

## PATENTS (AMENDMENT) RULES 2005

Gazette date:	9 March 2005	
Commencement date:	Rule 3:	1 January 2004
	All other rules:	1 April 2005

### INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

These introductory remarks are intended to highlight some of the changes brought about by the Patents (Amendment) Rules 2005 (“the Amendment Rules”), and are not to be taken as a comprehensive statement of all the changes brought about by the Amendment Rules. Readers should read the Amendment Rules in detail to determine the effect of the amendments. These introductory remarks serve as general information only and do not constitute legal or professional advice. Readers should obtain independent legal or professional advice where appropriate.

Some of the changes brought about by the Amendment Rules include the following:

- Simplify filing procedure. [See amendment of rule 17.]
- Clarify that the deadline for the filing of a “block” extension request is 39 months from the declared priority date or where there is no declared priority date, the date of filing the application (or from the actual date of filing of a new application under certain circumstances). [See deletion and substitution of rule 43.]
- Clarify that the format for amendments of the specification filed under Patents Form 13A is similar to that filed under Patents Form 13. [See amendment of rules 46 and 52A.]
- Increase the operational efficiency of the Registry by:
  - Allowing the Registry the flexibility in specifying what forms and documents are to be filed via the electronic online system and the manner in which they are to be filed. These will now be done via Practice Directions and will no longer require the Patents Rules to be amended. [See amendment of rule 96A.]
  - Introducing new Patents Form 99 for the filing of miscellaneous documents to improve the Registry’s ability to track documents that are filed. There is no official fee for this form. [See new rule 105A.]
- Make the Patents Rules more reader-friendly. The service bureau fees have been re-cast to reference the Patents Form numbers rather than rule numbers, thus providing for easier referencing and reading of the service bureau fee schedule. [See amendment of the First Schedule, item 59.]

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