• Associated trademarks registered or pending on April 1, 1997, are deemed to be independent trademarks.
• Applications for trademarks that are held to be identical or similar to a well-known trademark filed with an unjust purpose will be rejected, irrespective of whether there is a likelihood of confusion between the respective goods and/or services.
• A single application may cover several classes of goods and/or services. However, applications for the same mark filed on the same date in more than one class prior to April 1, 1997, may not be consolidated into one application.
• It is no longer necessary to submit evidence of use to support renewals of trademark registrations. Belated renewals may be filed six months following the expiration date of the registration, subject to payment of additional fees.
• It is no longer necessary to publish a Notice of Assignment of a registered trademark.
• A general Power of Attorney is now accepted.
• Any person may file a cancellation action based on nonuse of a registered trademark for more than three consecutive years.
• Use of a registered trademark by the owner or licensee within three months prior to the date of filing of a cancellation action will not be considered legitimate use, provided that the petitioner in the cancellation action can prove that the trademark owner or licensee commenced such use upon becoming aware of the prospective cancellation action.
• If a cancellation action is successful, the trademark registration is deemed to have been cancelled retroactively as of the date of filing of the cancellation action.
• A postregistration opposition procedure replaces the current preregistration opposition system. An opposition may be filed by any interested party within two months following the date of publication of a registered mark.
• Japan adopted the International Classification system on April 1, 1992. Under the new trademark law, the goods covered by those registered trademarks that were filed on or before March 31, 1992, in accordance with the four versions of the earlier Japanese classifications (of 1899, 1909, 1921, and 1959) will be reclassified in accordance with the International Classification system upon renewal. The reclassification will commence with trademark registrations that expire on or after October 1, 1998.

Copyright Management Business Law (4.2.2.3 of 2000)
In November 2000, the Copyright Management Business Law (4.2.2.3) was enacted. Its main purpose is to facilitate the establishment of new copyright management businesses, in order to “respond to the development of digital technologies and communication networks.”

Australian Laws for Trademarks and Copyright

The Trade Marks Act 1995

Section 145

(1) A person is guilty of an offense if the person falsifies or unlawfully removes a trademark that:
   a) has been applied to any goods that are being, or are to be, dealt with or provided in the course of trade; or
   b) has been applied in relation to any goods or services that are being, or are to be, dealt with or provided in the course of trade;
   Knowing that the trademark is registered or regardless of whether or not the trademark is registered.

(2) A person falsifies a registered trademark if the person:
   a) alters or defaces it; or
   b) makes any addition to it; or