

A Bill for Partial Amendment of the Patent Law, etc. was approved by the Cabinet and submitted to the Diet

A bill for partial amendment of the Patent Law, etc. was approved by the cabinet and submitted to the current ordinary session of the Diet on March 11, 2014. The bill covers partial amendment of the Patent Law, the Utility Model Law, the Design Law, the Trademark Law, the Patent Attorney Law, etc. Summaries of major points in the bill are shown below.

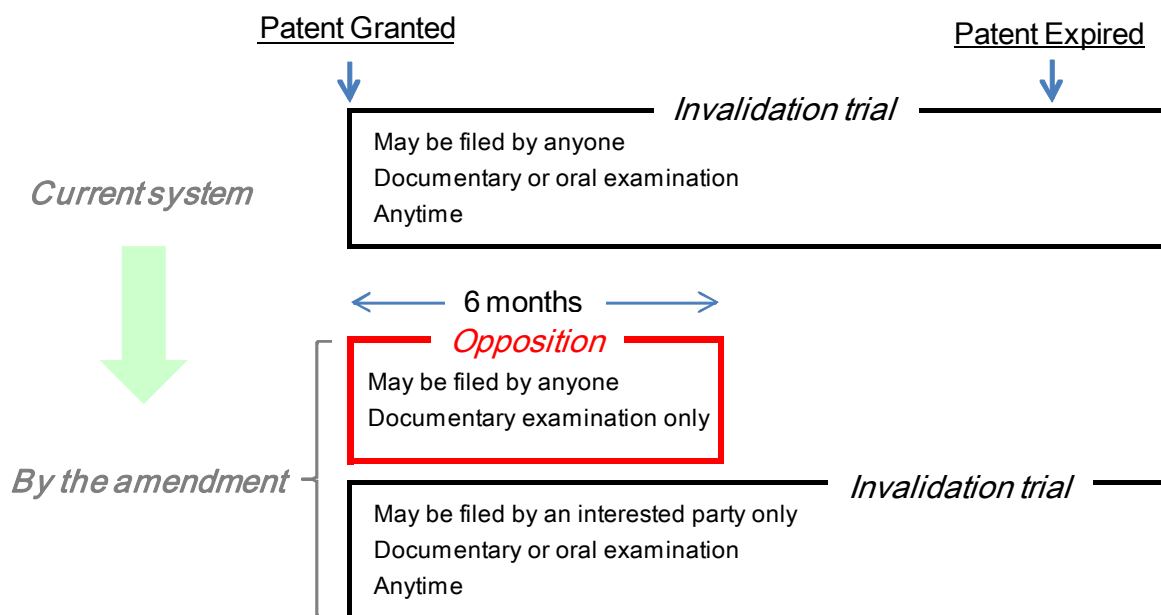
1. Amendment of the Patent Law

(1) Enrichment of remedies

Measures to enable extension of procedure periods for patent applicants in case of unavoidable circumstances such as a disaster will be provided in accordance with international legal systems.

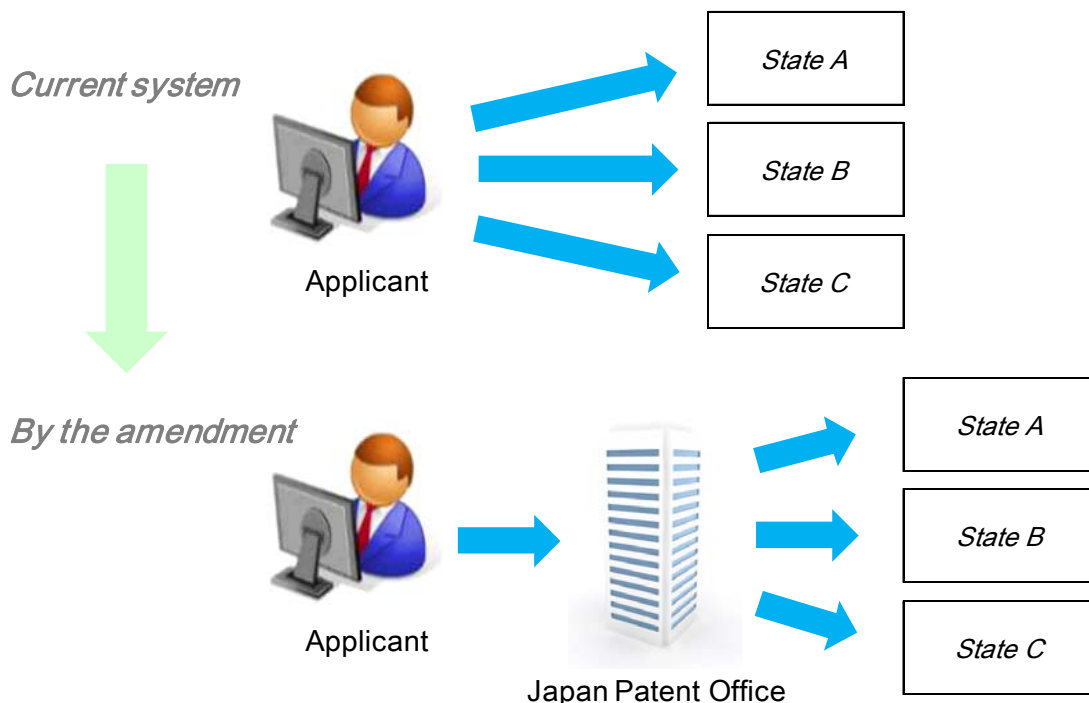
(2) Establishment of “Patent Opposition System”

“Patent Opposition System” will be established to enable patent rights to become stable earlier.



2. Amendment of the Design Law

A regulation to enable filing of a bundle of design applications to many countries will be provided to reduce applicants' costs based on the "Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs", which Japan is currently considering to join.



3. Amendment of the Trademark Law

(1) Expansion of types of protected trademarks

Trademarks such as colours and sounds will be available for protection in Japan, which have already been the objects of protection widely in other countries.

(2) Expansion of possible proprietors of "regional collective trademarks"

Commerce and industry associations, chambers of commerce and NPOs will be added as possible proprietors of "regional collective trademarks" in order to further familiarize and develop regional brands.

* Regional collective trademark system is a system to facilitate registration of trademarks consisting of "the name of the region and the name of the goods", etc. by easing the requirements for registration of trademarks.

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