

CHAPTER XXIII

RIGHTS OF THE REGISTERED OWNER OF A MARK

121. (1) Subject and without prejudice to the other provisions of this Part, the registered owner of a mark shall have the following exclusive rights in relation to the mark :—

Rights of
registered owner.

- (a) to use the mark ;
- (b) to assign or transmit the registration of the mark ;
- (c) to conclude licence contracts.

(2) Without the consent of the registered owner of the mark third parties are precluded from the following acts :—

- (a) any use of the mark, or a sign resembling it in such a way as to be likely to mislead the public, for goods or services in respect of which the mark is registered or for similar goods or services in connection with which the use of the mark or sign is likely to mislead the public ; and
- (b) any other use of the mark, or of a sign or trade name resembling it, without just cause and in conditions likely to be prejudicial to the interests of the registered owner of the mark.

(3) The application (whether by way of printing, painting or otherwise) or the affixing in Sri Lanka by a third party, of a mark or any sign resembling such mark in such a way as to be likely to mislead the public, on or in connection with, goods in respect of which such mark has been registered (whether such goods are intended for sale in Sri Lanka, or for export from Sri Lanka) shall be deemed to be an act prohibited under Subsection (2).

(4) The court shall presume the likelihood of misleading the public in instances where a person uses a mark identical to the registered mark for identical goods or services in respect of which the mark is registered.

Limitation of registered owners's rights.

122. The registration of the mark shall not confer on its registered owner the right to preclude third parties –

- (a) from using their *bona fide* names, addresses, pseudonyms, a geographical name, or exact indications concerning the kind, quality, quantity, destination, value, place of origin or time of production or of supply of their goods and services, in so far as such use is confined to the purposes of mere identification or information and cannot mislead the public as to the source of the goods or services ;
- (b) from using the mark in relation to goods lawfully manufactured, imported, offered for sale, sold, used or stocked in Sri Lanka under that mark, provided that such goods have not undergone any change.

CHAPTER XXIV

ASSIGNMENT AND TRANSMISSION OF APPLICATIONS AND REGISTRATIONS OF MARKS

Assignment and transmission of applications and registrations.

123. (1) An application for registration or the registration of a mark may be assigned or transmitted independently of the transfer of all or part of the enterprise using the mark, in respect of all or part of the goods or services for which the application was filed or the mark registered and such assignment or transmission shall be in writing signed by or on behalf of the contracting parties.

(2) Such assignment or transmission shall be invalid if the purpose or effect thereof is to mislead the public, in particular in respect of the nature, source, manufacturing process, characteristics or suitability for their purpose of the goods or services to which the mark is applied.

(3) Any person becoming entitled by assignment or transmission to an application for registration or the registration of a mark may apply to the Director-General in the prescribed manner to have such assignment or transmission recorded in the register.