

**FOI Release**  
**Information released under the Freedom of Information Act**

**Title:** Certification marks

**Date of release:** 14 March 2016

**Information request:**

- How many certification marks there are in the UK
- An average of how many certification marks are filed annually

**Information released:**

The number of certification marks currently in force in the UK is 402. (Incidentally, you may also be interested to know that the number of collective marks is 330.)

In answer to your second query, the attached Excel spreadsheet shows the numbers of applications for certification marks filed over the last ten years, by year of application. This data will of course enable you to arrive at an average over up to ten years; I hope that is long enough for you to gain a representative figure.

You should be aware though that this information is subject to a caveat. The list consists of the cases which are currently identified on our system as certification marks. There may be others that were applied for as certification marks but which, during the course of examination, have been changed to a standard trade mark. It follows therefore that the number of applications made during any or each of these years may have been higher than the numbers listed. Also, historically some cases filed as certification marks have been proved to have been filed as such in error.

Due to the configuration of our records, it would not be possible within the cost limit for FOI requests to identify all marks filed originally as certification marks and subsequently changed to ordinary trade marks. (As you are probably aware, government departments are not obliged to provide information if the cost of identifying, extracting and compiling it would be likely to cost over £600, equivalent to 24 man hours of work, as we estimate it would in this case. Section 12 of the FOI Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse information if the cost of compliance would exceed this 'appropriate limit'.)

Please note also that as there will be some cases on this attached list that are still under examination; it may be that a number of these will be changed to trade mark applications.

<b>Number of Certification Marks</b>	<b>YEAR</b>
14	2005
13	2006
24	2007
51	2008
40	2009

30	2010
42	2011
35	2012
74	2013
63	2014
60	2015