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**17/ENG04/051**

**ENGINEERING LAW (**ENG384)

**ASSIGNMENT3**

Briefly discuss the following intellectual property protection method

1. Patent
2. Copyright
3. Trademark
4. Trade secret

**PATENT**

A patient is a form of intellectual property that gives the owner legal right to exclude others from making, selling using and importing an invention for a limited period of years, in exchange for publishing an enabling public disclosure of invention. Also a patent means protected by a government issued right allowing someone to make and sell a product or service for a certain amount of years without anyone being allowed to copy it. An example of patent is a protection afforded to the makers of Converse All Star sneakers. In some industries patents are an essential form of competitive advantage; in others they are irrelevant. In most countries patent rights falls under civil law and the patent holder needs to sue someone infringing the patent in order to enforce his/her rights.

**COPYRIGHT**

Copyright is a legal means /right given to the creator of creative work to reproduce the work, usually for a limited time. The creative work maybe educational, artistic, literary or musical form. Copyright given as a means to protect the original expression of an idea in the form of a creative work, but not the idea itself. It is a type of intellectual property that provides exclusive publication, distribution, and usage rights for the authoror creator of the content. This means whatever content the author/creator created cannot be used or published by anyone else without the consent of the author. The length of copyright protection may vary from country to country, but it usually lasts for the life of the author plus 50 to 100 years.

**TRADEMARK**

This is a type of property consisting of recognized signs, design, or expressions which define the product of a particular source from others. The trademark owner can be an individual, group of organization or any legal entity. The overall purpose of trademark law is to prevent unfair competition by protecting the use of a symbol, word, logo, slogan, design, domain name, etc. that uniquely distinguises the goods or services of a firm. A trademark may be located on a package, a label, a voucher, or on the product. Trademarks are often displayed on the company buildings for the sake of corporate identity.

**TRADE SECRET**

In some jurisdictions trade secrets are also known as confidential information. Trade secrets are types of intellectual property that comprises of formulas, practice’s, processes, designs, instruments, patterns or complications of information that have inherent economic value because they are not generally known or readily ascertainable by others, and which the owner takes reasonable measures to keep secret. Contrary to patents, trade secrets are protected without registration, that is, trade secrets are protected without any procedural formalities. Consequently, a trade secret can be protected for an unlimited period of time