



COMPETITION APPEAL TRIBUNAL

Guidance Note 1/2025

Filing Deadlines

1. The Tribunal has observed that, on a number of occasions, parties who have been directed by the Tribunal to file documents at the Tribunal Registry by a certain time either fail to observe the filing deadline, or attempt to seek an extension of time very shortly before the expiry of the deadline without having given any prior warning of their request (and in some cases without providing any, or any adequate, explanation of why an extension is necessary).
2. When the Tribunal sets a filing deadline (usually in consultation with the parties), it expects that deadline to be met. Failure to file by the deadline causes inefficiencies. It disrupts other parties who may be obliged to file response documents by deadlines that have been set by reference to the missed deadline. Furthermore, in expectation of receiving the documents by the required time, the Registry staff will usually have made arrangements, often outside normal working hours, for the immediate processing and onward transmission of those documents to Tribunal members, who themselves will usually be working to a tight timetable, with regard to preparatory work for the case.
3. Equally disruptive is the practice of leaving it to the last minute before the expiry of a deadline to seek an extension of time, thereby depriving the Tribunal of a reasonable opportunity to consider the request. Even if the extension request is agreed with other parties, it can still be disruptive to the Tribunal's work programme and efficient conduct of the case.
4. Going forward, the Tribunal will keep a close watch on these matters. Documents sent to the Registry after the deadline without good reason may not be accepted. Likewise, any last-minute extension requests (even where the terms of a draft order have been agreed between the parties) may not be approved without a compelling explanation of why it has not been possible to make the request at least three working days before the expiry of the deadline. In some cases, the Tribunal may require a senior member of the relevant legal team to explain in writing (in a form that may be placed on the Tribunal's website) why such a situation has arisen. Almost certainly, the Tribunal will give consideration to the costs consequences of breaches of directions and late requests for extension of time.

Charles Dhanowa
Registrar

16 September 2025