



# Patents Act 2004

## 2004 CHAPTER 16

An Act to amend the law relating to patents.

[22nd July 2004]

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

### *Amendments of the 1977 Act relating to international obligations*

#### **1 Methods of treatment or diagnosis**

After section 4 of the Patents Act 1977 (c. 37) (“the 1977 Act”) there is inserted—

##### **“4A Methods of treatment or diagnosis**

- (1) A patent shall not be granted for the invention of—
  - (a) a method of treatment of the human or animal body by surgery or therapy, or
  - (b) a method of diagnosis practised on the human or animal body.
- (2) Subsection (1) above does not apply to an invention consisting of a substance or composition for use in any such method.
- (3) In the case of an invention consisting of a substance or composition for use in any such method, the fact that the substance or composition forms part of the state of the art shall not prevent the invention from being taken to be new if the use of the substance or composition in any such method does not form part of the state of the art.
- (4) In the case of an invention consisting of a substance or composition for a specific use in any such method, the fact that the substance or composition forms part of the state of the art shall not prevent the invention from being taken to be new if that specific use does not form part of the state of the art.”

---

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Patents Act 2004. (See end of Document for details)*

---

**Commencement Information**

**II** [S. 1](#) in force at 13.12.2007 by [S.I. 2007/3396](#), [art. 2\(a\)](#)

**2 Amendment of patents after grant**

(1) In section 27 of the 1977 Act (general power to amend after grant), after subsection (5) there is inserted—

“(6) In considering whether or not to allow an application under this section, the comptroller shall have regard to any relevant principles applicable under the European Patent Convention.”

(2) In section 58 of that Act (references of disputes as to Crown use)—

(a) in subsection (6), after “satisfied that” there is inserted “ (a) ” and at the end there is inserted “and

(b) the relief is sought in good faith”;

(b) in subsection (8), after “proves that” there is inserted “ (a) ” and after “knowledge, and” there is inserted—

“(b) the relief is sought in good faith,

and ”.

<sup>F1</sup>(3) .....

<sup>F1</sup>(4) .....

(5) In section 75 of that Act (amendment in infringement or revocation proceedings), after subsection (4) there is inserted—

“(5) In considering whether or not to allow an amendment proposed under this section, the court or the comptroller shall have regard to any relevant principles applicable under the European Patent Convention.”

**Textual Amendments**

**F1** [S. 2\(3\)\(4\)](#) repealed (29.4.2006) by [Intellectual Property \(Enforcement, etc\) Regulations 2006 \(S.I. 2006/1028\)](#), [art. 1](#), [Sch. 4](#)

**Commencement Information**

**I2** [S. 2\(1\)](#) in force at 13.12.2007 by [S.I. 2007/3396](#), [art. 2\(b\)](#)

**I3** [S. 2\(2\)](#) in force at 13.12.2007 by [S.I. 2007/3396](#), [art. 2\(c\)](#)

**I4** [S. 2\(5\)](#) in force at 13.12.2007 by [S.I. 2007/3396](#), [art. 2\(d\)](#)

**3 Relief for partially valid patent**

(1) In section 63 of the 1977 Act (relief for infringement of partially valid patent), after subsection (3) there is inserted—

“(4) The court or the comptroller may also grant relief under this section in the case of a European patent (UK) on condition that the claims of the patent are

---

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Patents Act 2004. (See end of Document for details)*

---

limited to its or his satisfaction by the European Patent Office at the request of the proprietor.”

- (2) In section 58 of that Act (references of disputes as to Crown use), after subsection (9) there is inserted—

“(9A) The court may also grant such relief in the case of a European patent (UK) on condition that the claims of the patent are limited to its satisfaction by the European Patent Office at the request of the proprietor.”

---

**Commencement Information**

**I5** S. 3 in force at 13.12.2007 by S.I. 2007/3396, art. 2(e)

#### **4 Revocation**

In section 72 of the 1977 Act (power to revoke patents on application), in subsection (4), “under section 75 below” is omitted and after that subsection there is inserted—

“(4A) The reference in subsection (4) above to the specification being amended is to its being amended under section 75 below and also, in the case of a European patent (UK), to its being amended under any provision of the European Patent Convention under which the claims of the patent may be limited by amendment at the request of the proprietor.”

---

**Commencement Information**

**I6** S. 4 in force at 13.12.2007 by S.I. 2007/3396, art. 2(f)

#### **5 Further amendments relating to international obligations**

Schedule 1 (further amendments of the 1977 Act relating to international obligations) has effect.

---

**Commencement Information**

**I7** S. 5 in force at 1.1.2005 for specified purposes by S.I. 2004/3205, art. 2(a)

**I8** S. 5 in force at 13.12.2007 for specified purposes by S.I. 2007/3396, art. 2(g)

#### *Other amendments of the 1977 Act*

#### **6 Remedies in entitlement proceedings**

- (1) In section 8 of the 1977 Act (reference before grant of patent of questions about entitlement etc), in paragraph (c) of subsection (3) (powers of comptroller), for “but after the publication of the application” there is substituted “ (whether the application is refused or withdrawn before or after its publication) ”.

- (2) In section 11 of that Act (effect of transfer of application under section 8 or 10) after subsection (3) (protection of original applicant or his licensee) there is inserted—

---

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Patents Act 2004. (See end of Document for details)*

---

“(3A) If, before registration of a reference under section 8 above resulting in the making of an order under subsection (3) of that section, the condition in subsection (3)(a) or (b) above is met, the original applicant or any of the applicants or the licensee shall, on making a request within the prescribed period to the new applicant, be entitled to be granted a licence (but not an exclusive licence) to continue working or, as the case may be, to work the invention so far as it is the subject of the new application.”

- (3) In subsection (4) of that section, for “Any such licence” there is substituted “ A licence under subsection (3) or (3A) above ”.
- (4) In subsection (5) of that section—
- (a) after “(2)” there is inserted “ or (3A) ”;
  - (b) after “proceed” there is inserted “ or, as the case may be, who makes the new application ”.

---

**Commencement Information**

**I9** S. 6 in force at 1.1.2005 by S.I. 2004/3205, art. 2(b) (with art. 9)

## 7 Restrictions on applications abroad by United Kingdom residents

- (1) In section 23 of the 1977 Act (restrictions on applications abroad by United Kingdom residents), in subsection (1), after “an invention” there is inserted “ if subsection (1A) below applies to that application, ”.
- (2) After that subsection there is inserted—
- “(1A) This subsection applies to an application if—
- (a) the application contains information which relates to military technology or for any other reason publication of the information might be prejudicial to national security; or
  - (b) the application contains information the publication of which might be prejudicial to the safety of the public.”
- (3) After subsection (3) of that section there is inserted—
- “(3A) A person is liable under subsection (3) above only if—
- (a) he knows that filing the application, or causing it to be filed, would contravene this section; or
  - (b) he is reckless as to whether filing the application, or causing it to be filed, would contravene this section.”

---

**Commencement Information**

**I10** S. 7 in force at 1.1.2005 by S.I. 2004/3205, art. 2(c) (with art. 9)

## 8 Term of patent and periods allowed for payment of renewal fees

- (1) In section 25 of the 1977 Act (term of patent), for subsection (3) there is substituted—

---

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Patents Act 2004. (See end of Document for details)*

---

- “(3) Where any renewal fee in respect of a patent is not paid by the end of the period prescribed for payment (the “prescribed period”) the patent shall cease to have effect at the end of such day, in the final month of that period, as may be prescribed.”
- (2) In subsection (4) of that section, for “the period of six months immediately following the end of the prescribed period” there is substituted “ the period ending with the sixth month after the month in which the prescribed period ends ”.
- (3) In section 28 of that Act (restoration of lapsed patents), in subsection (3), for the words from the second “within” to “that period” there is substituted “ within the period ending with the sixth month after the month in which the prescribed period ended ”.
- (4) In section 46 of that Act (patentee’s application for entry in register that licences are available as of right)—
- (a) for paragraph (d) of subsection (3) there is substituted—
- “(d) if the expiry date in relation to a renewal fee falls after the date of the entry, that fee shall be half the fee which would be payable had the entry not been made.”;
- (b) after subsection (3A) there is inserted—
- “(3B) For the purposes of subsection (3)(d) above the expiry date in relation to a renewal fee is the day at the end of which, by virtue of section 25(3) above, the patent in question ceases to have effect if that fee is not paid.”

---

**Commencement Information**

**I11** S. 8 in force at 1.10.2005 by S.I. 2005/2471, art. 2(a) (with art. 3)

## 9 Co-ownership

In section 36 of the 1977 Act (co-ownership), in subsection (3), after “others” there is inserted—

- “(a) amend the specification of the patent or apply for such an amendment to be allowed or for the patent to be revoked, or
- (b) ”.

---

**Commencement Information**

**I12** S. 9 in force at 1.10.2005 by S.I. 2005/2471, art. 2(b)

## 10 Compensation of employees for certain inventions

- (1) In section 40 of the 1977 Act (compensation of employees for certain inventions), for subsection (1) there is substituted—

- “(1) Where it appears to the court or the comptroller on an application made by an employee within the prescribed period that—
- (a) the employee has made an invention belonging to the employer for which a patent has been granted,

---

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Patents Act 2004. (See end of Document for details)*

---

- (b) having regard among other things to the size and nature of the employer's undertaking, the invention or the patent for it (or the combination of both) is of outstanding benefit to the employer, and
  - (c) by reason of those facts it is just that the employee should be awarded compensation to be paid by the employer,
- the court or the comptroller may award him such compensation of an amount determined under section 41 below."
- (2) In subsection (2)(c) of that section, for "the patent" there is substituted " the invention or the patent for it (or both) "
- (3) In section 41 of that Act (amount of compensation), for subsection (1) there is substituted—
- “(1) An award of compensation to an employee under section 40(1) or (2) above shall be such as will secure for the employee a fair share (having regard to all the circumstances) of the benefit which the employer has derived, or may reasonably be expected to derive, from any of the following—
- (a) the invention in question;
  - (b) the patent for the invention;
  - (c) the assignment, assignation or grant of—
    - (i) the property or any right in the invention, or
    - (ii) the property in, or any right in or under, an application for the patent,
- to a person connected with the employer.”
- (4) In subsections (4) and (5) of that section, the words "a patent for" are omitted.
- (5) In subsection (5)(a) of that section, after "the patent" there is inserted " for it ".
- (6) In section 43 of that Act (provisions supplementing sections 39 to 42), in subsection (5) —
- (a) for "a patent" there is substituted " an invention or patent ";
  - (b) for "the patent", in both places, there is substituted " it ".
- (7) After subsection (5) of that section there is inserted—
- “(5A) For the purposes of sections 40 and 41 above the benefit derived or expected to be derived by an employer from an invention shall not include any benefit derived or expected to be derived from the invention after the patent for it has expired or has been surrendered or revoked.”
- (8) This section, and the entry in Schedule 3 corresponding to subsection (4), apply in relation to an invention the patent for which is applied for on or after the commencement of this section.

In this subsection "patent" has the meaning given by section 43(4) of the 1977 Act.

---

**Commencement Information**

**I13** S. 10 in force at 1.1.2005 by S.I. 2004/3205, art. 2(d) (with art. 9)

## 11 Enforcement of damages

In section 61 of the 1977 Act (proceedings for infringement of a patent), after subsection (6) there is inserted—

- “(7) If the comptroller awards any sum by way of damages on a reference under subsection (3) above, then—
- (a) in England and Wales, the sum shall be recoverable, if a county court so orders, by execution issued from the county court or otherwise as if it were payable under an order of that court;
  - (b) in Scotland, payment of the sum may be enforced in like manner as an extract registered decree arbitral bearing a warrant for execution issued by the sheriff court of any sheriffdom in Scotland;
  - (c) in Northern Ireland, payment of the sum may be enforced as if it were a money judgment.”

### Commencement Information

**I14** S. 11 in force at 1.1.2005 by S.I. 2004/3205, art. 2(d) (with art. 9)

## 12 Threats of infringement proceedings

(1) Section 70 of the 1977 Act (remedy for groundless threats of infringement proceedings) is amended as follows.

(2) For subsection (2) there is substituted—

“(2) In any such proceedings the claimant or pursuer shall, subject to subsection (2A) below, be entitled to the relief claimed if he proves that the threats were so made and satisfies the court that he is a person aggrieved by them.

(2A) If the defendant or defender proves that the acts in respect of which proceedings were threatened constitute or, if done, would constitute an infringement of a patent—

- (a) the claimant or pursuer shall be entitled to the relief claimed only if he shows that the patent alleged to be infringed is invalid in a relevant respect;
- (b) even if the claimant or pursuer does show that the patent is invalid in a relevant respect, he shall not be entitled to the relief claimed if the defendant or defender proves that at the time of making the threats he did not know, and had no reason to suspect, that the patent was invalid in that respect.”

(3) For subsection (4) there is substituted—

“(4) Proceedings may not be brought under this section for—

- (a) a threat to bring proceedings for an infringement alleged to consist of making or importing a product for disposal or of using a process, or
- (b) a threat, made to a person who has made or imported a product for disposal or used a process, to bring proceedings for an infringement alleged to consist of doing anything else in relation to that product or process.”

---

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Patents Act 2004. (See end of Document for details)*

---

(4) For subsection (5) there is substituted—

- “(5) For the purposes of this section a person does not threaten another person with proceedings for infringement of a patent if he merely—
- (a) provides factual information about the patent,
  - (b) makes enquiries of the other person for the sole purpose of discovering whether, or by whom, the patent has been infringed as mentioned in subsection (4)(a) above, or
  - (c) makes an assertion about the patent for the purpose of any enquiries so made.”

(5) After subsection (5) there is inserted—

- “(6) In proceedings under this section for threats made by one person (A) to another (B) in respect of an alleged infringement of a patent for an invention, it shall be a defence for A to prove that he used his best endeavours, without success, to discover—
- (a) where the invention is a product, the identity of the person (if any) who made or (in the case of an imported product) imported it for disposal;
  - (b) where the invention is a process and the alleged infringement consists of offering it for use, the identity of a person who used the process;
  - (c) where the invention is a process and the alleged infringement is an act falling within section 60(1)(c) above, the identity of the person who used the process to produce the product in question;
- and that he notified B accordingly, before or at the time of making the threats, identifying the endeavours used.”

**Commencement Information**

**I15** S. 12 in force at 1.1.2005 by S.I. 2004/3205, art. 2(d) (with art. 9)

**13 Opinions by Patent Office as to validity or infringement**

(1) After section 74 of the 1977 Act there is inserted—

*“Opinions by Patent Office*

**74A Opinions as to validity or infringement**

- (1) The proprietor of a patent or any other person may request the comptroller to issue an opinion—
- (a) as to whether a particular act constitutes, or (if done) would constitute, an infringement of the patent;
  - (b) as to whether, or to what extent, the invention in question is not patentable because the condition in section 1(1)(a) or (b) above is not satisfied.
- (2) Subsection (1) above applies even if the patent has expired or has been surrendered.



---

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Patents Act 2004. (See end of Document for details)*

---

- (3) The comptroller shall issue an opinion if requested to do so under subsection (1) above, but shall not do so—
  - (a) in such circumstances as may be prescribed, or
  - (b) if for any reason he considers it inappropriate in all the circumstances to do so.
- (4) An opinion under this section shall not be binding for any purposes.
- (5) An opinion under this section shall be prepared by an examiner.
- (6) In relation to a decision of the comptroller whether to issue an opinion under this section—
  - (a) for the purposes of section 101 below, only the person making the request under subsection (1) above shall be regarded as a party to a proceeding before the comptroller; and
  - (b) no appeal shall lie at the instance of any other person.

#### **74B Reviews of opinions under section 74A**

- (1) Rules may make provision for a review before the comptroller, on an application by the proprietor or an exclusive licensee of the patent in question, of an opinion under section 74A above.
- (2) The rules may, in particular—
  - (a) prescribe the circumstances in which, and the period within which, an application may be made;
  - (b) provide that, in prescribed circumstances, proceedings for a review may not be brought or continued where other proceedings have been brought;
  - (c) make provision under which, in prescribed circumstances, proceedings on a review are to be treated for prescribed purposes as if they were proceedings under section 61(1)(c) or (e), 71(1) or 72(1) (a) above;
  - (d) provide for there to be a right of appeal against a decision made on a review only in prescribed cases.”
- (2) In section 74 of that Act (proceedings in which validity of patent may be put in issue), in subsection (8), after “the validity of a patent is not put in issue merely because” there is inserted “ (a) ” and at the end there is inserted “or
  - (b) its validity is being considered in connection with an opinion under section 74A below or a review of such an opinion.”
- (3) In section 32(2) of that Act (rules about the register of patents), after paragraph (b) there is inserted—
  - “(ba) the entering on the register of notices concerning opinions issued, or to be issued, under section 74A below;”.

---

#### **Commencement Information**

**I16** S. 13 in force at 1.10.2005 by S.I. 2005/2471, art. 2(c)

---

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Patents Act 2004. (See end of Document for details)*

---

## 14 Costs and expenses in infringement proceedings etc

- (1) Section 106 of the 1977 Act (costs and expenses in proceedings before the Court under s. 40) is amended as follows.
- (2) In subsection (1) (relevance of parties' financial position), for the words from "proceedings" to "the court" there is substituted "proceedings to which this section applies".
- (3) After that subsection there is inserted—
  - “(1A) This section applies to proceedings before the court (including proceedings on an appeal to the court) which are—
    - (a) proceedings under section 40;
    - (b) proceedings for infringement;
    - (c) proceedings under section 70; or
    - (d) proceedings on an application for a declaration or declarator under section 71.”
- (4) This section applies in relation to proceedings commenced on or after the commencement of this section.

### Commencement Information

**I17** S. 14 in force at 1.1.2005 by S.I. 2004/3205, art. 2(e) (with art. 9)

## 15 Security for costs

In section 107 of the 1977 Act (costs and expenses), for subsection (4) there is substituted—

- “(4) The comptroller may make an order for security for costs or expenses against any party to proceedings before him under this Act if—
  - (a) the prescribed conditions are met, and
  - (b) he is satisfied that it is just to make the order, having regard to all the circumstances of the case;
 and in default of the required security being given the comptroller may treat the reference, application or notice in question as abandoned.”

### Commencement Information

**I18** S. 15 in force at 1.10.2005 by S.I. 2005/2471, art. 2(d) (with art. 4)

## *Supplemental*

## 16 Amendments, repeals and revocations

- (1) Schedule 2 (minor and consequential amendments) has effect.
- (2) The enactments set out in Schedule 3 are repealed to the extent specified.
- (3) Article 6 of the Patent Office Trading Fund Order 1991 (S.I. 1991/1796) is revoked.

---

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Patents Act 2004. (See end of Document for details)*

---

#### **Commencement Information**

- I19** S. 16(1)(2) in force at 22.9.2004 for specified purposes by S.I. 2004/2177, **art. 2**
- I20** S. 16(1)(2) in force at 1.1.2005 for specified purposes by S.I. 2004/3205, **art. 2(f)**
- I21** S. 16(1)(2) in force at 1.10.2005 for specified purposes by S.I. 2005/2471, **art. 2(e)(f)**
- I22** S. 16(1)(2) in force at 13.12.2007 for specified purposes by S.I. 2007/3396, **art. 2(h)**
- I23** S. 16(3) in force at 1.1.2005 by S.I. 2004/3205, **art. 2(h)** (with art. 9)

### **17 Commencement etc**

- (1) The preceding provisions of this Act (except those mentioned in subsection (2)) come into force on such day as the Secretary of State may by order made by statutory instrument appoint.
- (2) Paragraphs 7 and 23 of Schedule 2 come into force with the commencement of the Regulatory Reform (Patents) Order 2004.
- (3) An order under this section may appoint different days for different purposes.
- (4) An order under this section may make—
  - (a) any supplementary, incidental or consequential provision, or
  - (b) any transitory, transitional or saving provision,that the Secretary of State considers necessary or expedient for the purposes of, in consequence of or for giving full effect to any provision of this Act.
- (5) A statutory instrument containing provision made by virtue of subsection (4) is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament, unless the only such provision it contains is transitory, transitional or saving provision.
- (6) The provision that may be made under subsection (4) includes provision amending or repealing any enactment or instrument.
- (7) A statutory instrument containing an order under this section that adds to, replaces or omits any part of the text of an Act is not to be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before, and approved by a resolution of, each House of Parliament; and subsection (5) does not apply to such an instrument.

### **18 Short title and extent**

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Patents Act 2004.
- (2) This Act has the same extent as the 1977 Act.

---

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Patents Act 2004. (See end of Document for details)*

---

## SCHEDULES

### SCHEDULE 1

Section 5

#### AMENDMENTS RELATING TO INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS

1 The 1977 Act is amended as follows.

**Commencement Information**

**I24** Sch. 1 para. 1 in force at 1.1.2005 by S.I. 2004/3205, art. 2(i) (with art. 9)

2 In section 77 (effect of European patent (UK)), in subsection (5)(a), after “restored” there is inserted “ or is revoked by the Board of Appeal and is subsequently restored by the Enlarged Board of Appeal ”.

**Commencement Information**

**I25** Sch. 1 para. 2 in force at 13.12.2007 by S.I. 2007/3396, art. 2(j)

3 (1) Section 78 (effect of filing an application for a European patent (UK)) is amended as follows.

(2) In subsection (5A), at the end there is inserted “ ; and the occurrence of any event mentioned in subsection (5)(b) shall not prevent matter contained in an application for a European patent (UK) becoming part of the state of the art by virtue of section 2(3) above as regards other inventions where the event occurs before the publication of that application. ”

(3) For subsection (6) there is substituted—

“(6) Where, between subsections (1) to (3) above ceasing to apply to an application for a European patent (UK) and the re-establishment of the rights of the applicant, a person—

- (a) begins in good faith to do an act which would constitute an infringement of the rights conferred by publication of the application if those subsections then applied, or
- (b) makes in good faith effective and serious preparations to do such an act,

he shall have the right to continue to do the act or, as the case may be, to do the act, notwithstanding subsections (1) to (3) applying again and notwithstanding the grant of the patent.

(6A) Subsections (5) and (6) of section 20B above have effect for the purposes of subsection (6) above as they have effect for the purposes of that section and as if the references to subsection (4) of that section were references to subsection (6) above.

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Patents Act 2004. (See end of Document for details)*

(6B) Subject to subsection (6A) above, the right conferred by subsection (6) above does not extend to granting a licence to another person to do the act in question.

(6C) Subsections (6) to (6B) above apply in relation to the use of a patented invention for the services of the Crown as they apply in relation to an infringement of the rights conferred by publication of the application (or, as the case may be, infringement of the patent).

“Patented invention” has the same meaning as in section 55 above.”

**Commencement Information**

**I26** Sch. 1 para. 3 in force at 13.12.2007 by S.I. 2007/3396, art. 2(j) (with art. 3)

4 In section 80 (authentic text of European patents and patent applications), for subsection (4) there is substituted—

“(4) Where a correction of a translation is published under subsection (3) above and before it is so published a person—

- (a) begins in good faith to do an act which would not constitute an infringement of the patent as originally translated, or of the rights conferred by publication of the application as originally translated, but would do so under the amended translation, or
- (b) makes in good faith effective and serious preparations to do such an act,

he shall have the right to continue to do the act or, as the case may be, to do the act, notwithstanding the publication of the corrected translation and notwithstanding the grant of the patent.

(5) Subsections (5) and (6) of section 28A above have effect for the purposes of subsection (4) above as they have effect for the purposes of that section and as if—

- (a) the references to subsection (4) of that section were references to subsection (4) above;
- (b) the reference to the registered proprietor of the patent included a reference to the applicant.

(6) Subject to subsection (5) above, the right conferred by subsection (4) above does not extend to granting a licence to another person to do the act in question.

(7) Subsections (4) to (6) above apply in relation to the use of a patented invention for the services of the Crown as they apply in relation to an infringement of the patent or of the rights conferred by the publication of the application.

“Patented invention” has the same meaning as in section 55 above.”

**Commencement Information**

**I27** Sch. 1 para. 4 in force at 13.12.2007 by S.I. 2007/3396, art. 2(j)

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Patents Act 2004. (See end of Document for details)*

- 5 (1) Section 81 (conversion of European patent applications) is amended as follows.
- (2) In subsection (1), for the words following “this Act” there is substituted “ where the application is deemed to be withdrawn under the provisions of the European Patent Convention relating to the time for forwarding applications to the European Patent Office ”.
- (3) In subsection (2)—
- (a) paragraph (a) and the “that” preceding it are omitted;
  - (b) in paragraph (b), for the words preceding sub-paragraph (i) there is substituted “ that ”;
  - (c) in paragraph (c), for “in either case” there is substituted “ that ”.

**Commencement Information**

**I28** Sch. 1 para. 5 in force at 13.12.2007 by S.I. 2007/3396, art. 2(j)

- 6 Sections 86 and 87 (implementation of Community Patent Convention and decisions under it) are omitted.

**Commencement Information**

**I29** Sch. 1 para. 6 in force at 1.1.2005 by S.I. 2004/3205, art. 2(i) (with art. 9)

- 7 Section 89(4) (circumstances in which application treated as an international application for a patent (UK)) is omitted.

**Commencement Information**

**I30** Sch. 1 para. 7 in force at 1.1.2005 by S.I. 2004/3205, art. 2(i) (with art. 9)

- 8 In section 89B(2) (adaptation of provisions in relation to international applications), for the words following “when the” there is substituted “ national phase of the application begins or, if later, when published in accordance with the Treaty ”.

**Commencement Information**

**I31** Sch. 1 para. 8 in force at 1.1.2005 by S.I. 2004/3205, art. 2(i) (with art. 9)

- 9 (1) Section 130 (interpretation) is amended as follows.
- (2) In subsection (1)—
- (a) in the definition of “application for a European patent (UK)” and “international application for a patent (UK)”, after “and” there is inserted “ (subject to subsection (4A) below) ”;
  - (b) at the end of the definition of “designate” there is inserted “ and includes a reference to a country being treated as designated in pursuance of the convention or treaty ”.
- (3) After subsection (4) there is inserted—

*Changes to legislation:* There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Patents Act 2004. (See end of Document for details)

“(4A) An international application for a patent is not, by reason of being treated by virtue of the European Patent Convention as an application for a European patent (UK), to be treated also as an international application for a patent (UK).”

(4) After subsection (5) there is inserted—

“(5A) References in this Act to the amendment of a patent or its specification (whether under this Act or by the European Patent Office) include, in particular, limitation of the claims (as interpreted by the description and any drawings referred to in the description or claims).”

#### Commencement Information

- I32** Sch. 1 para. 9(1)(2)(a)(3) in force at 1.1.2005 by S.I. 2004/3205, **art. 2(i)** (with art. 9)  
**I33** Sch. 1 para. 9(2)(b) in force at 1.1.2005 for specified purposes by S.I. 2004/3205, **art. 2(j)** (with art. 9)  
**I34** Sch. 1 para. 9(2)(b) in force at 13.12.2007 for specified purposes by S.I. 2007/3396, **art. 2(k)**  
**I35** Sch. 1 para. 9(4) in force at 13.12.2007 by S.I. 2007/3396, **art. 2(j)**

## SCHEDULE 2

Section 16

### MINOR AND CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS

1 (1) The 1977 Act is amended as follows.

(2) In this Schedule, “the Regulatory Reform Order” means the Regulatory Reform (Patents) Order 2004.

#### Commencement Information

- I36** Sch. 2 para. 1 in force at 1.1.2005 by S.I. 2004/3205, **art. 2(k)** (with art. 9)

2 In section 1 (patentable inventions), in subsection (1)(d), after “subsections (2) and (3)” there is inserted “ or section 4A ”.

#### Commencement Information

- I37** Sch. 2 para. 2 in force at 13.12.2007 by S.I. 2007/3396, **art. 2(l)**

3 In section 2 (novelty), subsection (6) is omitted.

#### Commencement Information

- I38** Sch. 2 para. 3 in force at 13.12.2007 by S.I. 2007/3396, **art. 2(l)**

4 In section 4 (industrial application)—

- (a) in subsection (1), “Subject to subsection (2) below”, and  
(b) subsections (2) and (3),  
are omitted.

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Patents Act 2004. (See end of Document for details)*

**Commencement Information**

**I39** Sch. 2 para. 4 in force at 13.12.2007 by S.I. 2007/3396, art. 2(l)

- 5 In section 12 (reference before grant of foreign or convention patent of questions about entitlement etc), in subsection (6)—
- (a) in paragraph (a), after “application is withdrawn” there is inserted “ whether before or ”;
  - (b) in paragraph (c), for “but after” there is substituted “ or the ”.

**Commencement Information**

**I40** Sch. 2 para. 5 in force at 1.1.2005 by S.I. 2004/3205, art. 2(k) (with art. 9)

- 6 In section 16(1) (publication of application), after “section 22 below” there is inserted “ and to any prescribed restrictions ”.

**Commencement Information**

**I41** Sch. 2 para. 6 in force at 1.10.2005 by S.I. 2005/2471, art. 2(g)

- 7 In section 20B (inserted by the Regulatory Reform Order) (effect of reinstatement of applications), after subsection (6) there is inserted—
- “(6A) The above provisions apply in relation to the use of a patented invention for the services of the Crown as they apply in relation to infringement of the rights conferred by publication of the application for a patent (or, as the case may be, infringement of the patent).
- “Patented invention” has the same meaning as in section 55 below.”
- 8 (1) Section 22 (information prejudicial to defence of realm or safety of public) is amended as follows.
- (2) In the heading, for “defence of realm” there is substituted “ national security ”.
  - (3) In subsections (1) and (5)(a), (c) and (d), for “the defence of the realm” there is substituted “ national security ”.
  - (4) In subsection (6)—
    - (a) in paragraph (a), for the words from “inspect and authorise” to “in connection with it” there is substituted—
      - “(i) inspect the application and any documents sent to the comptroller in connection with it;
      - (ii) authorise a government body with responsibility for the production of atomic energy or for research into matters connected with its production or use, or a person appointed by such a government body, to inspect the application and any documents sent to the comptroller in connection with it;”;
    - (b) for the words from “that Authority” to the end there is substituted “ a government body or a person appointed by a government body carries out an inspection which the body or person is authorised to carry out under



*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Patents Act 2004. (See end of Document for details)*

paragraph (a) above, the body or (as the case may be) the person shall report on the inspection to the Secretary of State as soon as practicable.”

**Commencement Information**

**I42** Sch. 2 para. 8 in force at 1.1.2005 by S.I. 2004/3205, art. 2(k) (with art. 9)

9 In section 24 (publication and certificate of grant), after subsection (3) there is inserted—

“(4) Subsection (3) above shall not require the comptroller to identify as inventor a person who has waived his right to be mentioned as inventor in any patent granted for the invention.”

**Commencement Information**

**I43** Sch. 2 para. 9 in force at 1.10.2005 by S.I. 2005/2471, art. 2(g)

10 (1) Section 38 (effect of transfer of patent under section 37) is amended as follows.

(2) In subsection (3), after “new proprietor or proprietors” there is inserted “ or, as the case may be, the new applicant ”.

(3) In subsection (5), after “proprietors of the patent” there is inserted “ or, as the case may be, the new applicant ”.

**Commencement Information**

**I44** Sch. 2 para. 10 in force at 1.1.2005 by S.I. 2004/3205, art. 2(k) (with art. 9)

11 In section 41(10) (method of enforcing in Scotland certain orders made by comptroller), for “a recorded decree arbitral” there is substituted “ an extract registered decree arbitral bearing a warrant for execution issued by the sheriff court of any sheriffdom in Scotland. ”

**Commencement Information**

**I45** Sch. 2 para. 11 in force at 1.1.2005 by S.I. 2004/3205, art. 2(k) (with art. 9)

12 Section 53(1) (compulsory licences: Community Patent Convention) is omitted.

**Commencement Information**

**I46** Sch. 2 para. 12 in force at 1.1.2005 by S.I. 2004/3205, art. 2(k) (with art. 9)

13 Section 60(4) (meaning of infringement: Community Patent Convention) is omitted.

**Commencement Information**

**I47** Sch. 2 para. 13 in force at 1.1.2005 by S.I. 2004/3205, art. 2(k) (with art. 9)

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Patents Act 2004. (See end of Document for details)*

- 14 In section 61 (proceedings for infringement of patent), in subsection (4)(b), for “plaintiff” there is substituted “ claimant ”.

**Commencement Information**

**I48** Sch. 2 para. 14 in force at 1.1.2005 by S.I. 2004/3205, art. 2(k) (with art. 9)

- 15 In section 62(2) (discretion to refuse damages etc for infringement committed while fees unpaid), for “any further period specified under” there is substituted “ the further period specified in ”.

**Commencement Information**

**I49** Sch. 2 para. 15 in force at 1.10.2005 by S.I. 2005/2471, art. 2(g)

- 16 In section 63 (relief for infringement of partially valid patent), in subsection (2), for “plaintiff” there is substituted “ claimant ”.

**Commencement Information**

**I50** Sch. 2 para. 16 in force at 1.1.2005 by S.I. 2004/3205, art. 2(k) (with art. 9)

- 17 In section 70 (remedy for groundless threats of infringement proceedings), in subsection (3)(c), for “plaintiff” there is substituted “ claimant ”.

**Commencement Information**

**I51** Sch. 2 para. 17 in force at 1.1.2005 by S.I. 2004/3205, art. 2(k) (with art. 9)

- 18 In section 72(1) (power to revoke patents on application), “on the application of any person” is omitted and after the first mention of “invention” there is inserted “ on the application of any person (including the proprietor of the patent) ”.

**Commencement Information**

**I52** Sch. 2 para. 18 in force at 1.10.2005 by S.I. 2005/2471, art. 2(g)

- 19 In section 75 (amendment of patent in infringement or revocation proceedings), in subsection (1), for “is” there is substituted “ may be ”.

**Commencement Information**

**I53** Sch. 2 para. 19 in force at 1.1.2005 by S.I. 2004/3205, art. 2(k) (with art. 9)

- 20 In section 91(1) (evidence relating to the conventions: judicial notice), for “or Community patents kept under it” there is substituted “ patents kept under the European Patent Convention ”.

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Patents Act 2004. (See end of Document for details)*

**Commencement Information**

**I54** Sch. 2 para. 20 in force at 1.1.2005 by S.I. 2004/3205, art. 2(k) (with art. 9)

- 21 In section 95 (financial provision)—
- (a) in subsection (1), “the Community Patent Convention” is omitted;
  - (b) in subsection (2), for “either of those conventions” there is substituted “that convention”.

**Commencement Information**

**I55** Sch. 2 para. 21 in force at 1.1.2005 by S.I. 2004/3205, art. 2(k) (with art. 9)

- 22 In sections 103 and 105 (legal privilege), in the definition of “the relevant conventions” in subsection (2), “the Community Patent Convention” is omitted.

**Commencement Information**

**I56** Sch. 2 para. 22 in force at 1.1.2005 by S.I. 2004/3205, art. 2(k) (with art. 9)

- 23 In section 117A (inserted by the Regulatory Reform Order) (effect of resuscitating applications), after subsection (6) there is inserted—
- “(7) The above provisions apply in relation to the use of a patented invention for the services of the Crown as they apply in relation to infringement of the rights conferred by publication of the application for a patent (or, as the case may be, infringement of the patent).

“Patented invention” has the same meaning as in section 55 above.”

- 24 (1) Section 120 (hours of business and excluded days) is amended as follows.
- (2) In subsection (1)—
- (a) for “Rules may specify” there is substituted “ The comptroller may give directions specifying ”;
  - (b) for “and may specify” there is substituted “ and the directions may specify ”.
- (3) After subsection (2) there is inserted—

“(3) Directions under this section shall be published in the prescribed manner.”

**Commencement Information**

**I57** Sch. 2 para. 24 in force at 22.9.2004 by S.I. 2004/2177, art. 2 (with arts. 6, 8)

- 25 In section 121 (comptroller’s annual report)—
- (a) for “1st June” there is substituted “ 1st December ”;
  - (b) for “year”, in both places, there is substituted “ financial year ”;
  - (c) “the Community Patent Convention” is omitted;
  - (d) for “those conventions” there is substituted “ that convention ”.

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Patents Act 2004. (See end of Document for details)*

**Commencement Information**

**I58** Sch. 2 para. 25 in force at 1.1.2005 by S.I. 2004/3205, art. 2(k) (with art. 9)

26 (1 Section 123 (rules) is amended as follows.

(2) In subsection (2), for paragraph (i) there is substituted—

“(i) giving effect to an inventor’s rights to be mentioned conferred by section 13, and providing for an inventor’s waiver of any such right to be subject to acceptance by the comptroller;”.

(3) After that subsection there is inserted—

“(2A) The comptroller may set out in directions any forms the use of which is required by rules; and any such directions shall be published in the prescribed manner.”

(4) Subsections (4) and (5) are omitted.

**Commencement Information**

**I59** Sch. 2 para. 26(1)(3)(4) in force at 22.9.2004 by S.I. 2004/2177, art. 2 (with arts. 7, 8)

**I60** Sch. 2 para. 26(2) in force at 1.10.2005 by S.I. 2005/2471, art. 2(g)

27 In section 130(1) (interpretation)—

- (a) the definition of “Community patent” and the “and” preceding it are omitted;
- (b) in the definition of “relevant convention court”, “the Community Patent Convention” is omitted.

**Commencement Information**

**I61** Sch. 2 para. 27 in force at 1.1.2005 by S.I. 2004/3205, art. 2(k) (with art. 9)

28 In section 131 (Northern Ireland), at the end there is inserted—

“(f) any reference to a claimant includes a reference to a plaintiff.”

**Commencement Information**

**I62** Sch. 2 para. 28 in force at 1.1.2005 by S.I. 2004/3205, art. 2(k) (with art. 9)

SCHEDULE 3

Section 16

REPEALS

**Commencement Information**

**I63** Sch. 3 in force at 22.9.2004 for specified purposes by S.I. 2004/2177, art. 2

---

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Patents Act 2004. (See end of Document for details)*

---

- |            |                                                                                                               |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>I64</b> | Sch. 3 in force at 1.1.2005 for specified purposes by <a href="#">S.I. 2004/3205, art. 2(f)</a> (with art. 9) |
| <b>I65</b> | Sch. 3 in force at 1.10.2005 for specified purposes by <a href="#">S.I. 2005/2471, art. 2(f)</a>              |
| <b>I66</b> | Sch. 3 in force at 13.12.2007 in so far as not already in force by <a href="#">S.I. 2007/3396, art. 2(i)</a>  |

---

**Short title and chapter**

Patents Act 1977 (c. 37)

**Extent of repeal**

Section 2(6).  
In section 4—  
    (a) in subsection (1), the words “Subject to subsection (2) below”;  
    (b) subsections (2) and (3).  
In section 41(4) and (5), the words “a patent for”.  
Section 53(1).  
Section 60(4).  
In section 72—  
    (a) in subsection (1), the words “on the application of any person”;  
    (b) in subsection (4), the words “under section 75 below”.  
In section 81(2), paragraph (a) and the word “that” preceding it.  
Sections 86 and 87.  
Section 89(4).  
In section 95(1), the words “the Community Patent Convention”.  
In section 103(2), in the definition of “the relevant conventions”, the words “the Community Patent Convention”.  
In section 105(2), in the definition of “the relevant conventions”, the words “the Community Patent Convention”.  
In section 106, in the heading, the words “under s. 40”.  
In section 121, the words “the Community Patent Convention”.  
In section 123, subsections (4) and (5).  
In section 130(1)—  
    (a) the definition of “Community patent” and the word “and” preceding it;  
    (b) in the definition of “relevant convention court”, the words “the Community Patent Convention”.

---

**Changes to legislation:**

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Patents Act 2004.