

Patents Act*

(Act No. 9 of December 15, 1967, as last amended by Act No. 104 of December 20, 1996)

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** The Table of Contents is not a part of the Act. It has been included for the purposes of information.

¹³ Replaces earlier chapter on Nordic Patent Applications.

¹⁹ Added by Act No. 40 of June 24, 1994.

Chapter 1

General Provisions

1. ¹ Any person who has made an invention which is susceptible of industrial application, or his successor in title, shall, in accordance with this Act, have the right on application to be granted a patent for the invention and thereby obtain the exclusive right to exploit the invention commercially.

Subject matters not regarded as inventions include anything which merely consists of:

1. discoveries, scientific theories and mathematical methods;
2. aesthetic creations;
3. schemes, rules or methods for performing mental acts, playing games or doing business, or programs for computers;
4. presentations of information.

Nor shall methods for surgical or therapeutic treatment or diagnostic methods, practised on humans or animals, be considered as inventions. This provision shall not prevent the grant of patents for products, including substances and compositions of substances, for use in such methods.

Patents shall not be granted for:

1. inventions the use of which would be contrary to morality or public order;
2. plant or animal varieties or essentially biological processes for the production of plants or animals. Patents may, however, be granted for microbiological processes and the products thereof.

2. ¹ Patents shall be granted only for inventions which are new in relation to what was known before the filing date of the patent application, and which also differ essentially therefrom.

Everything made available to the public, either in writing, in lectures, by exploitation or otherwise, shall be considered as known. The contents of a patent application filed in this country before the said date shall also be considered as known if the application is made available to the public in accordance with the provisions of [section 22](#). The requirement in the first paragraph that the invention shall differ essentially from what was known shall not apply in relation to the contents of such an application.

Applications referred to in [Chapter 3](#) shall have the same effect as applications filed in this country in the cases indicated in [sections 29](#) and [38](#).

The requirement in the [first paragraph](#) that the invention must be new shall not prevent the grant of a patent for known substances or known compositions for use in the

¹ Amended by Act No. 35 of June 8, 1979.

¹ Amended by Act No. 35 of June 8, 1979.

methods referred to in [section 1, third paragraph](#), provided that the use of the substance or the composition is not known in relation to any of those methods.

A patent may be granted despite the fact that the invention has been made available to the public within six months prior to the filing of the application:

1. through evident abuse in relation to the applicant or his predecessor in title; or
2. through display of the invention by the applicant or his predecessor in title at an official or officially recognised international exhibition falling within the terms of the Convention on International Exhibitions, done at Paris on November 22, 1928.

3.²The exclusive right conferred by a patent shall, with the exceptions referred to in the third paragraph, imply that no one but the patent holder may, without his consent, exploit the invention by:

- (1) producing, offering for sale, putting on the market or using a product protected by the patent, or by importing or possessing the product for such purposes;
- (2) using or offering to use a process protected by the patent or, whilst knowing, or it being obvious from the circumstances, that the use of the process is prohibited without the consent of the patent holder, offering the process for use in this country;
- (3) offering for sale, putting on the market or using a product made by a process protected by the patent, or importing or possessing the product for such purposes.

The exclusive right shall also imply that no one but the patent holder may, without his consent, exploit the invention by offering or supplying any person who is not entitled to exploit the invention in this country with the means for carrying out the invention, provided that the means relate to an essential element of the invention and the person supplying or offering the means knows, or it is obvious from the circumstances, that the means are suitable and intended for such exploitation. If the means are staple commodities, this provision shall only apply where the person offering or supplying the means attempts to induce the recipient to commit acts infringing the exclusive right provided for in the first paragraph. In relation to the provisions of this paragraph, persons exploiting the invention as referred to in the [third paragraph, items 1, 3 or 4](#), shall not be considered entitled to exploit the invention.

The exclusive right shall not include:

- (1) Exploitation outside the course of professional activity.
- (2) Exploitation of products protected by the patent which have been put on the market in the European Economic Area by the patent holder or with his consent.

² Amended by Acts No. 35 of June 8, 1979 and No. 113 of November 27, 1992.

- (3) Exploitation by experiment relating to the subject matter of the invention.
- (4) Preparation in a pharmacy of a medicine in accordance with a prescription in individual cases, or acts carried out with a medicine so prepared.

4. Anyone who, at the time when the patent application was filed, was exploiting the invention commercially in this country, may, notwithstanding the patent, continue the exploitation, whilst retaining its general character, provided that the exploitation does not constitute an evident abuse in relation to the applicant or his predecessor in title. Such right of exploitation shall also, on similar conditions, be enjoyed by anyone who had made substantial preparations for commercial exploitation of the invention in this country.

The right provided for in the first paragraph may only be transferred to others in conjunction with the enterprise in which it has arisen or in which the exploitation was intended.

5. An invention may, notwithstanding a patent, be utilised on a foreign vehicle, vessel or aircraft in connection with the use of such means of transportation during their temporary or accidental stay in this country.

Where a foreign country grants similar rights in respect of Norwegian aircraft, the King may provide that, notwithstanding a patent, spare parts and accessories for aircraft may be imported into and used in this country for the repair of aircraft belonging to that country.

6. ³A patent application for an invention which has been disclosed not earlier than 12 months before the filing date in an application for a patent in this country or for a patent, an inventor's certificate or utility model protection in a foreign country party to the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property of March 20, 1883, shall, for the purposes of [section 2, first](#), [second](#) and [fourth paragraphs](#), and [section 4](#), be deemed to have been filed on the same date as the earlier application, if the applicant so requests. The King may issue regulations prescribing that applications which are not filed in a State party to the Paris Convention may also form the basis for priority as mentioned in the first period.

The King shall prescribe the particulars concerning the right to claim priority as referred to above.

Chapter 2

The Patent Application and Its Processing, Etc.

7. ¹The patent authority of this country is the Patent Office.

8. ⁴An application for a patent shall be filed in writing with the Patent Office or, in the cases referred to in [Chapter 3](#), with a patent authority or an international organisation as referred to in [section 28](#).

³ Amended by Acts No. 35 of June 8, 1979 and No. 82 of December 22, 1995.

¹ Amended by Act No. 35 of June 8, 1979.

⁴ Amended by Acts No. 35 of June 8, 1979 and No. 30 of May 24, 1985.

The application shall contain a description of the invention, including drawings where necessary, and a precise statement of the subject matter for which protection by the patent is sought (patent claims). The fact that the invention relates to a chemical compound shall not imply that a specific use must be disclosed in the claim. The description shall be sufficiently clear to enable a person skilled in the art to carry out the invention on the basis thereof. An invention which relates to a microbiological process or to a product obtained by such a process shall, in the cases referred to in [section 8a](#), only be considered to be disclosed in a sufficiently clear manner if the requirements of [section 8a](#) are also complied with.

The application shall also contain an abstract of the description and patent claims. The abstract shall merely serve as technical information and may not be taken into account for any other purpose.

The inventor shall be identified by name in the application. If a patent is applied for by someone other than the inventor, the applicant shall prove his right to the invention.

The applicant shall pay the prescribed application fee. A prescribed annual fee shall also be paid for every fee year beginning before the application is finally decided upon.

A fee year in accordance with this Act comprises one year and shall be reckoned the first time from the day on which the application was filed and thereafter from the corresponding day of the calendar year.

8a.⁵ If, when carrying out an invention, this involves the use of a microorganism which is not available to the public and cannot be described in the application documents in such a manner as to enable a person skilled in the art to carry out the invention on the basis thereof, a culture of the microorganism shall be deposited not later than on the date of filing of the application. The culture shall thereafter always be deposited so that anyone who under this Act is entitled to be furnished with a sample of the culture, may be furnished with a sample in Norway. The King shall decree where deposits may be made.

If a deposited culture of a microorganism ceases to be viable or a sample of the culture cannot be furnished for other reasons, it may be replaced by a new culture of the same microorganism within the prescribed time limit and on the other conditions laid down by the King. In that case, the new deposit shall be deemed to have been made on the date that the previous deposit was made.

9.¹ If the applicant so requests and pays the prescribed fee, the Patent Office shall, on conditions laid down by the King, allow the application to be subjected to a novelty search by an International Searching Authority as referred to in [Article 15\(5\) of the Patent Cooperation Treaty](#), done at Washington on June 19, 1970.

10. A patent for two or more mutually independent inventions may not be applied for in the same application.

11. If patent is sought for an invention disclosed in a patent application previously filed by the applicant, but not yet decided upon, the later application shall, at the request

⁵ Amended by Act No. 30 of May 24, 1985.

¹ Amended by Act No. 35 of June 8, 1979.

of the applicant and on conditions laid down by the King, be considered as filed on the date on which the documents disclosing the invention were received by the Patent Office.

12. An applicant who is not a resident of this country shall have a representative domiciled in this country who can represent him in all matters concerning the application.

13. ⁶A patent application must not be amended in such a way that protection is claimed for subject matter which was not disclosed in the application at the time it was filed.

14.⁷

15. ⁴If the applicant has not complied with the prescribed requirements with respect to the application, or if the Patent Office finds other obstacles to the acceptance of the application, the applicant shall be notified to that effect and be invited to submit observations or to correct the application within a specified time limit. However, the Patent Office may make such amendments in the abstract as found necessary without consulting the applicant.

If the applicant fails, within the time limit, to submit observations or to take steps to correct a defect which has been pointed out, the application shall be shelved. Information to that effect shall be given in the notification from the Patent Office referred to in the [first paragraph](#).

However, the processing of the application shall be resumed if the applicant submits observations or takes steps to make corrections and pays the prescribed fee for resumption of the processing within four months from the expiration of the said time limit.

If the annual fee referred to in [sections 8, 41 and 42](#) is not paid, the application shall be shelved without prior notification. The processing of an application which has been shelved for this reason cannot be resumed.

16. If, subsequent to the receipt of the applicant's reply, the Patent Office still finds an obstacle to the acceptance of the application, and the applicant has been given an opportunity to comment on the obstacle, the application shall be refused, unless the Patent Office finds that further correspondence is required.

17. If anyone claims before the Patent Office that he, and not the applicant, is entitled to the invention, the Patent Office may, if the question is found doubtful, invite the party concerned to bring the matter before the courts of law within a specified time limit, whilst drawing to his attention that if he does not comply with this requirement, his claim may be disregarded in the further processing of the case.

If an action has been brought with respect to the question of the right to the invention, the processing of the patent application may be suspended until the courts have reached a final decision on the question.

⁶ Amended by Act No. 104 of December 20, 1996.

⁷ Repealed by Act No. 104 of December 20, 1996.

⁴ Amended by Acts No. 35 of June 8, 1979 and No. 30 of May 24, 1985.

18. If anyone proves to the satisfaction of the Patent Office that he, and not the applicant, is entitled to the invention, the Patent Office shall, instead of refusing the application for that reason, transfer it to him if he so requests. The transferee shall pay a new application fee.

If a request has been made for transfer of a patent application, the application shall not be shelved, refused or accepted until a final decision has been made with respect to the request.

19. ⁸If the application complies with the prescribed requirements and there are no obstacles to the grant of a patent, the applicant shall be notified that a patent may be granted.

Subsequent to the applicant having been notified that a patent may be granted, the patent claims may not be amended so as to extend the scope of the patent protection.

20. ⁹The applicant shall pay the prescribed fee for grant within two months from being notified by the Patent Office that a patent may be granted. Failure to do so will result in the application being shelved. However, the processing of the application shall be resumed if the applicant pays the said fee as well as the prescribed fee for the resumption of the processing of the application within four months from the expiration of the time limit.

If the applicant is the inventor and if, within two months from the mailing of the notification that a patent may be granted, he requests exemption from payment of the fee for grant, the Patent Office may grant such exemption if the payment of the fee shall cause considerable difficulties for the applicant. If the request for exemption is refused, payment of the fee within two months from the refusal shall be considered as payment in due time.

21. ⁹When the fee for grant under [section 20](#) has been paid or exemption from payment of such fee has been granted, the application shall be accepted provided that there are still no obstacles to the grant of a patent. A notice of the decision shall be published.

When a notice of the decision to accept the application has been published, the patent is granted.

Simultaneously with the grant of the patent, the Patent Office shall publish a patent specification. The patent specification shall include a description, patent claims, an abstract, and the names of the patent holder and the inventor.

When the patent is granted, a letters patent shall be issued.

Patents granted shall be entered in the Register of Patents kept by the Patent Office. Anyone shall be entitled to examine the Register of Patents, to obtain certified extracts

⁸ Amended by Acts No. 35 of June 8, 1979, No. 82 of December 22, 1995 and No. 104 of December 20, 1996.

⁹ Amended by Acts No. 35 of June 8, 1979 and No. 82 of December 22, 1995.

⁹ Amended by Acts No. 35 of June 8, 1979 and No. 82 of December 22, 1995.

therefrom and to obtain copies of patent applications which have been made available to the public according to [section 22](#).

22. ¹⁰All documents of the application shall be made available to the public as of the date on which the patent was granted.

When 18 months have passed from the filing date of the application or, if priority under [section 6](#) has been claimed, from the date from which priority is claimed, the documents shall be made available to the public even if a patent has not yet been granted. However, if the application has been shelved or refused, the documents shall not be made available to the public unless the applicant requests resumption of the processing of the application, appeals against the refusal or requests re-establishment of rights under [sections 72](#) or [73](#).

At the applicant's request, the application documents shall be made available to the public earlier than prescribed in the [first](#) or [second paragraph](#).

When the documents become available to the public under the [second](#) or [third paragraph](#), a notice to that effect shall be published by the Patent Office.

If a document contains trade secrets which do not relate to an invention for which patent has been sought or granted, the Patent Office may, upon request and where there are special circumstances which make it desirable, decide that the document shall not be made available to the public. If such request has been submitted, the document shall not be made available to the public until the request has been refused by a final decision in accordance with [section 26, fourth paragraph](#).

Proposals, drafts, memoranda and other similar working documents prepared by the Patent Office in connection with the processing of an application shall not be available to the public, unless the Patent Office so decides.

If a culture of a microorganism has been deposited according to [section 8a](#), anyone has the right to be furnished with a sample of the culture when the documents of the application have been made available in accordance with the first, second or third paragraph. This does not mean, however, that a sample shall be issued to anyone who in consequence of a law or regulation is not entitled to handle the deposited microorganism. Moreover, the provision of the first period does not mean that a sample shall be issued to anyone whose handling of the sample must be assumed to involve considerable risk due to the harmful properties of the organism.

Until a patent has been granted or the application has been finally decided upon without a patent having been granted, the applicant may, notwithstanding the provisions of the seventh paragraph, request that a sample only be issued to a specially appointed expert. The King shall prescribe a time limit for submitting such request and shall determine who may be appointed as an expert.

A request for the issue of a sample shall be made in writing to the Patent Office and must contain a declaration to the effect that the restrictions laid down by the King

¹⁰ Amended by Acts No. 35 of June 8, 1979, No. 30 of May 24, 1985 and No. 82 of December 22, 1995.

concerning the use of the sample will be observed. If the sample may only be issued to a specially appointed expert, the declaration shall be made by the expert instead.

23.¹¹ If an application which is available to the public is shelved or refused, a notice of this decision shall be published when it is final.

24.¹² Any person may file an opposition to a granted patent. A notice of opposition shall be filed in writing, state the grounds for the opposition, and reach the Patent Office within nine months from the date of grant of the patent. Under special circumstances, the Patent Office may grant a short additional time limit in which to provide further documentation in support of the opposition.

An opposition founded on the claim that the patent has been granted to someone other than the person entitled to the patent under [section 1](#), may only be filed by the person claiming to be entitled to the patent. The opponent may request in the opposition that the patent be transferred to him.

The Patent Office shall refuse an opposition which does not fulfil the conditions referred to in the [first](#) and [second paragraphs](#).

The Patent Office shall notify the patent holder of oppositions and shall give him an opportunity to file observations on them. During the opposition procedure, [section 12](#) shall apply correspondingly to the patent holder.

If an opposition has been filed, this fact shall be recorded in the Register of Patents and a notice thereof shall be published.

Even if the opposition is withdrawn the processing thereof may continue provided that special reasons exist therefor.

25.⁹ Subsequent to an opposition the Patent Office shall revoke the patent if

- (1) it has been granted despite the fact that the conditions laid down in [sections 1](#) and [2](#) are not fulfilled;
- (2) it relates to an invention which is not disclosed in a manner sufficiently clear as to enable a person skilled in the art to carry out the invention on the basis of the description; or
- (3) the subject matter extends beyond the content of the application as filed.

If the opponent claims that he is entitled to the patent and has requested that the patent be transferred to him, the Patent Office shall transfer the patent instead of revoking it, provided that it finds that, according to [section 1](#), the opponent is entitled to the patent. [section 53](#) shall apply correspondingly.

The Patent Office shall reject the opposition if there is no obstacle as referred to in the [first paragraph](#) to the maintenance of the patent.

¹¹ Amended by Act No. 82 of December 22, 1995.

¹² Amended by Acts No. 30 of May 24, 1985 and No. 82 of December 22, 1995.

⁹ Amended by Acts No. 35 of June 8, 1979 and No. 82 of December 22, 1995.

If, during the opposition procedure, the patent holder has made such amendments that there is no obstacle to the maintenance of the patent as amended for reasons referred to the [first paragraph](#), and the said amendments do not represent an extension of the scope of protection of the patent beyond the patent as originally granted, the patent shall be maintained as amended.

When the decision of the Patent Office regarding an opposition is final, a notice of the decision shall be entered in the Register of Patents and shall be published. If the decision entails the maintenance of the patent in an amended form, the Patent Office shall issue a new patent specification and a new letters patent and shall enter the new patent in the Register of Patents.

26. ¹¹If the final first instance decision with respect to an application has gone against the applicant, he may file an appeal against the decision with the second instance department of the Patent Office (the Board of Appeals).

If final first instance decision in an opposition case has gone against the patent holder or the opponent, the party concerned may file an appeal against the decision with the Board of Appeals.

The applicant may file an appeal against a decision refusing a request for resumption under [section 15, third paragraph](#), or [section 20, first paragraph](#), or accepting a request for transfer under [section 18](#) with the Board of Appeals. A decision refusing a request for transfer under [section 18](#) may be appealed against by the requester.

The requester may file an appeal against a decision refusing a request under [section 22, fifth](#) or [ninth paragraph](#), with the Board of Appeals.

27. ¹¹An appeal must be received by the Patent Office within two months from the date on which notification of the decision was sent to the party concerned. The prescribed appeal fee must be paid within the same time limit. If these provisions are not complied with, the appeal shall not be submitted for consideration.

Even if the opponent withdraws his appeal, it may be examined if special circumstances make it desirable.

A decision by the Board of Appeals refusing a patent application, revoking a patent, or maintaining a first instance decision to revoke a patent may not be brought before the courts of law later than two months from the date on which the applicant or patent holder was notified of the decision. Information with respect to the time limit for instituting proceedings shall be given in the notification.

The provisions of the [fifth](#) and [sixth paragraphs of section 22](#) shall apply correspondingly to documents submitted to the Board of Appeals.

Chapter 3¹³

International Patent Applications

¹¹ Amended by Act No. 82 of December 22, 1995.

¹¹ Amended by Act No. 82 of December 22, 1995.

¹³ Replaces earlier chapter on Nordic Patent Applications.

28. “International patent application” means an application filed in accordance with the Patent Cooperation Treaty, done at Washington on June 19, 1970 (the PCT).

International patent applications shall be filed with the national patent authorities or international organisations which, according to the PCT, are authorised to receive such applications (receiving Offices). The Patent Office is a receiving Office according to provisions laid down by the King. The applicant must pay the prescribed fee for an international application which is filed with the Patent Office.

The provisions of [sections 29](#) to [38](#) shall apply to international patent applications designating Norway.

29. An international patent application to which the receiving Office has accorded an international filing date shall have the same effect as a patent application filed in this country on the same date. However, the provision of [section 2, second paragraph](#), second period, shall only apply if the application enters the national phase in accordance with [section 31](#).

30. An international patent application shall be considered withdrawn as far as Norway is concerned in cases as referred to in [Article 24\(1\)\(i\) and \(ii\) of the PCT](#).

31. ¹⁴If the applicant wishes an international patent application to enter the national phase in Norway, he must, within 20 months from the international filing date or, if priority is claimed, from the date from which priority is claimed, file a translation of the international application with the Patent Office to the extent provided by the King, or if the application is in Norwegian, a copy thereof. The applicant must, within the same time limit, pay the prescribed fee to the Patent Office.

If the applicant has requested that the international application be subjected to an international preliminary examination and if, within 19 months from the date indicated in the [first paragraph](#), he has declared in accordance with the PCT that he intends to use the results of that examination in connection with an application for a patent in Norway, he must comply with the provisions of the [first paragraph](#) within 30 months from the said date.

If the applicant has paid the prescribed fee within the time limit in the [first](#) or [second paragraph](#), the translation or copy may be filed within an extended time limit of two months provided he pays a prescribed additional fee within the expiration of the extended time limit.

If the applicant fails to comply with the provisions of this section, the application shall be considered withdrawn as far as Norway is concerned.

32. ¹⁴If the applicant withdraws his request for international preliminary examination or his declaration that he intends to use the results of such examination in an application for a patent in Norway, the international patent application shall be considered withdrawn as far as Norway is concerned, unless the withdrawal takes place before the expiration of the time limit which applies under [section 31, first paragraph](#), and

¹⁴ Amended by Act No. 30 of May 24, 1985.

¹⁴ Amended by Act No. 30 of May 24, 1985.

provided that the applicant proceeds with the application within the time limit according to [section 31, first paragraph](#), cf. the [third paragraph](#).

33. ¹⁴If an international patent application has entered the national phase under [section 31](#), the provisions of [Chapter 2](#) shall, subject to the provisions of this section and [sections 34 to 37](#), apply to the application and the processing thereof. However, the processing of the application may not, without the consent of the applicant, be initiated until the expiration of the time limit according to [section 31, the first or second paragraph](#).

The provisions of [section 12](#) shall only apply from the date on which the Patent Office is allowed to start the processing of the application.

The provisions of [section 22](#) shall also apply prior to the entry of the application into the national phase, provided the applicant has complied with the obligation under [section 31](#) to file a translation of the application, or, if the application is in Norwegian, has filed a copy with the Patent Office.

For the purposes of [sections 48, 56 and 60](#), an international patent application shall be considered to have been made available to the public when it has been made available under the [third paragraph](#).

If the application complies with the requirements of the PCT relating to the form and contents, it shall be accepted in those respects.

34. ¹⁵An international patent application shall not be accepted, nor shall it be refused, until the expiration of the time limit prescribed by the King, unless the applicant consents to a decision with respect to the application prior thereto.

35. ¹¹An international patent application shall not, without the consent of the applicant, be accepted or published in print or in any similar manner until it has been published by the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) unless 20 months have elapsed from the international filing date. If priority is claimed according to [section 6](#), the time limit of 20 months shall be computed from the date from which priority is claimed.

36. ¹¹If a part of an international patent application has not been subjected to an international search or an international preliminary examination on the ground that the application was found to relate to inventions which are mutually independent and the applicant has not paid the additional fee as prescribed by the PCT within the prescribed time limit, the Patent Office shall review the finding to determine if it was justified. If this is found to be the case, the part of the application which has not been searched or examined shall be considered withdrawn, unless the applicant pays the prescribed fee within two months from the date on which the Patent Office notified him of its decision. If the Patent Office determines that the finding was not justified, it shall continue the processing of the application in its entirety.

¹⁴ Amended by Act No. 30 of May 24, 1985.

¹⁵ Amended by Acts No. 30 of May 24, 1985 and No. 82 of December 22, 1995.

¹¹ Amended by Act No. 82 of December 22, 1995.

¹¹ Amended by Act No. 82 of December 22, 1995.

The applicant may appeal against a decision according to the [first paragraph](#) in cases where the Patent Office has found that the patent application relates to independent inventions. The provisions of [section 27](#) regarding the time limit for appeal and regarding the opportunity for instituting legal proceedings shall apply correspondingly.

If the Board of Appeals upholds the first instance decision, the time limit for payment of such fee as referred to in the [first paragraph](#), second period, shall be computed from the date on which the Patent Office sent the applicant a notification of the Board of Appeals decision.

37. If a part of an international patent application has not been subjected to an international preliminary examination on the ground that the applicant has restricted the patent claims at the invitation of the authority concerned, the part of the application which has not been examined shall be considered withdrawn unless the applicant pays the prescribed fee to the Patent Office within two months from the invitation by the Patent Office to pay with reference to the restriction of the examination which has been carried out.

38. ¹⁴If the receiving Office has refused to accord an international filing date to an international patent application or has declared that the application shall be considered withdrawn or that the designation of Norway shall be considered withdrawn, the Patent Office shall, at the request of the applicant, review the decision for the purpose of determining whether it was justified. The same shall apply where the International Bureau has declared that the application shall be considered withdrawn.

A request for review under the first paragraph shall be submitted to the International Bureau within the time limit prescribed by the King. The applicant must, within the same time limit, submit to the Patent Office a translation of the application to the extent provided by the King, and pay the prescribed application fee.

If the Patent Office finds that the decision of the receiving Office or of the International Bureau was not justified, the Patent Office shall continue the processing of the application according to [Chapter 2](#). If the receiving Office has not accorded an international filing date, the application shall be deemed to have been filed on the date which the Patent Office finds should have been accorded as the international filing date. If the application satisfies the requirements of the PCT as to form and contents, it shall be accepted in those respects.

The provisions of [section 2,second paragraph](#), second period, shall apply to an application which is processed according to the third paragraph, provided that the application is made available to the public according to [section 22](#).

Chapter 4

The Extent and Duration of the Patent

¹⁴ Amended by Act No. 30 of May 24, 1985.

39. The extent of the protection conferred by a patent shall be determined by the patent claims. The description may serve as a guide to the understanding of the patent claims.

39a. ¹⁶A patent holder may request that the patent claims or the description shall be amended in order to limit the scope of the patent protection (patent limitation).

A request for patent limitation shall be filed in writing with the Patent Office. The request may not be filed before the time limit for filing opposition has expired and not before oppositions, if any, have been finally decided upon. If an action has been brought before the courts of law for transfer of the patent, or if a distraint has been put thereon, a request for patent limitation may not be filed until final decision has been taken with respect to the action or the distraint no longer applies.

The patent holder shall pay the prescribed fee for the limitation procedure.

39b. ¹⁶If the request complies with the prescribed requirements, the Patent Office shall consider whether the patent as amended will comply with the requirements of [sections 1](#) and [2](#), and whether it will apply to an invention which is described sufficiently clearly as to enable a person skilled in the art to carry out the invention on the basis of the description.

If the Patent Office finds that there are no obstacles to granting the request, the patent shall be limited accordingly. The limitation shall take effect from the date on which notice thereof is published.

39c. ¹⁶If the patent holder has not complied with the requirements prescribed for the request, or if the Patent Office finds that there are other obstacles to the acceptance thereof, the patent holder shall be notified to that effect and be invited to submit observations or to correct the request within a specified time limit.

If the patent holder fails, within the time limit, to submit observations or to take steps to correct a defect which has been pointed out, the request shall be rejected. Information to that effect shall be given in the notification from the Patent Office referred to in the [first paragraph](#).

If the Patent Office, subsequent to the receipt of the reply from the patent holder, finds any obstacle to granting the request and the patent holder has been given the opportunity to comment on the obstacle, the request shall be refused, unless the Patent Office finds that further correspondence is required.

39d. ¹⁶If the final decision with respect to the request in the first instance department of the Patent Office does not imply that the patent shall be limited in accordance with the request, the patent holder may file an appeal with the Board of Appeals.

¹⁶ Added by Act No. 82 of December 22, 1995.

¹⁶ Added by Act No. 82 of December 22, 1995.

¹⁶ Added by Act No. 82 of December 22, 1995.

¹⁶ Added by Act No. 82 of December 22, 1995.

The appeal must be received by the Patent Office within one month from the date on which notification of the decision was sent to the patent holder. Within the same time limit the prescribed appeal fee must be paid. If these requirements are not complied with, the appeal shall not be submitted for consideration.

The patent holder may bring the decision with respect to an appeal before the courts of law, but not later than one month from the date on which he was notified of the decision. Information of the time limit for instituting legal proceedings shall be given in the notification.

39e. ¹⁶If a patent is limited in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter, a notice to that effect shall be published. The Patent Office shall then issue a new patent specification and a new letters patent, and the patent as limited shall be entered in the Register of Patents.

40. ⁴A granted patent may be maintained for up to 20 years from the date of filing of the patent application.

In order to maintain a patent, an annual fee must be paid for every fee year beginning after the grant of the patent. If the patent has been granted before the annual fee has started to fall due under [section 41](#), the patent holder, when the annual fee falls due for the first time, shall pay annual fees also for fee years beginning before the grant of the patent.

Chapter 5 Annual Fees

41. ⁴The annual fee falls due on the last day of the calendar month in which the fee year starts. However, the annual fees for the first two fee years shall not fall due until the annual fee for the third fee year falls due. The annual fee may not be paid earlier than six months before the due date. If the courts of law set aside a decision by the Board of Appeals to refuse a patent application, annual fees for fee years beginning after the second instance decision and up to the date on which the decision of the court became legally binding, shall nevertheless not fall due prior to the elapse of two months from the latter date.

For a later application as referred to in [section 11](#) the annual fees for fee years beginning before the date on which the later application was filed or beginning within a period of two months from that date, shall in no case fall due prior to the elapse of two months from that date. For an international patent application, annual fees for fee years beginning before the date on which the application was proceeded with under [section 31](#) or processed in accordance with [section 38](#) or beginning within two months from that date, shall in no case fall due prior to the elapse of two months from that date.

¹⁶ Added by Act No. 82 of December 22, 1995.

⁴ Amended by Acts No. 35 of June 8, 1979 and No. 30 of May 24, 1985.

⁴ Amended by Acts No. 35 of June 8, 1979 and No. 30 of May 24, 1985.

Upon payment of an additional fee, the annual fee may be paid within six months after the due date.

42. If the inventor is the applicant or the patent holder and the Patent Office finds that the payment of the annual fee involves considerable difficulties for him, the Patent Office may grant an extension of the time limit, provided he requests this not later than the date on which the annual fee falls due for the first time. An extension may be granted for up to three years at the time, but shall not exceed three years from the grant of the patent. A request for a prolonged extension must be made prior to the expiration of the extension period granted.

If the request for extension or prolonged extension is refused, payment of the fee within two months from the date on which notification of the refusal was sent to the applicant or the patent holder shall be considered as payment in due time.

Annual fees for which an extension of the time limit for payment has been granted, may upon payment of the additional fee referred to in [section 41, third paragraph](#), be paid within six months after the expiration of the extension period.

Chapter 6

Licence, Transfer, Etc.

43. If the patent holder has granted someone else the right to exploit the invention commercially (licence), the licensee may not transfer his right to others, unless an agreement to the contrary has been made or shall be deemed to have been made.

44. ¹⁷A transfer of a patent to someone else or the grant of a licence shall be recorded in the Register of Patents at the request of one of the parties.

Where a licence which has been recorded in the Register has terminated, this fact shall also be recorded at the request of one of the parties.

The provisions of the [first](#) and [second paragraphs](#) shall apply correspondingly to a transfer and a termination of a compulsory licence, as well as to a right under [section 53, third paragraph](#). Registration of distraints is regulated by the Enforcement Act, [section 7-20, eighth paragraph](#).

Legal proceedings concerning a patent may always be brought against the party recorded in the Register as the owner, and notifications from the Patent Office may be sent to him.

In the case of a conflict between a voluntary transfer of a patent or a grant of a licence, the recording of which has been requested, and a transfer or grant of a licence, the recording of which has not been requested or has been requested subsequently, the former shall prevail, provided that the holder of the title was in good faith at the time of the submission of the request.

45. Where three years have elapsed from the grant of the patent and four years from the filing of the patent application without the invention being worked in this country to a

¹⁷ Amended by Acts No. 2 of February 8, 1980 and No. 86 of June 26, 1992.

reasonable extent, anyone who wishes to work the invention in this country may obtain a compulsory licence for that purpose, provided there is no legitimate reason for the failure to work the invention.

The King may, on condition of reciprocity, provide that, for the purpose of applying the first paragraph, working in a foreign country be considered equivalent to working in this country.

46. ⁶The holder of a patent for an invention, the use of which is dependent on a patent owned by someone else, may obtain a compulsory licence to use the invention protected by the latter patent provided that the former invention involves an important technical advance of considerable economic significance in relation to the latter invention.

The holder of the patent for the invention to which the compulsory licence applies shall be entitled to obtain a compulsory licence on reasonable terms to use the other invention.

47. Whenever required by important public interests, anyone wishing to exploit commercially an invention for which someone else holds a patent may obtain a compulsory licence to do so.

48. Anyone who, at the time a patent application was made available to the public, was commercially exploiting the invention for which a patent is applied for in this country, may, if the application results in a patent, obtain a compulsory licence for the exploitation of the invention, provided that special circumstances make it desirable, and that he had no knowledge of the application and could not reasonably have obtained such knowledge. Such right shall also, on similar conditions, be enjoyed by anyone who has made substantial preparations for commercial exploitation of the invention in this country. The compulsory licence may also comprise the time preceding the grant of the patent.

49. ⁶A compulsory licence may only be granted to someone who has made efforts to obtain a licence on reasonable terms by agreement, and may be presumed able to exploit the invention in a manner which is acceptable and which is in compliance with the terms of the licence.

A compulsory licence shall not prevent the patent holder from exploiting the invention himself or from granting licences.

A compulsory licence shall only be assignable in conjunction with the enterprise where it is exploited or in which the exploitation was intended. Furthermore, a compulsory licence obtained according to the [first paragraph of section 46](#) may only be assigned in conjunction with the dependent patent.

In the case of semi-conductor technology, compulsory licences shall only be granted for public non-commercial use or to remedy practice determined after judicial or administrative process to be anti-competitive.

⁶ Amended by Act No. 104 of December 20, 1996.

⁶ Amended by Act No. 104 of December 20, 1996.

50. ¹⁸A compulsory licence shall be granted by the court, which shall also determine to what extent the invention may be exploited and stipulate the compensation and the other terms of the licence.

If circumstances should change considerably, the court may, at the request of either party, cancel the licence or stipulate new terms.

In a decision granting or extending a compulsory licence, the court may find that the owner of the compulsory licence shall have the right to exploit the invention in accordance with the decision during the period prior to the decision becoming legally binding. The Civil Procedure Act, [section 148, second paragraph](#), shall apply correspondingly. If the compulsory licence is cancelled because the decision is opposed before becoming legally binding, the owner of the compulsory licence shall be obliged to pay compensation for the loss caused by the exploitation, to an extent considered reasonable. The third period shall apply correspondingly if restrictions are imposed on the compulsory licence. In a decision under the first period, the court may instruct the licensee to furnish security for liability under the third and fourth periods. If a decision granting or extending a compulsory licence is opposed before becoming legally binding, the court to which the decision is brought, may make or reverse a decision under the first and fifth periods. The decision is made by a ruling or by the final decision in the matter, cf. the second period. A ruling under the seventh period may only be opposed in connection with an appeal of the final decision in the matter.

Chapter 7

Termination of the Patent, Etc.

51. ⁴If an annual fee has not been paid in accordance with [sections 40, 41, and 42](#), the patent shall lapse as from the start of the fee year in respect of which the fee has not been paid.

52. ¹⁰A patent may be invalidated by a court decision if:

- (1) it has been granted in spite of the fact that the requirements under [sections 1 and 2](#) are not complied with;
- (2) it relates to an invention the description of which is not sufficiently clear to enable a person skilled in the art to carry out the invention on the basis thereof;
- (3) it contains subject matter which was not disclosed in the application as filed;
- (4) the scope of protection of the patent has been extended after grant; or
- (5) after a request for patent limitation, the patent has been amended in such a way that the scope of protection has been extended.

¹⁸ Amended by Act No. 29 of June 14, 1991.

⁴ Amended by Acts No. 35 of June 8, 1979 and No. 30 of May 24, 1985.

¹⁰ Amended by Acts No. 35 of June 8, 1979, No. 30 of May 24, 1985 and No. 82 of December 22, 1995.

A patent shall not be invalidated in its entirety on the ground that the patent holder is only partially entitled to the patent.

Subject to the provisions of the [fourth paragraph](#), legal proceedings according to this provision may be brought by anyone.

Legal proceedings on the ground that the patent has been granted to someone other than the party entitled thereto under [section 1](#) may only be brought by the party claiming to be entitled to the patent. Such proceedings must be brought within one year from the date on which when the entitled party obtained knowledge of the grant of the patent and of the other facts on which the proceedings are based. If the patent holder was in good faith when the patent was granted or when the patent was acquired, the proceedings must under no circumstances be brought later than three years from the grant of the patent.

Re-establishment of rights may not be granted following the failure to meet the time limits prescribed in the [fourth paragraph](#).

53. If a patent has been granted to someone other than the party entitled thereto under [section 1](#), the court shall, if the entitled party so claims, transfer the patent to him.

The time limits under [section 52, the third](#) and [fourth paragraphs](#), for bringing proceedings before the court shall apply correspondingly to a proceeding under this provision.

The party who is deprived of the patent shall, if he has started to exploit the invention commercially in this country in good faith or if he has made substantial preparations for such exploitation, be entitled, against reasonable compensation and on reasonable conditions in other respects, to continue the exploitation or to start the prepared exploitation whilst retaining its general character. Such right shall also, on the same conditions, be enjoyed by holders of recorded licences. The right may only be transferred to others in connection with the enterprise in which the exploitation takes place or was intended to take place.

54. If the patent holder renounces the patent in a written notice to the Patent Office, the Patent Office shall declare the patent revoked.

If legal proceedings for the transfer of a patent have been brought or if the patent has been distrained, the patent shall not be declared revoked until the proceedings are finally settled or the distraint has been revoked.

55. ¹When a patent has lapsed or has been invalidated, transferred or declared revoked, the Patent Office shall publish a notice to that effect.

Chapter 8

Obligation to Give Information About Patents

56. ¹⁴An applicant for a patent who invokes his application against another party before it has been made available to the public shall, upon request, be obliged to give that

¹ Amended by Act No. 35 of June 8, 1979.

¹⁴ Amended by Act No. 30 of May 24, 1985.

party access to the documents of the application. If the application involves the deposit of a culture of the microorganism as referred to in [section 8a](#), the other party shall have the right to be furnished with a sample of the culture. The provisions of [section 22, seventh paragraph](#), second and third periods, and the [eighth](#) and [ninth paragraphs](#) shall apply correspondingly.

Anyone who, either by direct communication with someone else or by advertisement or by marking goods or the packaging thereof or in any other manner indicates that a patent has been applied for or is granted, without giving, at the same time, information concerning the number of the application or of the patent, shall be obliged to give such information without undue delay to anyone so requesting. If it is not explicitly indicated that a patent has been applied for or granted, but where the indication is liable to create the impression that such is the case, information shall be given, upon request and without undue delay, as to whether a patent has been applied for or granted.

Chapter 9

Provisions Concerning Legal Protection, Etc.

57. Anyone who intentionally infringes the exclusive right conferred by a patent (patent infringement), or who is an accessory thereto, shall be penalised by fine or imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months.

Public prosecution shall only take place at the request of the plaintiff.

58. ¹Anyone who intentionally or by negligence has committed a patent infringement shall be liable to pay compensation for the exploitation of the invention, as well as compensation for the further damage caused by the infringement. The compensation may be reduced where the infringer is guilty of minor blame only.

If the infringer has acted with care and in good faith, the court may, to the extent found reasonable, order the infringer to pay compensation for the damage caused by the exploitation.

59. In the event of patent infringement, the court may, in order to prevent further infringement, when so claimed and insofar as it is found reasonable, decide that a product protected by a patent which has been produced without the consent of the patent holder, or an object the use of which would involve a patent infringement, be altered in a specified manner, destroyed, confiscated or, where the case relates to an object protected by a patent, be surrendered to the aggrieved against compensation.

The provisions of the [first paragraph](#) shall not apply to a party who has acquired the product in good faith and who has not committed patent infringement himself.

Notwithstanding the provisions of the [first paragraph](#), the court may, upon request and under special circumstances, permit, against compensation and on appropriate conditions in other respects, disposal of the objects protected by the patent for the rest of the term of the patent or during a part of that period.

¹ Amended by Act No. 35 of June 8, 1979.

60.⁹ Where anyone, after the date on which the application documents have been made available to the public according to [section 22](#), without permission exploits commercially an invention for which a patent has been applied, the provisions concerning patent infringement shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the extent that the application results in a patent for the invention. However, in the period prior to the grant of the patent, the patent protection shall only extend to the subject matter disclosed both in the patent claims as worded when the application was made available to the public and in the patent claims of the patent as finally granted. No penalty may be imposed for exploitation of the invention prior to the grant of the patent. Compensation for damages resulting from exploitation before the grant of the patent may only be imposed in accordance with [section 58, second paragraph](#).

The statutory limit for claims according to this provision shall not start to run until the patent has been granted.

61.¹¹ In civil actions concerning patent infringements, an acquittal shall not be based on the patent being invalid or the conditions for transfer being fulfilled (cf. [sections 52](#) and [53](#)) without a judgement stating the invalidity or the transfer of the patent. An acquittal may, however, be based on the patent having been revoked or transferred according to [section 25](#).

Notwithstanding the [first paragraph](#), an acquittal may be based on the patent being invalid before being limited by patent limitation, provided that the acquittal is not based on the patent as limited also being invalid.

62. Anyone who intentionally or by negligence fails to give information or to give others access to the documents as provided for in [section 56](#) or, in the cases referred to in [section 56](#), gives incorrect information shall be penalised by a fine and shall be obliged to compensate the damage caused to the extent found reasonable.

Public prosecution shall only take place at the request of the aggrieved party.

Chapter 9a¹⁹

Prolonged Term of Protection for Medicinal Products

62a. **Annex XVII, item 6**, to the Agreement establishing the European Economic Area [Council Regulation (EEC) No. 1768/92 concerning the creation of a supplementary protection certificate for medicinal products with adaptations to the EEA Agreement] including the amendments and additions provided in Protocol 1 of the Agreement and elsewhere in the Agreement shall apply as statutory provisions.

Applications for a supplementary protection certificate shall be filed with the Patent Office. The applicant shall pay the prescribed fee.

⁹ Amended by Acts No. 35 of June 8, 1979 and No. 82 of December 22, 1995.

¹¹ Amended by Act No. 82 of December 22, 1995.

¹⁹ Added by Act No. 40 of June 24, 1994.

In the case of protection certificates, the prescribed fees shall be paid for every fee year starting after the end of the patent term. In other respects the same rules apply to these annual fees as to the annual fees for patents.

Further provisions concerning applications for protection certificates and the processing and examination thereof, concerning the registration of protection certificates, concerning appeals against decisions and concerning the obligation of the applicant or the holder to have a representative in this country, etc. shall be laid down by the King.

The penal provisions of [sections 57](#) and [62](#) shall apply correspondingly to protection certificates.

Chapter 10

Provisions on Legal Proceedings

63. ²⁰The following actions shall be brought before the Oslo City Court (*Oslo byrett*):

1. actions concerning the right to an invention for which a patent has been applied;
2. actions concerning a decision in which the Board of Appeals of the Patent Office has refused an application for a patent, has revoked a patent or confirmed a first instance decision to revoke a patent, cf. the [third paragraph of section 27](#);
3. actions concerning requests for patent limitation, cf. the [third paragraph of section 39d](#);
4. actions concerning invalidation or transfer of a patent, cf. [sections 52](#) and [53](#); and
5. actions concerning compulsory licences, cf. [section 50](#).

Oslo City Court shall be competent to hear actions by patent applicants and patent holders who are not residents of this country.

64. Anyone who brings an action concerning the validity of a patent, concerning the transfer of a patent to himself or concerning a compulsory licence shall simultaneously notify the Patent Office and, by registered letter, any licensee recorded in the Register of Patents whose address has been indicated in the Register to that effect. A licensee wishing to bring an action concerning infringement of the patent shall notify the patent holder correspondingly if his address has been indicated in the Register.

If the plaintiff cannot prove that he has given such notifications as referred to in the [first paragraph](#), the court may stipulate a time limit for sending the notifications. If the said time limit has not been complied with, the case shall be dismissed.

²⁰ Amended by Acts No. 29 of June 14, 1991 and No. 82 of December 22, 1995.

65. In cases concerning patent rights, the court may decide that, for the sake of industrial or trade secrets of a party or a witness, the public shall be excluded from the proceedings or a part thereof.

66. In the cases referred to in [section 63](#) the court shall send copies of its judgements to the Patent Office.

Chapter 11 Miscellaneous Provisions

67. A patent holder who is not a resident of this country shall have a representative domiciled in this country who is recorded in the Patent Register to receive, on his behalf, service of process and other procedural notifications concerning the patent.

If the patent holder has no such representative, service may be effected by sending the document by registered letter to the address which is indicated in the Register of Patents. [Section 178](#) of the Courts of Justice Act shall apply in such case. If a complete address is not recorded in the Register, service of process, and in other cases where the court finds it necessary, may be made by publishing the document concerned or an extract thereof in the Norwegian Gazette (*Norsk Lysingsblad*) and in the publication issued by the Patent Office with an indication that the document may be obtained at the court office. [Section 181, fourth paragraph](#), of the Courts of Justice Act shall apply in such case, and the date of issue of the publication of the Patent Office shall replace the date of notice at the location of the court.

The King may, on condition of reciprocity, provide that the provisions of the [first](#) and [second paragraphs](#) shall not apply to patent holders who are residents of the foreign country concerned or who have a representative residing in that country and recorded in the Register of Patents who is empowered in the manner prescribed in the [first paragraph](#). The service of process or notification shall in that case be effected according to the general provisions of [Chapter 9](#) of the Courts of Justice Act.

68. ⁴The King shall stipulate the fees provided for in this Act and the further conditions for payment of the fees. He may provide that one or more of the earlier fee years shall be exempted from fees. On alteration of the annual fees, he may, within the limitations referred to in [section 76, item 8](#), provide that the new fees shall also apply to patents previously granted.

The King shall also stipulate the fees for recordals in the Register of Patents and for copies and certificates issued by the Patent Office.

69. ¹⁰The King may lay down further provisions concerning patent applications and oppositions and the processing thereof, requests for patent limitation and the processing thereof, the Register of Patents, the publication issued by the Patent Office, and the implementation of this Act in other respects. The journals of the Patent Office concerning

⁴ Amended by Acts No. 35 of June 8, 1979 and No. 30 of May 24, 1985.

¹⁰ Amended by Acts No. 35 of June 8, 1979, No. 30 of May 24, 1985 and No. 82 of December 22, 1995.

filed patent applications shall be available to the public to the extent provided by the King.

The King may provide that the Patent Office, at the request of the official authorities of another country, should supply information concerning the processing of patent applications filed in this country, and that novelty searches of patent applications may be carried out by a similar authority in another country or by an international institution.

The King may further provide that an applicant who has filed a corresponding patent application in another country, within a certain time limit from the filing of the application in this country, be obliged to submit information that has been communicated to him by the patent authority of that country as to the result of the examination of the patentability of the invention. However, a decree concerning such obligation to submit information shall not include patent applications referred to in [Chapter 3](#) which have been subjected to international preliminary examination and where a report on the result thereof has been submitted to the Patent Office.

70. The King may, when found necessary because of war or danger of war and situations of crisis connected therewith, provide that the right to an invention shall be assigned to the Government or to another party designated by the King. Compensation shall be paid for the assigned right which shall be stipulated by official assessment, if no amicable settlement is reached.

If the right to an invention has been assigned to a party other than the Government in accordance with the first paragraph, and if the party concerned has not met his liabilities, the Government shall, at the request of the party entitled to compensation, be obliged to pay the compensation promptly.

71. Inventions of importance to the defence of the realm shall be governed by a separate Act.

72. ¹⁰With the exception of cases referred to in the [second paragraph](#), the applicant for a patent who has failed to comply with a time limit prescribed in or pursuant to this Act and who thereby has suffered loss of rights shall, upon request, have his rights re-established if he can prove that he or his representative has taken all due care which may reasonably be required. Such request must be submitted in writing to the Patent Office within two months from the removal of the cause of non-compliance with the time limit and not later than one year from the expiration of the time limit. Within the same time limit the omitted act must be completed and the prescribed fee paid.

The provisions of the [first paragraph](#) shall apply correspondingly to a patent holder who has not paid the annual fee within the time limit prescribed in [section 41, the third paragraph](#), or [section 42, third paragraph](#). However, in such case the request for re-establishment of rights must be submitted and the annual fee paid not later than six months from the expiration of the time limit.

¹⁰ Amended by Acts No. 35 of June 8, 1979, No. 30 of May 24, 1985 and No. 82 of December 22, 1995.

The [first paragraph](#) shall not apply to the time limits prescribed in [section 6, first paragraph](#) and [section 27, third paragraph](#).

The [first paragraph](#), cf. the [third paragraph](#), shall apply correspondingly to international patent applications proceeded with in Norway in the case of failure to comply with the time limits of the receiving Office, an International Searching Authority, an International Preliminary Examination Authority or the International Bureau. The omitted act shall be completed *vis-à-vis* the Patent Office.

73. ⁴If the applicant in the cases referred to in [section 31](#) or [38](#) has sent a document or a fee by post and the Patent Office does not receive the mail in due time, the rights shall always be re-established if the act is completed within two months from the time when the applicant realised or ought to have realised that the time limit had not been complied with and not later than one year from the expiration of the time limit, and:

1. the postal service has been interrupted in the 10 days preceding the expiration of term because of war, revolution, civil disorder, strike, natural disaster or other like reason in the locality where the sender is staying or has his place of business, and the document or fee has been sent to the Patent Office within five days from the resumption of the postal service; or
2. the document or fee was sent by registered mail to the Patent Office not later than five days prior to the expiration of the time limit. If the letter was not sent by airmail, this provision shall only apply if the sender has had reason to believe that the mail would arrive within two days from the date of mailing, or if airmail was not available.

Where the applicant wishes re-establishment of his rights according to the first paragraph, he must, within the time limit prescribed in that paragraph, file a request to that effect in writing with the Patent Office.

74. ²¹Where a patent application which has been made available to the public in accordance with [section 22](#) has been shelved or refused or if a patent has lapsed and the rights of the applicant are re-established according to the provisions of [sections 72](#) or [73](#), the Patent Office shall publish a notice to that effect.

Where anyone, after final refusal of the application, expiration of the time limit for the resumption of the shelved application or after the lapse of the patent, but before the publication in accordance with the [first paragraph](#) has been made, has started to exploit the invention commercially in this country in good faith, he may, notwithstanding the patent, continue the exploitation whilst retaining its general character. Such right of exploitation shall also, on similar conditions, be enjoyed by anyone who has made substantial preparations to exploit the invention commercially in this country.

The right referred to in the [second paragraph](#) may only be transferred to others in conjunction with the enterprise in which it has originated or in which the exploitation was intended.

⁴ Amended by Acts No. 35 of June 8, 1979 and No. 30 of May 24, 1985.

²¹ Added by Act No. 35 of June 8, 1979.

75.²² The Head of the Patent Office shall designate the person who will make decisions on requests for re-establishment of rights according to [sections 72](#) and [73](#). The applicant or the patent holder may appeal against refusal of such requests to the Board of Appeals of the Patent Office. [Section 27](#) shall apply correspondingly concerning the time limit for appeal etc., and for the opportunity to bring decisions of the Board of Appeals before the courts of law.

76.²³ Entry into Force and Transitional Provisions:

1. This Act shall enter into force on January 1, 1968. Subject to [items 2 to 8](#) below, the Patents Act of July 2, 1910, with later amendments shall be repealed simultaneously. However, as regards inventions concerning foodstuffs and medicines, a patent shall not be granted for the actual product, but only for the process for its production, until the King provides otherwise.²⁴

2 to 8: (Without practical significance. Omitted from the offprint.)

77.²⁵ Amendments of other Acts:

Act No. 30 of May 24, 1985

I

II

III

Entry into Force and Transitional Provisions:

1. The Act shall enter into force as from the date decreed by the King. The various provisions may be put into force as from different dates.²⁶
2. [Section 52, first paragraph, subparagraph 2](#), of the previous Act shall apply to patents granted before the amendments to [section 52](#) enter into force.
3. The amendments of the provisions relating to annual fees shall not apply to applications which have been filed before the amendments enter into force. In the case of patents which have been or are granted on the basis of such applications, the earlier provisions shall apply. However,

²² Added by Act No. 35 of June 8, 1979. Amended by Acts No. 30 of May 24, 1985 and No. 82 of December 22, 1995.

²³ Added by Act No. 35 of June 8, 1979 (previous [section 72](#)).

²⁴ Prescribed by Royal Decree of October 13, 1989 that with effect from January 1, 1992 patent for foodstuffs and medicines may be granted for the actual product insofar as applications filed after January 1, 1992 are concerned.

²⁵ Added by Act No. 35 of June 8, 1979 (previous [section 73](#)).

²⁶ Prescribed by Royal Decree of June 7, 1985 that the following amendments enter into force on July 1, 1985: the amendments in [section 31](#), except new second paragraph, [section 33, first](#) and [third paragraphs](#), [sections 34, 38, 69, 72, new fourth paragraph, 73](#) and [75](#).

[section 41, first paragraph](#), first period, as amended by this Act, shall apply correspondingly.

4. With respect to patent applications filed before the amendments to [section 14](#) enter into force, a request under that section may be put forward within a period of two years from the amendment coming into effect.

Act No. 29 of June 14, 1991

I

II

Entry into Force and Transitional Provisions:

The Act shall enter into force as from the date decreed by the King.²⁷

The amendments shall relate to cases which are brought before the courts after the date of entry into force. **Section 146** of the Courts of Justice Act shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

Act No. 82 of December 22, 1995

IV

IX

Entry into Force and Transitional Provisions:

1. Part VII Consent to Accession to the Madrid Protocol 1989²⁸ shall enter into force immediately. Otherwise the Act enters into force as from the date decreed by the King. The various provisions may be put into force as from different dates.²⁹
2. ...
3. ...
4. In addition, the King may issue further transitional provisions.³⁰

Act No. 104 of December 20, 1996

VI

Entry into Force and Transitional Provisions:

²⁷ Prescribed by Royal Decree of June 14, 1991 that the Act shall be put into effect from January 1, 1992.

²⁸ Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks (Madrid Protocol (1989)) (*Editor's note*).

²⁹ Prescribed by Royal Decree of December 22, 1995 that the amendment in [section 6](#) shall be put into effect from January 1, 1996 and by Royal Decree of December 20, 1996 that the remaining amendments shall be put into effect from January 1, 1997.

³⁰ Prescribed by Royal Decree of December 20, 1996: Patent applications which according to a decision made prior to January 1, 1997 should be laid open to public inspection, shall be processed to completion according to the procedural rules applicable until January 1, 1997.

1. The Act shall enter into force as from the date decreed by the King. The various provisions may be put into force as from different dates.³¹
2. The King may issue further transitional provisions.³²

(This text replaces those previously published under code numbers 2-001 and 2-002.)

³¹ Prescribed by Royal Decree of December 20, 1996 that the Act shall enter into force on January 1, 1997.

³² Prescribed by Royal Decree of December 20, 1996: In the case of patent applications filed prior to January 1, 1997, a change of effective filing date may be requested according to the rules applicable until January 1, 1997.