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## *Examination Guidelines for Patent and Utility Model in Japan have been substantially revised*

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On September 16, 2015, the Japan Patent Office announced full revision of the Examination Guidelines for Patent and Utility Model in Japan. The Examination Guidelines are applied to examinations from October 1, 2015.

The Japan Patent Office states that this full revision enables users of the patent system to more accurately predict whether they can acquire patent rights and improves the Guidelines' basic concepts so that they may be better accepted internationally, with the aim that they serve as global standards. The revision also covers changes of the examination of Product-by-Process claims in conformity with the judgments of the Supreme Court of Japan : *Teva vs. Kyowa Hakko Kirin*, and *Teva vs. Tohri* (Supreme Court, Nos. 2012(ju)1204 and 2012(ju)2658: June 5, 2015).

The announcement and the full revision in English are available on the website: [http://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2015/0916\\_01.html](http://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2015/0916_01.html).

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