



REGISTERING YOUR PATENT

The protection of a new invention containing an industrial application

Search Request with the National Office

As novelty is a main requirement for your invention to be patentable it is therefore recommended that before filing for a patent with the national office, a patent search is carried out to ensure that your invention is new and original.

A patent search may also be used if you are interested in knowing the latest state of the art in a certain technological area.

The minimum requirements for a search to be carried out are:

1. The exact title of the patent
2. The date the patent application was applied for
3. The name of the applicant

The pre-application search request may be made either online, by email, fax or post and this service carries a fee of €11.65 per patent. Alternatively, a search may be carried out at the office by searching the register manually for which no fees are involved.

Other suggested websites with databases for Pre-Application Searches are:

Google Patents: www.google.com/patents

esp@cenet: www.ep.espacenet.com

Filing an Application with the National Office

An application form is to be submitted to the Commerce Division's Industrial Property Registrations Directorate either online or by downloading the conventional form from:

www.ipa.gov.mt

The Patent application form is to be accompanied by:

1. A request for the grant of a patent
2. A description of the invention
3. One or more claims
4. An abstract of the invention
5. Any drawings referred to in the description or the claims

The fee is of €116.47

Methods of Payment

Payment may be done either:

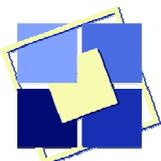
1. directly at the Industrial Property Cash Office, room 109, by cash (exact amount), cheque or HSBC Quick Cash, VISA Card, VISA Electron, MASTER Card, MAESTRO and DINERS Card International;
2. by post - the application form together with a cheque payable to 'The Comptroller of Industrial Property';
3. online at: www.ipo.gov.mt

Public Office Hours

Winter (1st October - 15th June): 08:30 - 12:00; 13:30 – 16:00

Summer (16th June - 30th September): 08:00 - 12:00

A minimum of 30 minutes prior to the Cash Office closing time is recommended for a pre-application search.



Information Supplied by the

Industrial Property Registrations Directorate

Commerce Division, Lascaris Bastion, Valletta, VLT 2000

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