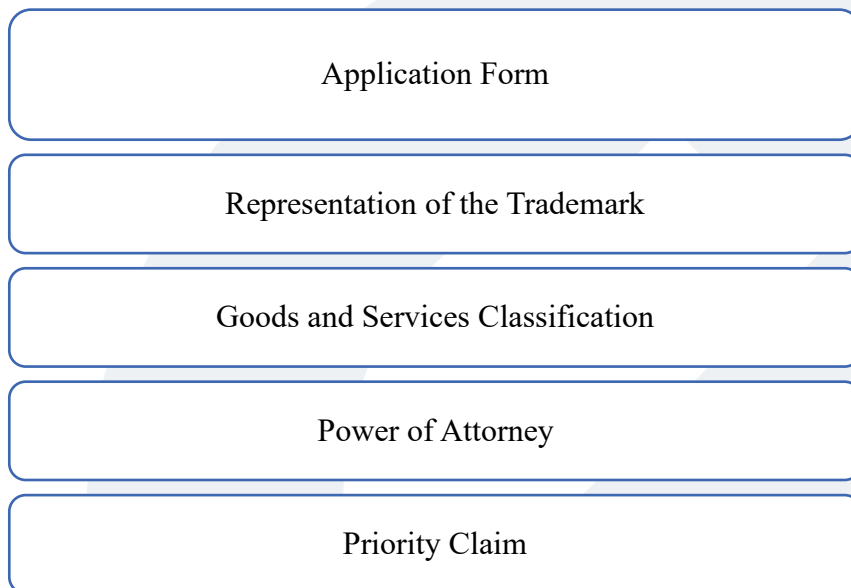


Guidance on Trademark Application in in Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg

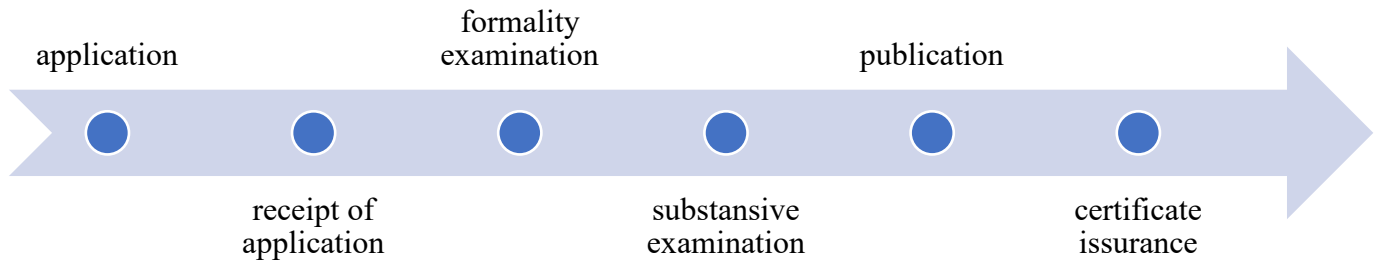
I. Overview



II. Application Documents Requested



III. Application Process



IV. Validity Term

- A Benelux trademark is valid in the territory of Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg for ten years from the date of filing. It may be renewed for successive ten-year periods within six months before the expiry date.

V. Note

- The Benelux Economic Union is an economic alliance established in 1946 by Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg. The Benelux Convention on Trademarks came into effect on July 1, 1966. Under this convention, a trademark registration is valid simultaneously in all three countries without requiring separate applications in each.
- If a registered trademark has not been genuinely used in the relevant country for five consecutive years, any party may file a request for cancellation.



- During the Benelux trademark registration process, no examination on “relative grounds” is conducted. This means the trademark office does not proactively review whether the applied-for trademark is similar to any prior trademarks, nor does it issue ex officio refusals. As a result, trademarks can easily pass the preliminary examination and proceed to publication. This necessitates that rights holders continue to monitor the situation even after successful registration, conduct ongoing watches, and promptly file oppositions to protect their trademark rights.

