

1. Are schemes, rules and methods of conducting commercial activities, exercising pure mental activities or playing a game patentable?

NO.

2. Can I obtain patents of invention for discoveries, scientific theories and mathematical methods?

NO.

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

Yes, provided that such amendments do not constitute any substantial change to the contents of the original application.

4. Is Saudi Arabia a member of Patent Cooperation Treaty and Paris Convention?

YES.

5. Will a patent granted by the GCC Patent Office protect the patent in all member countries including Saudi Arabia?

YES.

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?

Yes, official search among granted and published patents is possible by patentee name, title, subject matter, priority/PCT number.

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

No, late filing of documents is not allowed.

9. When annuities are to be paid?

Fees are to be paid within 3 months from the beginning of each Gregorian year, i.e., up to 31 March of each year. As for pending applications, the annuity will be paid once for the year which is due for payment only i. e. there is no retroactive effect of the payment provision.

10. Is late payment of the annuity fees allowed?

Yes, a grace period of 3 months ending in 30th of June is given with payment of double of the original prescribed fees.

11. What is the period of protection of a patent? Can it be extended?

20 years from the filing date.

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

Patents are published in the Official Gazette after substantive examination and before grant.

13. Is there any provision for filing opposition?

NO.

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

The application shall relate to a single invention or to a group of integrated parts that form a single inventive concept.

15. Is there a certain period for the recordal of assignment?

There is no specific period stipulated for recording the assignment. However, it is highly recommended to record the same as early as possible.

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

Yes, license recordal is highly recommended.

17. What is Compulsory License?

The permission given to others to exploit the subject matter of protection without the consent of the patentee, in accordance with the provisions of the Law.

18. What is Contractual License?

A contract under which the patentee grants a third party some or all of his rights to exploit the protection document for a specified period against a specified fee.

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

Both in English and Arabic.