

1. What is an invention?

Any innovative idea relating to a product, a method of manufacture, or an application of a known method of manufacture leading to a practical solution to a technological problem.

2. What is a Deed of protection?

A document indicating patentability of the invention, industrial drawing, or industrial design being awarded by the competent Administration. This shall be in the form of letters patent, utility certificate, or certificate of registration of industrial drawing or design.

3. How Letters patent are awarded?

Letters patent shall be awarded to any new invention resulting from an innovative idea or inventive step in all fields of technology, provided that such an idea or inventive step has a scientific basis and is capable of industrial application.

4. Are scientific and mathematical principles, discoveries and methods patentable?

NO.

5. Can I obtain patents of invention for diagnostic methods, treatments, and surgical operations needed for humans and animals?

NO.

6. Can a registration be obtained for pharmaceutical products?

YES.

7. Is deposition of the biological material/chemical product required by the UAE Patent Office?

NO.

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

Where the invention is a combined effort of two or more persons, the right for the invention shall be shared between them or between their legal successors. A person shall not be considered an inventor unless he has duly contributed to the invention with a new and innovative idea.

9. If the invention was discovered in the course of employment or other contractual work-for-hire, who will obtain the right of ownership?

The employer will be the owner of the intellectual property rights, unless otherwise provided for in the agreement.

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

The owner of the patent or his legal successor shall have the right to get an additional patent granted on the improvements, changes or the additions added to the invention.

The application for additional protection must meet the same conditions that the original protection's application meets and shall have the same impact as the original.

Specifically, claims or specifications can be amended before the application reaches examination stage.

11. Is UAE a member of Gulf Cooperation Council, Patent Cooperation Treaty and Paris Convention?

YES.

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

YES.

13. Does filing a patent application in UAE provide protection in all seven emirates?

Yes, filing a patent application in UAE will provide protection in seven emirates namely Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Fujairah, Ras Al Khaimah, Umm Al Quwain and Ajman.

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

Yes, within 12 months as of the date of the first filing.

15. Can a patent equivalent search be conducted?

Official search from the Patent Office is not possible. However, we may conduct unofficial searches from our internal database among published applications.

16. What is the allowed period for the submission of supporting documents? What will happen if I fail to submit the required documents within 90 days grace period?

Non-extendable 90 days grace period. Non-submission of documents within that period will result in irrevocable lapse of the application.

17. Is it required to legalize the priority document?

No, only a certified copy of the priority document is required for application filed claiming any foreign priority for non PCT applications.

18. When annuities are to be paid?

An annual fee shall be payable on the beginning of each year starting from the year following the date of filing the application.

In all instances, the annual fees may be paid in advance for the entire term of the letters patent or for parts thereof.

19. Is late payment of the annuity fees allowed?

If such a fee has not been duly paid by the owner of the letters patent within a 3- month period, then another grace period of 3 months shall be allowed, within which time the due fee is to be paid, provided that a late fee shall be added thereto.

20. Is it possible to enter national phase of PCT application?

Yes, within 30 months from the earliest priority date.

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

The protection term of the letters patent shall be a period of 20 years as of the date of filing the application.

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

Upon the decision of the Minister, the letters patent shall be issued and published in the industrial property circular.

23. Is there any provision for opposition?

Yes, any interested party may file a petition thereon to the competent committee within a period of 60 days from the date of publication.

24. What will happen if my patent application does not fulfill all conditions related to the filing procedures?

The administration shall examine the letters patent and may request whatever documents required for the issuance of such a letters patent or utility certificate. The administration shall notify the applicant should the application be rejected and the applicant may file a petition to the competent committee within a period of 60 days as of the date of notification.

25. Must assignments be recorded within a certain period?

No, however the letters patent may be assigned to another party prior to issuance thereof.

26. Is it possible to submit assignment of priority application instead of fresh deed of assignment?

Yes, we can submit an assignment of the priority application as an alternative to the deed of assignment provided that the said document assigns inventor's right worldwide. An assignment of each priority will be required, in case more than one priority is claimed for the corresponding UAE application.

27. Why is it necessary to record the assignment?

The assignment shall not be deemed evidence against any party unless such an assignment has duly been registered in the patent records, and have also been published in the industrial property circular.

28. If the owner of the letters patent have not used or made use of the letters patent, can any interested party obtain a compulsory license?

Yes, if the owner have not used or made use of the patent for the period of at least 3 years since the issuance of the letters patent has passed.

29. What are the conditions that might lead to a compulsory license?

- **The non-working period of patent at least three years since the issuance of the letters patent has passed.**
- **If appropriate efforts have been put up by the interested party to obtain the license at a reasonable price and under reasonable commercial conditions.**
- **If the patentee is unable to meet the basic requirement of the masses.**

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

Both English and Arabic languages.