

Rules for the Implementation of the Patent Law of the People's Republic of China

(Promulgated by Decree No. 306 of the State Council of the People's Republic of China on June 15, 2001, and revised according to the Decision of the State Council on Amending the Rules for the Implementation of the Patent Law of the People's Republic of China promulgated on December 28, 2002)

Chapter I General Provisions

Article 1 These Rules are formulated in accordance with the Patent Law of the People's Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as the Patent Law).

Article 2 "Invention" in the Patent Law means any new technical solution relating to a product, a process or improvement thereof.

"Utility model" in the Patent Law means any new technical solution relating to the shape, the structure, or their combination, of a product, which is fit for practical use.

"Design" in the Patent Law means any new design of the shape, pattern or their combination, or the combination of the color with shape or pattern, of a product, which creates an aesthetic feeling and is fit for industrial application.

Article 3 Any formalities prescribed by the Patent Law and these Rules shall be gone through in a written form or in any other form prescribed by the patent administration department under the State Council.

Article 4 Any document submitted in accordance with the provisions of the Patent Law and these Rules shall be in Chinese; the standard scientific and technical terms shall be used if there is a prescribed one set forth by the State; where no generally accepted translation in Chinese can be found for a foreign name or scientific or technical term, the one in the original language shall be also indicated.

Where any certificate(s) or certifying document(s) submitted in accordance with the provisions of the Patent Law and these Rules is in a foreign language, the patent administration department under the State Council may, when it deems necessary, request a Chinese translation of the certificate(s) or the certifying document(s) be submitted within a specified time limit; where the translation is not submitted within the specified time limit, the certificate(s) or certifying document(s) shall be deemed not to have been submitted.

Article 5 Where any document is sent by mail to the patent administration department under the State Council, the date of mailing indicated by the postmark on the envelope shall be deemed to be the date of filing; where the date of mailing indicated by the postmark on the envelope is illegible, the date on which the patent administration department under the State Council receives the document shall be the date of filing, except where the date of mailing is proved by the party concerned.

Any document of the patent administration department under the State Council may be served by mail, by personal delivery or by other forms. Where any party concerned appoints a patent agency, the

document shall be sent to the patent agency; where no patent agency is appointed, the document shall be sent to the liaison person named in the request.

Where any document is sent by mail by the patent administration department under the State Council, the 16th day from the date of mailing shall be presumed to be the date on which the party concerned receives the document(s).

Where any document is delivered personally in accordance with the provisions of the patent administration department under the State Council, the date of delivery is the date on which the party concerned receives the document(s).

Where the address of any document is not clear and it cannot be sent by mail, the document may be served by making an announcement. At the expiration of one month from the date of the announcement, the document shall be deemed to be served.

Article 6 The first day of any time limit prescribed in the Patent Law and these Rules shall not be counted in the time limit. Where the time limit is counted by year or by month, it shall expire on the corresponding day of the last month; if there is no corresponding day in that month, the time limit shall expire on the last day of that month; if a time limit expires on an official holiday, it shall expire on the first working day following that official holiday.

Article 7 Where a time limit prescribed in the Patent Law or these Rules or specified by the patent administration department under the State Council is not observed by a party concerned because of *force majeure*, resulting in loss of his or its rights, he or it may, within two months from the date on which the impediment is removed, at the latest within two years immediately following the expiration of that time limit, state the reasons, together with relevant supporting documents, and request the patent administration department under the State Council to restore his or its rights.

Where a time limit prescribed in the Patent Law or these Rules or specified by the patent administration department under the State Council is not observed by a party concerned because of any justified reason, resulting in loss of his or its rights, he or it may, within two months from the date of receipt of a notification from the patent administration department under the State Council, state the reasons and request the patent administration department under the State Council to restore his or its rights.

Where the party concerned makes a request for an extension of a time limit specified by the patent administration department under the State Council, he or it shall, before the time limit expires, state the reasons to the patent administration department under the State Council and go through the relevant formalities.

The provisions of paragraphs one and two of this Article shall not be applicable to the time limit referred to in Articles 24, 29, 42 and 62 of the Patent Law.

Article 8 Where an application for a patent for invention relates to the secrets of the State concerning national defense and requires to be kept secret, the application for patent shall be filed with the patent department of national defense. Where any application for patent for invention relating

to the secrets of the State concerning national defense and requiring to be kept secret is received by the patent administration department under the State Council, the application shall be forwarded to the patent department of national defense for examination, and the patent administration department under the State Council shall make a decision on the basis of the observations of the examination made by the patent department of national defense.

Subject to the provisions of the preceding paragraph, the patent administration department under the State Council shall, after receipt of an application for patent for invention which is required to be examined for the purpose of security, send it to the relevant competent department under the State Council for examination. The relevant competent department shall, within four months from the date of receipt of the application, notify the patent administration department under the State Council of the results of the examination. Where the invention for which a patent is applied for is required to be kept secret, the patent administration department under the State Council shall handle it as an application for secret patent and notify the applicant accordingly.

Article 9 Any invention-creation that is contrary to the laws of the State referred to in Article 5 of the Patent Law shall not include the invention-creation merely because the exploitation of which is prohibited by the laws of the State.

Article 10 The date of filing referred to in the Patent Law, except for those referred to in Articles 28 and 42, means the priority date where a priority is claimed.

The date of filing referred to in these Rules, except as otherwise prescribed, means the date of filing prescribed in Article 28 of the Patent Law.

Article 11 "A service invention-creation made by a person in execution of the tasks of the entity to which he belongs" referred to in Article 6 of the Patent Law means any invention-creation made:

- (1) in the course of performing his own duty;
- (2) in execution of any task, other than his own duty, which was entrusted to him by the entity to which he belongs;
- (3) within one year from his resignation, retirement or change of work, where the invention-creation relates to his own duty or the other task entrusted to him by the entity to which he previously belonged.

"The entity to which he belongs" referred to in Article 6 of the Patent Law includes the entity in which the person concerned is a temporary staff member. "Material and technical means of the entity" referred to in Article 6 mean the entity's money, equipment, spare parts, raw materials or technical materials which are not disclosed to the public.

Article 12 "Inventor" or "creator" referred to in the Patent Law means any person who makes creative contributions to the substantive features of an invention-creation. Any person who, during the course of accomplishing the invention-creation, is responsible only for organizational work, or who offers facilities for making use of material and technical means, or who takes part in other auxiliary functions, shall not be considered as inventor or creator.

Article 13 For any identical invention-creation, only one patent right shall be granted.

Two or more applicants who respectively file, on the same day, applications for patent for the identical invention-creation, as provided for in Article 9 of the Patent Law, shall, after receipt of a notification from the patent administration department under the State Council, hold consultations among themselves to decide the person or persons who shall be entitled to file the application.

Article 14 Any assignment of the right to apply for a patent or of the patent right, by a Chinese entity or individual, to a foreigner shall be approved by the competent department for foreign trade and economic affairs of the State Council in conjunction with the science and technology administration department of the State Council.

Article 15 Except for the assignment of the patent right in accordance with Article 10 of the Patent Law, where the patent right is transferred because of any other reason, the person or persons concerned shall, on the strength of relevant certifying documents or legal papers, request the patent administration department under the State Council to make a registration of change in the owner of the patent right.

Any license contract for exploitation of the patent which has been concluded by the patentee with an entity or individual shall, within three months from the date of entry into force of the contract, be submitted to the patent administration department under the State Council for the record.

Chapter II Application for Patent

Article 16 Anyone who applies for a patent in written form shall file with the patent administration department under the State Council application documents in two copies.

Anyone who applies for a patent in other forms as provided by the patent administration department under the State Council shall comply with the relevant provisions.

Any applicant who appoints a patent agency for applying for a patent, or for having other patent matters to attend to before the patent administration department under the State Council, shall submit at the same time a power of attorney indicating the scope of the power entrusted.

Where there are two or more applicants and no patent agency is appointed, unless otherwise stated in the request, the applicant named first in the request shall be the representative.

Article 17 "Other related matters" in the request referred to in Article 26, paragraph two of the Patent Law mean:

- (1) the nationality of the applicant;
- (2) where the applicant is an enterprise or other organization, the name of the country in which the applicant has the principal business office;
- (3) where the applicant has appointed a patent agency, the relevant matters which shall be indicated; where no patent agency is appointed, the name, address, postcode and telephone number of the liaison person;

(4) where the priority of an earlier application is claimed, the relevant matters which shall be indicated;

(5) the signature or seal of the applicant or the patent agency;

(6) a list of the documents constituting the application;

(7) a list of the documents appending the application; and

(8) any other related matter which needs to be indicated.

Article 18 The description of an application for a patent for invention or utility model shall state the title of the invention or utility model, which shall be the same as it appears in the request. The description shall include the following:

(1) technical field: specifying the technical field to which the technical solution to be protected pertains;

(2) background art: indicating the background art which can be regarded as useful for the understanding, searching and examination of the invention or utility model, and when possible, citing the documents reflecting such art;

(3) contents of the invention: disclosing the technical problem the invention or utility model aims to settle and the technical solution adopted to resolve the problem; and stating, with reference to the prior art, the advantageous effects of the invention or utility model;

(4) description of figures: briefly describing each figure in the drawings, if any;

(5) mode of carrying out the invention or utility model: describing in detail the optimally selected mode contemplated by the applicant for carrying out the invention or utility model; where appropriate, this shall be done in terms of examples, and with reference to the drawings, if any;

The manner and order referred to in the preceding paragraph shall be followed by the applicant for a patent for invention or for utility model, and each of the parts shall be preceded by a heading, unless, because of the nature of the invention or utility model, a different manner or order would result in a better understanding and a more economical presentation.

The description of the invention or utility model shall use standard terms and be in clear wording, and shall not contain such references to the claims as: "as described in claim ...", nor shall it contain commercial advertising.

Where an application for a patent for invention contains disclosure of one or more nucleotide and/or amino acid sequences, the description shall contain a sequence listing in compliance with the standard prescribed by the patent administration department under the State Council. The sequence listing shall be submitted as a separate part of the description, and a copy of the said sequence listing in machine-readable form shall also be submitted in accordance with the provisions of the patent administration department under the State Council.

Article 19 The same sheet of drawings may contain several figures of the invention or utility model, and the figures shall be numbered and arranged in numerical order consecutively as "Figure 1, Figure 2, ...".

The scale and the distinctness of the drawings shall be as such that a reproduction with a linear reduction in size to two-thirds would still enable all details to be clearly distinguished.

Reference signs not mentioned in the text of the description of the invention or utility model shall not appear in the drawings. Reference signs not appearing in the drawings shall not appear in the text of the description. Reference signs for the same composite part shall be used consistently throughout the application document.

The drawings shall not contain any other explanatory notes, except words which are indispensable.

Article 20 The claims shall define clearly and concisely the matter for which protection is sought in terms of the technical features of the invention or utility model.

If there are several claims, they shall be numbered consecutively in Arabic numerals.

The technical terminology used in the claims shall be consistent with that used in the description. The claims may contain chemical or mathematical formulae but no drawings. They shall not, except where absolutely necessary, contain such references to the description or drawings as: "as described in part ...of the description", or "as illustrated in Figure ...of the drawings".

The technical features mentioned in the claims may, in order to facilitate quicker understanding of the claim, make reference to the corresponding reference signs in the drawings of the description. Such reference signs shall follow the corresponding technical features and be placed in parentheses. They shall not be construed as limiting the claims.

Article 21 The claims shall have an independent claim, and may also contain dependent claims.

The independent claim shall outline the technical solution of an invention or utility model and state the essential technical features necessary for the solution of its technical problem.

The dependent claim shall, by additional technical features, further define the claim that it refers to.

Article 22 An independent claim of an invention or utility model shall contain a preamble portion and a characterizing portion, and be presented in the following form:

(1) a preamble portion: indicating the title of the claimed subject matter of the technical solution of the invention or utility model, and those technical features which are necessary for the definition of the claimed subject matter but which, in combination, are part of the most related prior art;

(2) a characterizing portion: stating, in such words as "characterized in that..." or in similar expressions, the technical features of the invention or utility model, which distinguish it from the most related prior art. Those features, in combination with the features stated in the preamble portion, serve to define the scope of protection of the invention or utility model.

Where the manner specified in the preceding paragraphs is not appropriate to be followed because of the nature of the invention or utility model, an independent claim may be presented in a different manner.

An invention or utility model shall have only one independent claim, which shall precede all the dependent claims relating to the same invention or utility model.

Article 23 Any dependent claim of an invention or utility model shall contain a reference portion and a characterizing portion, and be presented in the following manner:

(1) a reference portion: indicating the serial number(s) of the claim(s) referred to, and the title of the subject matter;

(2) a characterizing portion: stating the additional technical features of the invention or utility model.

Any dependent claim shall only refer to the preceding claim or claims. Any multiple dependent claims, which refer to two or more claims, shall refer to the preceding one in the alternative only, and shall not serve as a basis for any other multiple dependent claims.

Article 24 The abstract shall consist of a summary of the disclosure as contained in the application for patent for invention or utility model. The summary shall indicate the title of the invention or utility model, and the technical field to which the invention or utility model pertains, and shall be drafted in a way which allows the clear understanding of the technical problem, the gist of the technical solution of that problem, and the principal use or uses of the invention or utility model.

The abstract may contain the chemical formula which best characterizes the invention. In an application for a patent which contains drawings, the applicant shall provide a figure which best characterizes the technical features of the invention or utility model. The scale and the distinctness of the figure shall be as such that a reproduction with a linear reduction in size to 4cm x 6cm would still enable all details to be clearly distinguished. The whole text of the abstract shall contain not more than 300 words. There shall be no commercial advertising in the abstract.

Article 25 Where an invention for which a patent is applied concerns a new biological material which is not available to the public and which cannot be described in the application in such a manner as to enable the invention to be carried out by a person skilled in the art, the applicant shall, in addition to the other requirements provided for in the Patent Law and these Rules, go through the following formalities:

(1) depositing a sample of the biological material with a depository institution designated by the patent administration department under the State Council before, or at the latest, on the date of filing (or the priority date where priority is claimed), and submit at the time of filing or at the latest, within four months from the filing date, a receipt of deposit and the viability proof from the depository institution; where they are not submitted within the specified time limit, the sample of the biological material shall be deemed not to have been deposited;

(2) giving in the application document relevant information of the characteristics of the biological material;

(3) indicating, where the application relates to the deposit of the biological material, in the request and the description the scientific name (with its Latin name) and the name and address of the depository institution, the date on which the sample of the biological material was deposited and the accession number of the deposit; where, at the time of filing, they are not indicated, they shall be

supplied within four months from the date of filing; where after the expiration of the time limit they are not supplied, the sample of the biological material shall be deemed not to have been deposited.

Article 26 Where the applicant for a patent for invention has deposited a sample of the biological material in accordance with the provisions of Article 25 of these Rules, and after the application for patent for invention is published, any entity or individual that intends to make use of the biological material, to which the application relates, for the purpose of experiment shall make a request to the patent administration department under the State Council, containing the following items:

- (1) the name or title and address of the claimant;
- (2) an undertaking not to make the biological material available to any other person;
- (3) an undertaking to use the biological material for experimental purpose only before the grant of the patent right.

Article 27 The size of drawings or photographs of a design submitted in accordance with the provisions of Article 27 of the Patent Law shall not be smaller than 3cm x 8cm, nor larger than 15cm x 22cm.

Where an application for a patent for design seeking concurrent protection of colors is filed, a drawing or photograph in color shall be submitted in two copies.

The applicant shall, in respect of the subject matter of the product incorporating the design which is in need of protection, submit the relevant views and stereoscopic drawings or photographs, so as to clearly show the subject matter for which protection is sought.

Article 28 Where an application for a patent for design is filed, a brief explanation of the design shall, when necessary, be made.

The brief explanation of the design shall include the essential portion of the design, the colors for which protection is sought and the omission of the view of the product incorporating the design. The brief explanation shall not contain any commercial advertising and shall not be used to indicate the function of the product.

Article 29 Where the patent administration department under the State Council deems it necessary, it may require the applicant for a patent for design to submit a sample or model of the product incorporating the design. The volume of the sample or model submitted shall not exceed 30cm x 30cm x 30cm, and its weight shall not surpass 15 kilograms. Articles that are easy to get rotten or broken or articles that are dangerous shall not be submitted as sample or model.

Article 30 The existing technology referred to in Article 22, paragraph three of the Patent Law means any technology which has been publicly disclosed in domestic or foreign publications, or has been publicly and domestically used or made known to the public by any other means, before the date of filing (or the priority date where priority is claimed), that is, prior art.

Article 31 The academic or technological meeting referred to in Article 24, subparagraph (2) of the Patent Law means any academic or technological meeting organized by a relevant competent department of the State Council or by a national academic or technological association.

Where any invention-creation for which a patent is applied for falls under the provisions of Article 24, subparagraph (1) or (2) of the Patent Law, the applicant shall, when filing the application, make a declaration and, within a time limit of two months from the date of filing, submit certifying documents issued by the entity which organized the international exhibition or academic or technological meeting, stating the fact that the invention-creation was exhibited or published with the date of its exhibition or publication.

Where any invention-creation for which a patent is applied for falls under the provisions of Article 24, subparagraph (3) of the Patent Law, the patent administration department under the State Council may, when it deems necessary, require the applicant to submit the relevant certifying documents within the specified time limit.

Where the applicant fails to make a declaration and submit certifying documents as required in paragraph two of this Article, or fails to submit certifying documents within the specified time limit as required in paragraph three of this Article, the provisions of Article 24 of the Patent Law shall not apply to the application.

Article 32 Where any applicant claims priority in accordance with the provisions of Article 30 of the Patent Law, he or it shall, in his or its written declaration, indicate the date and the number of the application which is first filed (hereinafter referred to as the earlier application) and the country in which the application is filed. If the written declaration does not contain the filing date of the earlier application and the name of the country in which the application is filed, the declaration shall be deemed not to have been made.

Where the foreign priority is claimed, the copy of the earlier application documents submitted by the applicant shall be certified by the competent authority of the foreign country in which the application is filed. Where in the certifying material submitted, the name or title of the later applicant is not the same as that of the earlier one, the applicant shall submit document certifying the assignment of priority. Where the domestic priority is claimed, the copy of the earlier application document shall be prepared by the patent administration department under the State Council.

Article 33 An applicant may claim one or more priorities for an application for one patent; where multiple priorities are claimed, the priority period for the application shall be calculated from the earliest priority date.

Where an applicant claims the right of domestic priority, if the earlier application is one for a patent for invention, he or it may file an application for a patent for invention or utility model for the same subject matter; if the earlier application is one for a patent for utility model, he or it may file an application for a patent for utility model or invention for the same subject matter. However, when the later application is filed, if the subject matter of the earlier application falls under any of the following circumstances, it may not be taken as the basis for claiming domestic priority:

- (1) where it has claimed foreign or domestic priority;
- (2) where it has been granted a patent right;

(3) where it is a divisional application filed as prescribed.

Where the domestic priority is claimed, the earlier application shall be deemed to be withdrawn from the date on which the later application is filed.

Article 34 Where an application for a patent is filed or the right of foreign priority is claimed by an applicant having no habitual residence or business office in China, the patent administration department under the State Council may, when it deems necessary, require the applicant to submit the following documents:

(1) a certificate of nationality :

(2) a document certifying the seat of the business office or the headquarters, if the applicant is an enterprise or other organization;

(3) a document certifying that the country, to which the foreigner, foreign enterprise or other foreign organization belongs, recognizes that Chinese entities and individuals are, under the same conditions as those applied to its nationals, entitled to the patent right, the priority and other related rights in that country.

Article 35 Two or more inventions or utility models belonging to a single general inventive concept which may be filed as one application in accordance with the provisions in Article 31, paragraph one of the Patent Law shall be technically inter-related and contain one or more of the same or corresponding special technical features. The expression "special technical features" shall mean those technical features that define a contribution which each of those inventions or utility models, considered as a whole, makes over the prior art.

Article 36 The expression "the same class" referred to in Article 31, paragraph two of the Patent Law means that the products incorporating the designs belong to the same subclass in the classification of products for designs. The expression "be sold or used in sets" means that the products incorporating the designs have the same designing concept and are customarily sold and used at the same time.

Where two or more designs are filed as one application in accordance with the provisions in Article 31, paragraph two of the Patent Law, they shall be numbered consecutively and the numbers shall precede the titles of the view of the product incorporating the design.

Article 37 When withdrawing an application for a patent, the applicant shall submit to the patent administration department under the State Council a declaration stating the title of the invention-creation, the filing number and the date of filing.

Where a declaration to withdraw an application for a patent is submitted after the patent administration department under the State Council has completed the preparations for the publication of the application document, the application document shall be published as scheduled. However, the declaration withdrawing the application for patent shall be publicized in the Patent Gazette published later.

Chapter III Examination and Approval of Application for Patent

Article 38 Where any of the following events occurs, a person who makes examination or hears a case in the procedures of preliminary examination, examination as to substance, reexamination or invalidation shall, on his own initiative or upon the request of the parties concerned or any other interested person, be excluded from exercising his functions:

- (1) where he is a near relative of the party concerned or of the latter's agent;
- (2) where he has an interest in the application for patent or the patent right;
- (3) where he has any other kinds of relations with the party concerned or with the latter's agent that may influence impartial examination and hearing.
- (4) where he is a member of the Patent Reexamination Board who has ever taken part in the examination of the same initial application.

Article 39 Upon the receipt of an application for a patent for invention or utility model consisting of a request, a description (drawings must be included in an application for utility model) and one or more claims, or an application for a patent for design consisting of a request and one or more drawings or photographs showing the design, the patent administration department under the State Council shall accord the date of filing, issue a filing number, and notify the applicant.

Article 40 In any of the following circumstances, the patent administration department under the State Council shall refuse to accept the application document and notify the applicant accordingly:

- (1) where the application for a patent for invention or utility model does not contain a request, a description (the description of utility model does not contain drawings) or claims, or the application for a patent for design does not contain a request, drawings or photographs;
- (2) where the application document is not written in Chinese;
- (3) where the application document is not in conformity with the provisions of Article 120, paragraph one of these Rules;
- (4) where the request does not contain the name or title and address of the applicant;
- (5) where the application document is obviously not in conformity with the provisions of Article 18, or of Article 19, paragraph one of the Patent Law;
- (6) where the category of the application for a patent (patent for invention, utility model or design) is not clear and definite or cannot be ascertained.

Article 41 Where the description states that it contains explanatory notes to the drawings but the drawings or part of them are missing, the applicant shall, within the time limit specified by the patent administration department under the State Council, either furnish the drawings or make a declaration for the deletion of the explanatory notes to the drawings. If the drawings are submitted later, the date of their delivery at, or mailing to, the patent administration department under the State Council shall be the date of filing of the application; if the explanatory notes to the drawings are to be deleted, the initial date of filing shall be retained.

Article 42 Where an application for a patent contains two or more inventions, utility models or designs, the applicant may, before the expiration of the time limit provided for in Article 54, paragraph one of these Rules, submit to the patent administration department under the State Council a divisional application. However, where an application for patent has been rejected or withdrawn or is deemed to have been withdrawn, no divisional application may be filed.

If the patent administration department under the State Council finds that an application for a patent is not in conformity with the provisions of Article 31 of the Patent Law or of Article 35 or 36 of these Rules, it shall invite the applicant to amend the application within a specified time limit; if the applicant fails to make any response after the expiration of the specified time limit, the application shall be deemed to have been withdrawn.

The divisional application may not change the category of the initial application.

Article 43 For a divisional application which is filed in accordance with the provisions of Article 42 of these Rules, the initial date of filing may be retained; if the priority is claimed, the priority date of the initial application may be retained, provided that the divisional application does not go beyond the scope of disclosure contained in the initial application.

The divisional application shall go through all the formalities in accordance with the provisions of the Patent Law and these Rules.

The filing number and the date of filing of the initial application shall be indicated in the request of the divisional application. When a divisional application is filed, it shall be accompanied by a copy of the initial application document; if priority is claimed for the initial application, a copy of the priority document of the initial application shall also be submitted.

Article 44 "Preliminary examination" referred to in Articles 34 and 40 of the Patent Law means the examination of an application for a patent to see whether or not it contains the documents provided for in Article 26 or 27 of the Patent Law and other necessary documents, and whether or not those documents are in the prescribed form; such examination shall also include the following:

(1) whether or not any application for a patent for invention obviously falls under Article 5 or 25 of the Patent Law, or is not in conformity with the provisions of Article 18 or of Article 19, paragraph one, or is obviously not in conformity with the provisions of Article 31, paragraph one, or Article 33 of the Patent Law or of Article 2, paragraph one, or Article 18, or Article 20 of these Rules;

(2) whether or not any application for a patent for utility model obviously falls under Article 5 or 25 of the Patent Law, or is not in conformity with the provisions of Article 18 or of Article 19, paragraph one of the Patent Law, or is obviously not in conformity with the provisions of Article 26, paragraph three or four, or of Article 31, paragraph one, or Article 33 of the Patent Law or of Article 2, paragraph two, or of Article 13, paragraph one, or of Articles 18 to 23, or of Article 43, paragraph one of these Rules, or is not entitled to a patent right in accordance with the provisions of Article 9 of the Patent Law;

(3) whether or not any application for a patent for design obviously falls under Article 5 of the Patent Law, or is not in conformity with the provisions of Article 18 or of Article 19, paragraph one of the Patent Law, or is obviously not in conformity with the provisions of Article 31, paragraph two, or of Article 33 of the Patent Law, or of Article 2, paragraph three, or of Article 13, paragraph one, or of Article 43, paragraph one of these Rules, or is not entitled to a patent right in accordance with the provisions of Article 9 of the Patent Law.

The patent administration department under the State Council shall notify the applicant of its opinions after examining his or its application and invite him or it to state his or its observations or to correct his or its application within the specified time limit. If the applicant fails to make any response within the specified time limit, the application shall be deemed to have been withdrawn. Where, after the applicant has made his or its observations or the corrections, the patent administration department under the State Council still finds that the application is not in conformity with the provisions in the preceding paragraph, the application shall be rejected.

Article 45 Apart from the application for patent, any document relating to the patent application, which the applicant has submitted to the patent administration department under the State Council, shall be deemed not to have been submitted in any of the following circumstances:

- (1) where the document is not presented in the prescribed form or the indications therein are not in conformity with the provisions;
- (2) where no certifying document is submitted as prescribed.

The patent administration department under the State Council shall notify the applicant of its examination opinion that the document is deemed not to have been submitted.

Article 46 Where the applicant requests an earlier publication of its or his application for a patent for invention, a statement shall be made to the patent administration department under the State Council. The patent administration department under the State Council shall, after preliminary examination of the application, publicize it immediately, unless it is to be rejected.

Article 47 The applicant shall, when indicating in accordance with Article 27 of the Patent Law the product incorporating the design and the class to which that product belongs, refer to the classification of products for designs publicized by the patent administration department under the State Council. Where no indication, or an incorrect indication, of the class to which the product incorporating the design belongs is made, the patent administration department under the State Council shall supply the indication or correct it.

Article 48 Any person may, from the date of publication of an application for a patent for invention till the date of announcing the grant of the patent right, submit to the patent administration department under the State Council his observations, with the reasons therefore, on the application which is not in conformity with the provisions of the Patent Law.

Article 49 Where the applicant for a patent for invention cannot furnish, for justified reasons, the documents concerning any search or results of any examination specified in Article 36 of the Patent

Law, it or he shall make a statement to the patent administration department under the State Council and submit them when the said documents are available.

Article 50 The patent administration department under the State Council shall, when proceeding on its own initiative to examine an application for a patent in accordance with the provisions of Article 35, paragraph two of the Patent Law, notify the applicant accordingly.

Article 51 When requesting for examination as to substance or within three months after the receipt of the notification of the patent administration department under the State Council that the application has entered into examination as to substance, the applicant for a patent for invention may amend the application for a patent for invention on its or his own initiative.

Within two months from the date of filing, the applicant for a patent for utility model or design may amend the application for a patent for utility model or design on its or his own initiative.

Where the applicant amends the application after receiving the notification of opinions of the examination as to substance of the patent administration department under the State Council, he or it shall make the amendment as required by the notification.

The patent administration department under the State Council may, on its own initiative, correct the obvious clerical mistakes and symbol mistakes in the documents of application for a patent. Where the patent administration department under the State Council corrects mistakes on its own initiative, it shall notify the applicant.

Article 52 When an amendment to the description or the claims in an application for a patent for invention or utility model is made, a replacement sheet in prescribed form shall be submitted, unless the amendment concerns only the alteration, insertion or deletion of a few words. Where an amendment to the drawings or photographs of an application for a patent for design is made, a replacement sheet shall be submitted as prescribed.

Article 53 In accordance with the provisions of Article 38 of the Patent Law, the circumstances in which an application for patent for invention shall be rejected by the patent administration department under the State Council after examination as to substance are as follows:

(1) where the application does not comply with the provisions of Article 2, paragraph one of these Rules;

(2) where the application falls under the provisions of Article 5 or 25 of the Patent Law, or it does not comply with the provisions of Article 22 of the Patent Law or of Article 13, paragraph one, or of Article 20, paragraph one, or of Article 21, paragraph two of these Rules, or the applicant is not entitled to a patent right in accordance with the provisions of Article 9 of the Patent Law;

(3) where the application does not comply with the provisions of Article 26, paragraph three or four, or of Article 31, paragraph one of the Patent Law;

(4) where the amendment to the application does not comply with the provisions of Article 33 of the Patent Law, or the divisional application does not comply with the provisions of Article 43, paragraph one of these Rules.

Article 54 After the patent administration department under the State Council issues the notification to grant the patent right, the applicant shall go through the formalities of registration within two months from the date of receipt of the notification. If the applicant completes the formalities of registration within the said time limit, the patent administration department under the State Council shall grant the patent right, issue the patent certificate and make an announcement.

If the applicant does not go through the formalities of registration within the time limit, he or it shall be deemed to have abandoned its or his right to obtain the patent right.

Article 55 After the announcement of the decision to grant a patent for utility model, the patentee of the said patent for utility model may request the patent administration department under the State Council to make a search report on the utility model patent.

Where such person requests for a search report on a utility model patent, he shall submit a request, indicating the patent number of the said patent for utility model. Each request shall be limited for one patent for utility model.

After receiving a request for a search report on a utility model patent, the patent administration department under the State Council shall proceed to make an examination of the request. Where the request does not comply with the requirements as prescribed, the said department shall notify the person making the request to amend the request within a specified time limit.

Article 56 Where, after examination, the request for a search report on a utility model patent complies with the provisions, the patent administration department under the State Council shall promptly make a search report on the utility model patent.

Where, after search, the patent administration department under the State Council finds that the patent for utility model concerned does not comply with the provisions of Article 22 of the Patent Law concerning novelty or inventiveness, it shall cite the documents considered to be relevant, state the reasons therefor and have the copies of the cited relevant documents attached.

Article 57 The patent administration department under the State Council shall promptly correct the mistakes in patent announcements and documents once they are discovered, and the corrections shall be announced.

Chapter IV Reexamination of Patent Application and Invalidation of Patent Right

Article 58 The Patent Reexamination Board shall consist of technical and legal experts appointed by the patent administration department under the State Council. The responsible person of the patent administration department under the State Council shall be the Director General of the Board.

Article 59 Where the applicant requests the Patent Reexamination Board to make a reexamination in accordance with the provisions of Article 41 of the Patent Law, it or he shall file a request for reexamination, state the reasons and, when necessary, attach the relevant supporting documents.

Where the request for reexamination does not comply with the prescribed form, the person making the request shall rectify it within the time limit specified by the Patent Reexamination Board. If the person making the request fails to meet the time limit for making rectification, the request for reexamination shall be deemed not to have been filed.

Article 60 The person making the request may amend its or his application at the time when it or he requests reexamination or makes responses to the reexamination notification of the Patent Reexamination Board. However, the amendments shall be limited only to remove the defects pointed out in the decision of rejection of the application, or in the reexamination notification.

The amendments to the application for patent shall be in two copies.

Article 61 The Patent Reexamination Board shall send the request for reexamination that the Board has received to the original examination department of the patent administration department under the State Council for examination. Where the original examination department agrees to revoke its original decision upon the request of the person requesting reexamination, the Patent Reexamination Board shall make a decision accordingly and notify the person making the request.

Article 62 Where, after reexamination, the Patent Reexamination Board finds that the request does not comply with the provisions of the Patent Law and these Rules, it shall notify the person requesting reexamination to submit his observations within a specified time limit. If the time limit for making response is not met, the request for reexamination shall be deemed to have been withdrawn. Where, after the person requesting reexamination has made its observations and amendments, the Patent Reexamination Board still finds that the request does not comply with the provisions of the Patent Law and these Rules, it shall make a decision of reexamination to maintain the earlier decision rejecting the application for patent.

Where, after reexamination, the Patent Reexamination Board finds that the decision rejecting the application for patent does not comply with the provisions of the Patent Law and these Rules, or that the amended application has removed the defects as pointed out by the decision rejecting the application, it shall make a decision to revoke the decision rejecting the application for patent, and ask the original examination department to continue the examination procedure.

Article 63 At any time before the Patent Reexamination Board makes its decision on the request for reexamination, the person making the request may withdraw his request for reexamination.

Where the person making the request withdraws his request for reexamination before the Patent Reexamination Board makes its decision, the procedure of reexamination is terminated.

Article 64 Anyone requesting invalidation or part invalidation of a patent right in accordance with the provisions of Article 45 of the Patent Law shall submit a request and necessary evidence in two copies. The request for invalidation shall state in detail the grounds for filing the request for invalidation, making reference to all the evidence as submitted, and indicate the piece of evidence on which each ground is based.

The grounds on which the request for invalidation is based, referred to in the preceding paragraph, mean that the invention-creation for which the patent right is granted does not comply with the provisions of Article 22 or 23, or of Article 26, paragraph three or four, or of Article 33 of the Patent Law, or of Article 2, or of Article 13, paragraph one, or of Article 20, paragraph one, or of Article 21, paragraph two of these Rules; or it falls under the provisions of Article 5 or 25 of the Patent Law; or the person is not entitled to be granted the patent right in accordance with the provisions of Article 9 of the Patent Law.

Article 65 Where the request for invalidation does not comply with the provisions of Article 64 of these Rules, the Patent Reexamination Board shall not accept it.

Where, after a decision on any request for invalidation of the patent right is made, invalidation based on the same facts and evidence is requested once again, the Patent Reexamination Board shall not accept it.

Where a request for invalidation of a patent for design is based on the ground that the patent for design is in conflict with a prior right of another person, if, however, no decision of settlement or no judgment of any court which has entered into force to prove such conflict of rights has been submitted, the Patent Reexamination Board shall not accept it.

Where the request for invalidation of the patent right does not comply with the prescribed form, the person making the request shall rectify it within the time limit specified by the Patent Reexamination Board. If the rectification fails to be made within the time limit, the request for invalidation shall be deemed not to have been filed.

Article 66 After the Patent Reexamination Board has accepted a request for invalidation, the person making the request may add reasons or supplement proofs within one month from the date when the request for invalidation is filed. The Patent Reexamination Board may not take into account any additional reasons or supplementary proofs that are submitted after the specified time limit.

Article 67 The Patent Reexamination Board shall send a copy of the request for invalidation of the patent right and copies of the relevant documents to the patentee and refuse it or him to present its or his observations within a specified time limit.

The patentee and the person making the request for invalidation shall, within the specified time limit, make responses to the notification concerning transmitted documents or the notification concerning the examination of the request for invalidation sent by the Patent Reexamination Board. Where no response is made within the specified time limit, the examination of the Patent Reexamination Board will not be affected.

Article 68 In the course of the examination of the request for invalidation, the patentee for patent for invention or utility model may amend its or his claims, but may not broaden the scope of patent protection.

The patentee for patent for invention or utility model may not amend its or his description or drawings. The patentee for patent for design may not amend its or his drawings, photographs or the brief explanation of the design.

Article 69 The Patent Reexamination Board may, at the request of the parties concerned or in accordance with the need of the case, decide to conduct oral proceedings in respect of a request for invalidation.

Where the Patent Reexamination Board decides to conduct oral proceedings in respect of a request for invalidation, it shall send notification of oral proceedings to the parties concerned, indicating the date and place of the oral proceedings to be held. The parties concerned shall make response to the notification within the specified time limit.

Where the person requesting invalidation fails to make response to the notification of oral proceedings sent by the Patent Reexamination Board within the specified time limit, and fails to take part in the oral proceedings, the request for invalidation shall be deemed to have been withdrawn. Where the patentee fails to take part in the oral proceedings, the Patent Reexamination Board may proceed to examine by default.

Article 70 In the course of the examination in respect of a request for invalidation, the time limit specified by the Patent Reexamination Board shall not be extended.

Article 71 The person requesting invalidation may withdraw his request before the Patent Reexamination Board makes a decision on it.

Where the person requesting invalidation withdraws his request before the Patent Reexamination Board makes a decision on it, the examination of the request for invalidation is terminated.

Chapter V Compulsory License for Exploitation of Patent

Article 72 After the expiration of three years from the date of the grant of the patent right, any entity may, in accordance with the provisions of Article 48 of the Patent Law, request the patent administration department under the State Council to grant a compulsory license.

Any entity requesting a compulsory license shall submit to the patent administration department under the State Council a request for compulsory license, state the reasons therefor, and attach relevant certifying documents each in two copies.

The patent administration department under the State Council shall send a copy of the request for compulsory license to the patentee, who shall make his or its observations within the time limit specified by the patent administration department under the State Council. Where no response is made within the time limit, the patent administration department under the State Council will not be affected in making a decision concerning a compulsory license.

The decision of the patent administration department under the State Council granting a compulsory license for exploitation shall limit the exploitation of the compulsory license to be

predominately for the supply of the domestic market. Where the invention-creation involved in the compulsory license relates to the semi-conductor technology, the exploitation of the compulsory license shall be limited only for public non-commercial use or to remedy a practice determined after judicial or administrative process to be anti-competitive.

Article 73 Where any entity or individual requests, in accordance with the provisions of Article 54 of the Patent Law, the patent administration department under the State Council to adjudicate the fees for exploitation, it or he shall submit a request for adjudication and furnish documents showing that the parties concerned have not been able to conclude an agreement in respect of the amount of the exploitation fee. The patent administration department under the State Council shall make an adjudication within three months from the date of receipt of the request and notify the parties concerned accordingly.

Chapter VI Reward and Remuneration of Inventors or Creators of Service Inventions- Creations

Article 74 The State-owned enterprise or institution to which a patent right is granted shall, within three months from the date of the announcement of the grant of the patent right, offer a reward to the inventor or creator of a service invention-creation. The reward for a patent for invention shall not be less than 2000 yuan; the reward for a patent for utility model or design shall not be less than 500 yuan.

Where an invention-creation is made on the basis of an inventor's or creator's proposal adopted by the entity to which he belongs, the State-owned enterprise or institution to which a patent right is granted shall offer a reward to him on favorable terms.

For the reward to the inventor or creator, the enterprise may have it included into its production cost, and the institution may have it disbursed out of its operating expenses.

Article 75 The State-owned enterprise or institution to which a patent right is granted shall, after exploiting the patent for invention-creation within the duration of the patent right, draw each year from the profits after taxation earned from exploitation of the invention or utility model a percentage of not less than 2%, or from the profits after taxation earned from exploitation of the design a percentage of not less than 0.2%, and award it to the inventor or creator as remuneration. The entity may, as an alternative, by making reference to the said percentage, award a lump sum of money to the inventor or creator as remuneration once and for all.

Article 76 Where any State-owned enterprise or institution to which a patent right is granted authorizes any other entity or individual to exploit its patent, it shall draw from the fees it receives for exploitation of the said patent after taxation a percentage of not less than 10% and award it to the inventor or creator as remuneration.

Article 77 The provisions of this Chapter may be implemented by any other Chinese entity by making reference thereto.

Chapter VII Protection of Patent Right

Article 78 The administrative authority for patent affairs referred to in the Patent Law and these Rules means the department responsible for the administrative work concerning patent affairs set up by the people's government of any province, autonomous region, or municipality directly under the Central Government or by the people's government of any city divided into districts which has a large amount of patent administration work to attend to and has the ability to deal with the matter.

Article 79 In addition to the provisions of Article 57 of the Patent Law, the administrative authority for patent affairs may also mediate in the following patent disputes at the request of the parties concerned:

- (1) any dispute over the ownership of the right to apply for patent and the patent right;
- (2) any dispute over the qualification of the inventor or creator;
- (3) any dispute over the reward and remuneration of the inventor or creator of a service invention-creation;
- (4) any dispute over the appropriate fee to be paid for the exploitation of an invention after the publication of the application for patent but before the grant of patent right.

In respect of the dispute referred to in subparagraph (4), where the patentee requests the administrative authority for patent affairs to mediate, the request shall be made after the grant of the patent right.

Article 80 The patent administration department under the State Council shall provide professional guidance to the administrative authorities for patent affairs in handling and mediating patent disputes.

Article 81 Where any party concerned requests for handling or mediation of a patent dispute, it shall fall under the jurisdiction of the administrative authority for patent affairs of the place where the requested party has his location or where the act of infringement takes place.

Where two or more administrative authorities for patent affairs all have jurisdiction over a patent dispute, the party concerned may file his or its request with one of them. Where requests are filed with two or more administrative authorities for patent affairs, the administrative authority for patent affairs that first accepts the request shall have jurisdiction.

Where administrative authorities for patent affairs have a dispute over their jurisdiction, the administrative authority for patent affairs of their common higher level people's government shall designate the administrative authority for patent affairs to exercise the jurisdiction; if there is no such administrative authority for patent affairs of their common higher level people's government, the patent administration department under the State Council shall designate the administrative authority for patent affairs to exercise the jurisdiction.

Article 82 Where, in the course of handling a patent infringement dispute, the defendant requests invalidation of the patent right and his request is accepted by the Patent Reexamination Board, he may request the administrative authority for patent affairs to suspend from handling the matter.

If the administrative authority for patent affairs considers that the reasons set forth by the defendant for the suspension are obviously untenable, it may not suspend from handling the matter.

Article 83 Where any patentee affixes a patent marking on the patented product or on the package of that product in accordance with the provisions of Article 15 of the Patent Law, he or it shall make the affixation in the manner as prescribed by the patent administration department under the State Council.

Article 84 Any of the following acts is an act of passing off the patent of another person as one's own:

(1) without authorization, indicating the patent number of another person on the product made or sold by oneself or on the package of the said product;

(2) without authorization, using the patent number of another person in the advertisement or in any other promotional materials, so as to mislead other persons to regard the technology concerned as the patented technology of another person;

(3) without authorization, using the patent number of another person in the contract, so as to mislead other persons to regard the technology referred to in the contract as the patented technology of another person;

(4) counterfeiting or transforming any patent certificate, patent document or patent application document of another person.

Article 85 Any of the following acts is an act of passing a non-patented product off as patented product or passing a non-patented process off as patented process:

(1) making or selling non-patented products which are affixed with patent marking;

(2) continuing to affix patent marking on the products that are made or sold after the patent right concerned has been declared invalid;

(3) addressing any non-patented technology as patented technology in the advertisements or in any other promotional materials;

(4) stating any non-patented technology as patented technology in any contract;

(5) counterfeiting or transforming any patent certificate, patent document or patent application document.

Article 86 Any party concerned to a dispute over the ownership of the right to apply for a patent or the patent right which is pending before the administrative authority for patent affairs or the people's court, may request the patent administration department under the State Council to suspend the relevant procedures.

The party requesting the suspension of the relevant procedures in accordance with the preceding paragraph, shall submit a written request to the patent administration department under the State

Council, and attach a copy of the document acknowledging the receipt of the relevant request by the administrative authority for patent affairs or the people's court.

After the decision made by the administrative authority for patent affairs or the judgment rendered by the people's court has entered into force, the parties concerned shall request the patent administration department under the State Council to resume the suspended procedure. If, within one year from the date when the request for suspension is filed, no decision is made on the dispute relating to the ownership of the right to apply for a patent or the patent right, and it is necessary to continue the suspension, the party making the request shall, within the said time limit, request to extend the suspension. If, at the expiration of the said time limit, no such request for extension is filed, the patent administration department under the State Council shall resume the procedure on its own initiative.

Article 87 Where, in hearing civil cases, the people's court has ordered the adoption of measures for a patent right preservation, the patent administration department under the State Council, for the purpose of assisting the execution of the order, shall suspend the relevant procedure concerning the preserved patent right. At the expiration of the time limit for preservation, if there is no order of the people's court to continue the preservation, the patent administration department under the State Council shall resume the relevant procedure on its own initiative.

Chapter VIII Patent Registration and Patent Gazette

Article 88 The patent administration department under the State Council shall keep a Patent Register in which the registration of the following matters relating to patent application or patent right shall be made:

- (1) any grant of the patent right;
- (2) any transfer of the patent application right or the patent right;
- (3) any pledge and preservation of the patent right and their discharge;
- (4) any patent license contract for exploitation submitted for the record;
- (5) any invalidation of the patent right;
- (6) any cessation of the patent right;
- (7) any restoration of the patent right;
- (8) any compulsory license for exploitation of the patent;
- (9) any change in the name, nationality and address of the patentee.

Article 89 The patent administration department under the State Council shall publish the Patent Gazette at regular intervals, publicizing or announcing the following:

- (1) the bibliographic data contained in patent applications;
- (2) the abstract of the description of an invention or utility model, the drawings or photographs of a design and its brief explanation;

(3) any request for examination as to substance of an application for a patent for invention and any decision made by the patent administration department under the State Council to proceed on its own initiative to examine as to substance an application for a patent for invention;

(4) any declassification of secret patents;

(5) any rejection, withdrawal and deemed withdrawal of an application for a patent for invention after its publication;

(6) any grant of the patent right;

(7) any invalidation of the patent right;

(8) any cessation of the patent right;

(9) any transfer of the patent application right or the patent right;

(10) any patent license contract for exploitation submitted for the record;

(11) any pledge and preservation of the patent right and their discharge;

(12) any grant of compulsory license for exploitation of the patent;

(13) any restoration of a patent application or patent right;

(14) any change in the name or address of the patentee;

(15) any notification to a party whose address is not known;

(16) any correction made by the patent administration department under the State Council; and

(17) any other related matters.

The description and its drawings, and the claims of an application for a patent for invention or utility model shall be separately published in full text by the patent administration department under the State Council.

Chapter IX Fees

Article 90 When any person files an application for a patent with, or goes through other formalities at, the patent administration department under the State Council, he or it shall pay the following fees:

(1) filing fee, additional fee for patent application, and printing fee for publicizing the application;

(2) substantive examination fee for an application for patent for invention, and reexamination fee;

(3) registration fee for the grant of patent right, printing fee for the announcement of grant of patent right, maintenance fee for application, and annual fee;

(4) fee for a change in the bibliographic data, fee for claiming priority, fee for requesting restoration of rights, fee for requesting extension of a time limit, and fee for establishing a search report on a utility model patent;

(5) fee for requesting invalidation, fee for requesting suspension of the patent procedure, fee for requesting a compulsory license, fee for requesting adjudication on exploitation fee of a compulsory license.

The amount of the fees referred to in the preceding paragraph shall be prescribed by the price administration department under the State Council in conjunction with the patent administration department under the State Council.

Article 91 The fees provided for in the Patent Law and in these Rules may be paid directly to the patent administration department under the State Council or paid by way of bank or postal remittance, or by way of any other means as prescribed by the patent administration department under the State Council.

Where any fee is paid by way of bank or postal remittance, the applicant or the patentee shall indicate on the money order at least the correct filing number or the patent number and the name of the fee paid. If the requirements as prescribed in this paragraph are not complied with, the payment of the fee shall be deemed not to have been made.

Where any fee is paid directly to the patent administration department under the State Council, the date on which the fee is paid shall be the date of payment; where any fee is paid by way of postal remittance, the date of remittance indicated by the postmark shall be the date of payment; where any fee is paid by way of bank transfer, the date on which the transfer of the fee is done shall be the date of payment. Where the time between such a date and the date of receipt of the order by the patent administration department under the State Council lasts more than fifteen days, unless the date of remittance or transfer is proved by the bank or the post office, the date of receipt by the patent administration department under the State Council shall be the date of payment.

Where any patent fee is paid in excess of the amount as prescribed, paid repeatedly or wrongly, the party concerned may, within one year from the date of payment, request a refund from the patent administration department under the State Council.

Article 92 The applicant shall, after receipt of the notification of acceptance of the application from the patent administration department under the State Council, pay the filing fee, the printing fee for publicizing the application and the necessary additional fees at the latest within two months from the filing date. If the fees are not paid or not paid in full within the time limit, the application shall be deemed to be withdrawn.

Where the applicant claims priority, he or it shall pay the fee for claiming priority at the same time with the payment of the filing fee. If the fee is not paid or not paid in full within the time limit, the claim for the priority shall be deemed not to have been made.

Article 93 Where the party concerned makes a request for an examination as to substance, a restoration of right or a reexamination, the relevant fee shall be paid within the time limit as prescribed respectively for such requests by the Patent Law. If the fee is not paid or not paid in full within the time limit, the request is deemed not to have been made.

Article 94 Where the applicant for a patent for invention has not been granted a patent right within two years from the date of filing, it or he shall pay a fee for the maintenance of the application from the third year.

Article 95 When the applicant goes through the formalities of registration of the grant of patent right, it or he shall pay a registration fee for the grant of patent right, printing fee for the announcement of grant of patent right and the annual fee of the year in which the patent right is granted. The applicant for a patent for invention shall, in the lump, pay the application maintenance fee for all the years, not including the year in which the patent right is granted. If such fees are not paid within the prescribed time limit, the registration of the grant of patent right shall be deemed not to have been made. The subsequent annual fees shall be paid in advance within the month before the expiration of the preceding year.

Article 96 Where the annual fee of the patent right after the year in which the patent is granted is not paid in due time by the patentee, or the fee is not paid in full, the patent administration department under the State Council shall notify the patentee to pay the fee or to make up the insufficiency within six months from the expiration of the time limit within which the annual fee is due to be paid, and at the same time pay a surcharge. The amount of the surcharge shall be, for each month of late payment, 5% of the whole amount of the annual fee of the year within which the annual fee is due to be paid. Where the fee and the surcharge are not paid within the time limit, the patent right shall lapse from the expiration of the time limit within which the annual fee should be paid.

Article 97 The fee for a change in the bibliographic data, fee for establishing a search report on a utility model patent, fee for requesting suspension of the patent procedure, fee for requesting a compulsory license, fee for requesting adjudication on exploitation fee of a compulsory license and fee for requesting invalidation shall be paid as prescribed within one month from the date on which such request is filed. The fee for requesting extension of a time limit shall be paid before the expiration of the said time limit. If the fee is not paid or not paid in full within the time limit, the request shall be deemed not to have been made.

Article 98 Where any applicant or patentee has difficulties in paying the various fees prescribed in these Rules, he may, in accordance with the prescriptions, submit a request to the patent administration department under the State Council, for a reduction or postponement of the payment. Measures for the reduction and postponement of the payment shall be prescribed by the patent administration department under the State Council in consultation with the finance administration department and the price administration department under the State Council.

Chapter X Special Provisions Concerning International Application

Article 99 The patent administration department under the State Council receives international patent applications filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in accordance with the provisions of Article 20 of the Patent Law.

Where any international application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty designating China enters the Chinese national phase (hereinafter referred to as the international application), the

requirements and procedures prescribed in this Chapter shall apply. Where no provisions are made in this Chapter, the relevant provisions in the Patent Law and in any other chapters of these Rules shall apply.

Article 100 Any international application which has been accorded an international filing date and which has designated China shall, in accordance with the Patent Cooperation Treaty, be deemed as an application for patent filed with the patent administration department under the State Council, and the said filing date shall be deemed as the filing date referred to in Article 28 of the Patent Law.

Where, in the international phase, an international application or its designation of China is withdrawn or deemed to be withdrawn, the effect of the said international application in China shall cease.

Article 101 Any applicant for an international application entering the Chinese national phase shall, within 30 months from the priority date as referred to in Article 2 of the Patent Cooperation Treaty (referred to in this chapter as "the priority date"), go through the following formalities at the patent administration department under the State Council:

(1) submitting a written statement concerning the entry of his or its international application into the Chinese national phase. The statement shall indicate the international application number, and also indicate in Chinese the kind of patent protection sought, the title of the invention-creation, the name or title of the applicant, the address of the applicant and the name of the inventor. Such indications shall be the same as those recorded by the International Bureau;

(2) paying the filing fee, the additional fee for patent application and the printing fee for publicizing the application as provided in Article 90, paragraph one of these Rules;

(3) where an international application is filed in a language other than Chinese, the Chinese translation of the description, the claims, the text matter of the drawings, and the abstract of the initial international application shall be furnished; where an international application is filed in Chinese, a copy of the abstract published in the international publication shall be furnished;

(4) where an international application contains drawings, a copy of the drawings shall be furnished. Where an international application is filed in Chinese, a copy of the figure of the drawings in the abstract as published in the international publication shall be furnished.

If the applicant fails to go through the relevant formalities for entering the Chinese national phase within the time limit prescribed in the preceding paragraph, he or it may, after paying a surcharge for the late entry, go through these formalities before the expiration of the time limit of 32 months from the priority date.

Article 102 Where the applicant fails to go through the formalities for entering the Chinese national phase, within the time limit prescribed in Article 101, paragraph two of these Rules or any of the following circumstance occurs at the expiration of the said time limit, the effect of his or its international application shall cease in China:

(1) where the international application number is not indicated in the statement concerning entry into the Chinese national phase;

(2) where the filing fee, the printing fee for publicizing the application prescribed in Article 90, paragraph one of these Rules, or the surcharge for the late entry as prescribed in Article 101, paragraph two of these Rules is not paid;

(3) where the international application is filed in a language other than Chinese, the Chinese translation of the description and the claims of the initial international application are not furnished.

Where the effect of an international application has ceased in China, the provisions of Article 7, paragraph two of these Rules shall not apply.

Article 103 Where any of the following circumstance occurs at the time when the applicant goes through the formalities for entering the Chinese national phase, the patent administration department under the State Council shall notify the applicant to make corrections within the specified time limit:

(1) where the Chinese translation of the abstract or a copy of the abstract is not furnished;

(2) where a copy of the drawings or a copy of a figure of the drawings in the abstract is not furnished;

(3) where the title of the invention-creation, the name or title of the applicant, the address of the applicant and the name of the inventor are not indicated in Chinese in the statement concerning entry into the Chinese national phase;

(4) where the content or the form of the statement concerning entry into the Chinese national phase is not in conformity with the provisions.

If, at the expiration of the time limit, the applicant fails to make up the corrections, his or its application shall be deemed to be withdrawn.

Article 104 Where an international application is amended in the international phase and the applicant requests that the examination be based on the amended application, the Chinese translation of the amendments shall be furnished by the applicant before completion of the technical preparations for national publication of the application by the patent administration department under the State Council. Where the Chinese translation is not furnished within the time limit, the amendments made in the international phase shall not be taken into consideration by the patent administration department under the State Council.

Article 105 When the applicant goes through the formalities for entering the Chinese national phase, he or it shall also fulfill the following requirements:

(1) where the inventor is not indicated in the international application, the name of the inventor shall be indicated in the statement concerning entry into the Chinese national phase;

(2) where any change in the applicant is made before the International Bureau in the international phase, the document certifying the right of the new applicant to the international application shall be furnished;

(3) where the applicant is not the same person as the applicant having filed the earlier application which is the basis of the priority claimed, or where the applicant has changed his or its name after filing the earlier application, the document certifying the right of the applicant to claim priority shall be furnished when necessary;

(4) Where any invention-creation to which the international application relates has one of the events referred to in Article 24, subparagraph (1) or (2) of the Patent Law and where statements have been made in this respect when the international application was filed, the applicant shall indicate it in the statement concerning entry into the Chinese national phase, and furnish the relevant certificates prescribed in Article 31, paragraph two of these Rules within two months from the date of going through the formalities for entering the Chinese national phase.

Where the applicant fails to satisfy the requirements provided for in subparagraph (1), (2) or (3) of the preceding paragraph, the patent administration department under the State Council shall notify the applicant to make corrections within the specified time limit. Where, within the time limit, no correction is made in respect of the requirement provided for in subparagraph (1) or (2), the application shall be deemed to be withdrawn; Where, within the time limit, no correction is made in respect of the requirement provided for in subparagraph (3), the claim for priority shall be deemed not to have been made.

Where the applicant fails to fulfill the requirement provided for in subparagraph (4) of paragraph one of this Article, the provisions of Article 24 of the Patent Law shall not apply to his or its international application.

Article 106 Where the applicant has made indications concerning deposited biological materials in accordance with the provisions of the Patent Cooperation Treaty, the requirements provided for in Article 25, subparagraph (3) of these Rules shall be deemed to have been fulfilled. In the statement concerning entry into the Chinese national phase, the applicant shall indicate the documents recording the particulars of the deposit of the biological materials, and the exact location of the record in the documents.

Where particulars concerning the deposit of biological materials are contained in the description of the international application as initially filed, but there is no such indication in the statement concerning the entry into the Chinese national phase, the applicant shall make correction within four months from the date of going through the formalities for entering the Chinese national phase. If the correction is not made at the expiration of the time limit, the biological materials shall be deemed not to have been deposited.

Where the applicant submits the certificates of the deposit and the viability of the biological materials to the patent administration department under the State Council within four months from the date of going through the formalities for entering the Chinese national phase, the deposit of biological materials shall be deemed to have been made within the time limit as provided for in Article 25, subparagraph (1) of these Rules.

Article 107 Where the applicant claims one or multiple priorities in the international phase and such claims remain valid at the time when the application enters the Chinese national phase, the applicant shall be deemed to have submitted the written declaration in accordance with the provisions of Article 30 of the Patent Law.

Where there are clerical mistakes or the application number of the earlier application is missing in the written declaration claiming the priority made in the international phase, the applicant may request to make corrections or to fill in the missing application number of the earlier application at the time of going through the formalities for entering the Chinese national phase. Where a request for making corrections is made, the applicant shall pay the fee for correcting the claim for priority.

Where the applicant has submitted a copy of the earlier application in the international phase in accordance with the provisions of the Patent Cooperation Treaty, he or it shall be exempted from submitting a copy of the earlier application to the patent administration department under the State Council at the time of going through the formalities for entering the Chinese national phase. Where the applicant has not submitted a copy of the earlier application in the international phase, and if the patent administration department under the State Council deems it necessary, it may notify the applicant to submit a copy of the earlier application within the specified time limit. If no copy is submitted at the expiration of the time limit, his or its claim for the priority shall be deemed not to have been made.

Where the claim for the priority is deemed not to have been made in the international phase and the information is already published by the International Bureau, the applicant may, if he has justified reasons, request the patent administration department under the State Council to restore his or its claim for the priority at the time of going through the formalities for entering the Chinese national phase.

Article 108 Where, before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date, the applicant files a request with the patent administration department under the State Council for early processing and examination of his or its international application, he or it shall, in addition to going through the formalities for entering the Chinese national phase, submit a request in accordance with the provisions in Article 23, paragraph two of the Patent Cooperation Treaty. Where the international application has not been transmitted by the International Bureau to the patent administration department under the State Council, the applicant shall submit a confirmed copy of the international application.

Article 109 With regard to an international application for a patent for utility model, the applicant may file a request with the patent administration department under the State Council to amend the description, the drawings and the claims within one month from the date of going through the formalities for entering the Chinese national phase.

With regard to an international application for a patent for invention, the provisions of Article 51, paragraph one of these Rules shall apply.

Article 110 Where the applicant finds that there are mistakes in the Chinese translation of the description, the claims or the words of the drawings submitted, he or it may correct the translation in accordance with the initial international application as filed within the following time limits:

(1) before the completion of technical preparations of the patent administration department under the State Council for national publication;

(2) within three months from the date of receipt of the notification sent by the patent administration department under the State Council notifying that the application for a patent for invention has entered into the substantive examination phase.

Where the applicant intends to correct the mistakes in the translation, he shall file a written request, furnish a replace sheet of the translation and pay the prescribed fee for correction of the translation.

Where the applicant makes correction of the translation in accordance with the notification of the patent administration department under the State Council, he or it shall, within the specified time limit, go through the formalities prescribed in paragraph two of this Article. If the prescribed formalities are not gone through at the expiration of the time limit, the international application shall be deemed to be withdrawn.

Article 111 With regard to any international application for a patent for invention, if the patent administration department under the State Council, after preliminary examination, considers it is in compliance with the provisions of the Patent Law and these Rules, it shall publish it in the Patent Gazette; where the international application is filed in a language other than Chinese, the Chinese translation of the international application shall be published.

Where the international publication of an international application for a patent for invention by the International Bureau is in Chinese, the provisions of Article 13 of the Patent Law shall apply from the date of the international publication. If the international publication by the International Bureau is in a language other than Chinese, the provisions of Article 13 of the Patent Law shall apply from the date of the publication of the Chinese translation by the patent administration department under the State Council.

With regard to an international application, the publication referred to in Articles 21 and 22 of the Patent Law means the publication referred to in paragraph one of this Article.

Article 112 Where two or more inventions or utility models are contained in an international application, the applicant may, after going through the formalities for entering the Chinese national phase, submit a divisional application in accordance with the provisions in Article 42, paragraph one of these Rules.

Where, in the international phase, some parts of the international application are not the subject of international search or international preliminary examination because the International Searching Authority or the International Preliminary Examination Authority considers that the international application does not comply with the requirement of unity of invention prescribed in the Patent Cooperation Treaty, or because the applicant fails to pay the additional fee, and at the time of going

through the formalities for entering the Chinese national phase, the applicant requests that the said parts be the basis of examination, the patent administration department under the State Council, finding that the decision concerning unity of invention made by the International Searching Authority or the International Preliminary Examination Authority is justified, shall notify the applicant to pay the restoration fee for unity of invention within the specified time limit. Where the fee is not paid or not paid in full at the expiration of the prescribed time limit, those parts of the international application which have not been searched or have not been the subject of international preliminary examination shall be deemed to be withdrawn.

Article 113 Where the applicant furnishes the documents and pays the fees in accordance with the provisions of Article 101 of these Rules, the date on which the patent administration department under the State Council receives the documents shall be the date of submitting, and the date on which it receives the fees shall be the date of payment.

Where there is delay in the mailing of the documents and the applicant proves, within one month from the date on which he finds the delay, that the documents have been mailed five days prior to the expiration of the time limit prescribed in Article 101 of these Rules, the documents shall be deemed to have been received on the date on which the time limit expires. However, the time period for the applicant to furnish evidence may not be later than six months after the expiration of the time limit prescribed in Article 101 of these Rules.

Where documents are to be submitted to the patent administration department under the State Council in accordance with the provisions of Article 101 of these Rules, the applicant may send them by fax. Where the applicant submits the documents by fax, the date on which the patent administration department under the State Council receives the fax shall be the date of submitting. The applicant shall submit to the patent administration department under the State Council the original copy within 14 days from the date of the transmission by fax. Where the original copy is not submitted within the time limit, the documents shall be deemed not to have been submitted.

Article 114 Where an international application claims the priority, the applicant shall, at the time of going through the formalities for entering the Chinese national phase, pay the fee for claiming the priority; if the fee is not paid or not paid in full, the patent administration department under the State Council shall notify the applicant to pay it within the specified time limit; if the fee is still not paid or not paid in full at the expiration of the time limit, the claim for priority shall be deemed not to have been made.

Article 115 Where an international application in the international phase has been refused to be accorded an international filing date or has been declared to be deemed withdrawn by an international authority concerned, the applicant may, within two months from the date on which he or it receives the notification, request the International Bureau to send the copy of any document in the file of the international application to the patent administration department under the State Council, and shall go through the formalities prescribed in Article 101 of these Rules within the said time limit at the patent

administration department under the State Council. After receiving the documents sent by the International Bureau, the patent administration department under the State Council shall review the decision made by the international authority concerned to find whether it is correct.

Article 116 With regard to a patent right granted on the basis of an international application, if the scope of protection determined in accordance with the provisions of Article 56 of the Patent Law exceeds the scope of the international application in its original language because of incorrect translation, the scope of protection granted on the international application shall be limited according to the original language of the application; if the scope of protection granted on the international application is narrower than the scope of the application in its original language, the scope of protection shall be determined according to the patent in the language when it is granted.

Chapter X Supplementary Provisions

Article 117 Any person may, after approval by the patent administration department under the State Council, consult or copy the files of the publicized or announced patent applications and the Patent Register, and may request the patent administration department under the State Council to issue a copy of extracts from the Patent Register.

The files of the patent applications which have been withdrawn or deemed to be withdrawn or which have been rejected, shall not be preserved after expiration of two years from the date on which the applications cease to be valid.

Where the patent right has been abandoned, wholly invalidated or ceased, the files shall not be preserved after expiration of three years from the date on which the patent right ceases to be valid.

Article 118 Any patent application which is filed with, or any formality which is gone through at, the patent administration department under the State Council, shall be in the prescribed form of the patent administration department under the State Council, and signed or sealed by the applicant, the patentee, any other interested person or his or its representative. Where any patent agency is appointed, it shall be sealed by such agency.

Where a change in the name of the inventor, or in the name, nationality and address of the applicant or the patentee, or in the name or address of the patent agency or the name of patent agent is requested, a request for a change in the bibliographic data shall be made to the patent administration department under the State Council, together with the relevant certifying documents.

Article 119 The document relating to a patent application or patent right which is mailed to the patent administration department under the State Council shall be mailed by registered letter, not by parcel.

Except for any patent application filed for the first time, any document which is submitted to and any formality which is gone through at the patent administration department under the State Council,

the filing number or the patent number, the title of the invention-creation and the name of the applicant or the patentee shall be indicated.

Only documents relating to the same application shall be included in one letter.

Article 120 Various kinds of application documents shall be typed or printed. All the characters shall be in black ink, neat and clear. They shall be free from any alterations. The drawings shall be made in black ink with the aid of drafting instruments. The lines shall be uniformly thick and well defined, and free from alterations.

The request, description, claims, drawings and abstract shall be numbered separately in Arabic numerals and arranged in numerical order.

The written language of the application shall run from left to right. Only one side of each sheet shall be used.

Article 121 The patent administration department under the State Council shall formulate Guidelines for Examination in accordance with the Patent Law and these Rules.

Article 122 These Rules shall be effective as of July 1, 2001. The Rules for the Implementation of the Patent Law of the People's Republic of China approved by the State Council on December 12, 1992 and promulgated by the Patent Office of the People's Republic of China on December 21, 1992 shall be repealed simultaneously.
