

1. Are scientific discoveries and theories and absolute mathematical methods (that are not industrially applicable) can be granted as patent?

NO.

2. Are inventions related to microorganisms and plant product can be granted as patents? If yes, what is the relevant procedure?

Yes, a sample should be delivered to the central lab of the Ministry of Public Health within fifteen days from the day of application which in turn provides the applicant with a numbered and dated evidence of receipt of such sample. The Intellectual Property Protection Authority is to be notified of such action.

3. If two persons or more have collectively worked on an invention, who will obtain the right of ownership?

If more than one-person share in the same invention, they shall share the right for the patent, once issued, on equal basis unless otherwise agreed in writing.

If several persons individually make the same invention, the right to the patent shall be entitled to the first applicant.

4. Can the owner of a patent allowed to make changes to his inventions?

Not allowed after the issuance of the certificate.

5. Is Lebanon a member of Patent Cooperation Treaty and Paris Convention?

Lebanon is a member of the Paris Convention but not of Patent Cooperation Treaty.

6. Can convention priority be claimed according to Paris Convention?

Yes, within 12 months from the first filing date.

7. Can a patent equivalent search be conducted?

Not possible.

8. Can a patent application be filed without completing the documents?

Yes.

9. What is the allowed time to submit the Deed of Assignment from the date of signing the agreement?

Within 3 months.

10. When annuities are to be paid?

Due annually on the anniversary of the filing date and payable before the granting of the patent.

11. Is late payment of the annuity fees allowed?

Yes, there is a 6 - month grace period for late payment with a surcharge.

12. What is the period of protection of a patent?

20 years from filing date.

13. When can I expect my application to be published?

Applications are published upon issuance.

14. Is there any provision for opposition?

NO.

14. If I have more than one patent of invention, can I file altogether in a single application?

No, the application may not include more than one invention or a few interrelated inventions forming one general inventive concept, otherwise the invention shall be considered a complex invention.

15. Is patent title and rights transferable?

Yes, may be transferred in whole or in part, at no charge or against compensation.

Such rights may be exclusively or non-exclusively validated for investment or mortgage it may also be transferred by inheritance or by will.

16. Does the Patent Law provide for licenses or registered users?

YES.

17. In what language should the specification and claims of the patent be filed?

The application shall be presented in the Arabic Language; the requestor of the invention patent may present the description of the invention, claims and figures and drawings in the Arabic and English Languages.