

Integrated Circuit Topography (ICT)

This refers to the three-dimensional configuration of the electronic circuits used in microchips and semiconductor chips. Registration offers you exclusive rights for 10 years on your original circuit design. Protection can extend to the layout design as well as to the finished product. To register, you must apply within two years of commercial use of the design. Your application must include a copy of the circuit layout and design.

ICT protection will give the owner exclusive rights over the copying of the topography and the commercialization of circuits which contain the topography. This form of protection complements any patent protection you may obtain for the circuit itself. You must file in each country where you want protection. Enforcement of rights is the responsibility of the owner of the registration, but rights can be enforced through the courts. This can become a fairly complicated process and a lawyer should be consulted.

You can obtain protection in Canada by submitting an application and \$200 to:

The Registrar of Integrated Circuit Topographies
The Canadian Intellectual Property Office
Place du Portage Phase I
50 Victoria Street, Hull, Quebec
K1A 0C9

For More Information and an Application:

Internet: http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/sc_mrksv/cipo/help/faq_ic-e.html
www.sb.gov.bc.ca/smallbus/workshop/protect/ict.html