

[Processing Time for Taiwan Patent Application]

The Taiwan Intellectual Property Office has recently updated the standard time schedule for handling various applications of patent matters. For the past decade, TIPO adopted several measures to improve the efficiency of patent examinations and gained excellent results in reducing the backlog of patent applications. Especially for invention patent applications in 2017, the average time for issuing an examination opinion and final disposal was decreased to 9 months and 16 months, respectively. The standard processing time by TIPO for invention, utility model and design patent applications are listed below.

Invention Patent Application in Primary Examination Stage

No.	Classification	Average time for issuing examination	Disposal time period
1	Human Necessities	15 months	20 months
2	Civil and Building Construction	18 months	22 months
3	Mechanical Engineering	18 months	22 months
4	Transporting, Molding	18 months	22 months
5	Communication	18 months	24 months
6	Measuring, Lighting and Storage	12 months	20 months
7	Organic, Inorganic Chemistry, Metallurgy, Metal Surface Treatment, Plating	12 months	20 months
8	Textiles and Flexible Materials, Paper Making and Articles thereof	18 months	22 months
9	Medical Engineering	18 months	22 months
10	Data and Information	15 months	22 months

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11	Semiconductor	12 months	20 months
12	Electric Power, Basic Electronics and Electrical Elements	12 months	20 months
13	E-Commerce, Financial Technology	18 months	24 months
14	Photonics and Liquid Crystal Display	12 months	18 months
15	Biotechnology, Medicines, Agricultural Pharmaceuticals, Food Industry	18 months	24 months

Invention Patent Application in Re-Examination Stage

No.	Classification	Average time for issuing examination	Disposal time period
1	Electrical Engineering	18 months	24 months
2	Mechanics, Human Necessities	8 months	12 months
3	Chemical Engineering	18 months	24 months
4	Biotechnology, Medicines	22 months	28 months

Utility Model and Design Patent Application

	Average time for issuing examination	Disposal time period
Utility Model Patent Application	4 months	5 months
Design Patent Application in Primary Examination Stage	6 months	8 months
Design Patent Application in Re-Examination Stage	6 months	10 months

In Taiwan, substantive examination will be carried out for both invention and design applications, while utility model application will undergo a formality examination. Notably, a request for substantive examination must be filed at the time when filing an invention application or within three years from its filing date, otherwise the application will be deemed withdrawn. However, such request for substantive examination is not required for a design application, because TIPO will automatically conduct substantive examination after checking its formality requirements. Although Taiwan has a shorter patent examination period than those of other countries, if the applicant wishes to obtain patent protection more quickly, the applicant may utilize a fast-track examination such as AEP (Accelerated Examination

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Program) or PPH (Patent Prosecution Highway Program) for an invention application that has met AEP or PPH filing requirements.

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