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CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

CHE 384 ASSIGNMENT

ENGINEERING LAW

Discuss the following intellectual property protection methods.

1. PATENT

A patent is an intellectual property (IP) right for a technical invention. It allows you to prevent others from using your invention for commercial purposes for up to 20 years. You decide who is allowed to produce, sell or import your invention in those countries in which you own a valid patent.

1. COPYRIGHT

Copyright, a form of intellectual property law, protects original works of authorship including literary, dramatic, musical, and artistic works, such as poetry, novels, movies, songs, computer software, and architecture. Copyright does not protect facts, ideas, systems, or methods of operation, although it may protect the way these things are expressed.

1. TRADEMARK

Trademarks protect brands. The name of the product associated with the product or service is called the trademark. Under trademark law, a trademark is anything by which customers recognize a product or the source of a product. Typically, that would be the words or name associated with the product or service. When the brand or trademark is made up of words, we refer to this as a wordmark. Other things can serve as your trademark. For example, sounds, colors, smells, and anything else that can bring the product and/or its owner to the minds of a consumer can serve as your trademark. The most common types of trademarks are wordmarks, logos, and slogans.

1. TRADE 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. For these reasons, the protection of trade secrets may appear to be particularly attractive for SMEs. There are, however, some conditions for the information to be considered a trade secret. Compliance with such conditions may turn out to be more difficult and costly than it would appear at first glance.