

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Do I need patent protection?

If you have an invention, for example a new product or process, you may be able to protect it by filing for a patent.

Why should I apply for a patent?

A granted patent will give you exclusive rights over your invention and you will be able to try to stop anyone who uses it without your permission. However, patent infringement is **not** a criminal offence, and therefore you will have to enforce the patent rights yourself by taking a legal action under civil law.

To get patent protection an invention must be?

- ✓ New, not known anywhere in the world prior to filing;
- ✓ Have an inventive step, not obvious or a simple adaptation or combination of existing products;
- ✓ Be capable of industrial application, having a technical effect;

What is the term of protection of a patent and from which date is it calculated?

20 years, from the date of paying the 1st official filing receipt.

Can convention priority be claimed?

Yes.

Can a registration be obtained for pharmaceutical products?

Yes.

Is a secret form of filing a model/design permitted?

No.

Is there a novelty requirement? Is it local or worldwide?

Yes - Worldwide.

Are utility models granted protection in your country under the Current Law?

Yes as patents; there is no special register for utility models.

Is a patent application permitted for software alone without being coupled with computer hardware?

It is available for software alone.

Could annuity payments be made before the granting of the patent?

Yes.

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

No working of the invention for 3 consecutive years, or in case the Government needs it for security and national reasons.

Must assignments be recorded within a certain period?

Within five months.

Are patent applications published in the Official Gazette?

Only the Certificate of Registration with the abstract in Arabic.

TO PROTECT YOUR PATENTS, PLEASE CONTACT US.