

## How long does the protection last?

Protection lasts for a period of ten years. It begins on the date of the first commercial exploitation of the layout design anywhere in the world provided that the right holder as given consent and that the application has been submitted within two years of the exploitation.

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## How to apply for protection of an original layout design?

Three things are usual needed to apply for protection of a layout design.

1. a completed application form accompanied by the prescribed fee.
2. Proof of the right to apply
3. A drawing of the layout design together with information defining the electronic function which the integrated circuit is intended to perform.

The application form and fee are described in the Layout Design Regulations, 1996.

Applications must be submitted to:

**The Controller**

**INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE**

**3RD FLOOR CAPITAL PLAZA**

**11-13 FREDERICK STREET**

**PORT OF SPAIN**

**TRINIDAD, WEST INDIES**



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**THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE**

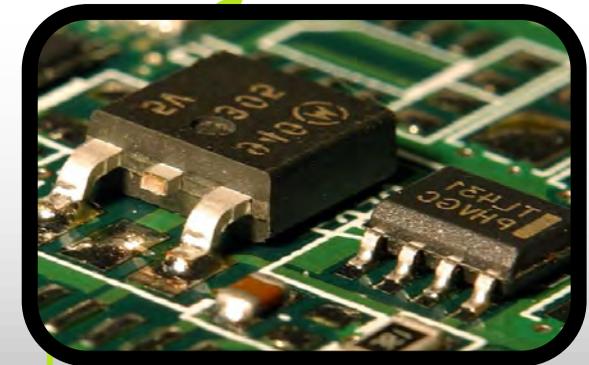
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## Some Basic Facts About The Layout Designs (Topographies) of Integrated Circuits



## What is an Integrated Circuit?

An integrated circuit is a miniature electrical circuit containing electronic devices, some or all of which are interconnected and embedded in or on a semiconductor material e.g. silicon.



## What are Integrated Circuits used for?

Integrated circuits and microprocessors are used in equipment by many manufacturers in order to improve production efficiency. They are also used in many familiar household products like radios, washing machines, computers and cellular phones.



## Why is the layout design of an integrated circuit important?

New layout designs of integrated circuits aim mainly at improving the performance efficiency of the circuitry within the limits of the materials being used. This results in more functions being carried out with the use of less power and ultimately, better value for money.



## What are layout designs of integrated circuits?

Layout-designs (topographies) of integrated circuits are the three-dimensional placement of some or all of the elements and interconnections that make up an integrated circuit

## What is the criteria for the protection of a layout design of an integrated circuit?

In Trinidad and Tobago, this right is given under the Layout Designs (Topographies) of Integrated Circuits Act (Act. No. 19 of 1996) proclaimed on December 1st, 1997. to qualify for protection, a layout design must be original and must not have been exploited anywhere in the world more than two years before the date the application for protection was made.

## When is a layout design considered to be original?

It is considered original if it is the result of the creator's own intellectual effort and if it is common among creators and manufacturers of layout designs and integrated circuits at the time of its creation.

## Can a combination of existing layout designs be protected?

If the combination of elements and interconnections taken as a whole can be considered original, the design can be protected.



## What is the effect of the protection of a layout design?

A layout design of an integrated circuit protected in Trinidad and Tobago cannot be reproduced, imported, sold or otherwise distributed for commercial purposes with the permission of the right holder.

