

The time limit for submitting a request for examination for a patent application

The time limit for submitting a request for examination for a patent application is to be changed as of October 1, 2001 from "within seven years from the filing date" to "within three years from the filing date" (see Section 48ter of the Japanese Patent Law).

The above change is to be applied for patent applications filed on or after October 1, 2001.

(Notice)

- With regard to divisional or conversion applications, if the original application is filed on or before September 30, 2001, seven-year time limit from the filing date of the original application is to be applied
- To applications claiming an internal priority based on the previous domestic application, if the application claiming internal priority is filed on or after October 1, 2001, Three-year time limit from the filing date of the patent application claiming an internal priority other than prior application date is to be applied.
- To patent applications claiming a priority filed with the Japan under the Paris Convention, if the application claiming a priority is filed on or after October 1, 2001, three-year time limit from the filing date with the Japan Patent Office (JPO), not from the priority date, is to be applied.
- To the international applications that are deemed as being filed with the JPO on the same day with the international filing date under Section 184ter of the Japanese Patent Law on or after October 1, 2001, three-year time limit from the International filing date is to be applied.