

Partial Amendments to the Enforcement Rules of the Korean Patent Act and Utility Model Act (Effective July 11, 2025)

Effective from July 11, 2025, the Enforcement Rules of the Korean Patent Act and Utility Model Act have been partially amended. The main revisions are as follows:

1. Extension of the Period for Filing a Response to an Office Action (from 2 months to 4 months)

To enhance applicant convenience and allow sufficient time for preparing responses, the period for filing a response to an Office Action for patent and utility model applications has been extended from 2 months to 4 months.

However, applicants who are ready to respond earlier than the standard response period may file a Request for Reduction of the Response Period along with their response in order to receive examination results sooner.

2. Deferral of Patent Examination Available for Divisional Applications

In high-technology fields such as telecommunications, pharmaceuticals, and biotechnology, where commercialization may require a substantial amount of time, applicants may request deferred examination as part of their strategic IP planning. Previously, divisional applications were excluded from this deferral option, so applicants' needs to delay examination could not be met. Under the recent amendments, however, deferred examination is now permitted for divisional applications as well, enabling applicants to strategically delay the timing of examination for divisional applications.

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