



TUNISIA COUNTRY INFORMATION



PATENTS

USEFUL INFORMATION

REQUIREMENTS

SEARCHES



Official and Non-official searches are available.

Search by patent applicant name or title.

FILING REQUIREMENTS



30 months deadline for PCT national phase filings.

The abstract, specification, claims and drawings are required in English only.

The original documents are required.

At the time of filing:

- Applicant(s) and inventor(s) details in English.
- Title of Invention and Abstract in English.
- Specification, claims and drawings in English.

Within 2 months from the filing date:

- Power of Attorney simply signed.
- Deed of assignment simply signed (this is not required for PCT applications where the applicant is identical to the applicant listed in the PCT application).

Within 3 months from the filing date:

- Certified copy of the priority document in English (this is not required for PCT applications).

PRIORITY CLAIM(S)



Priority must be claimed at the time of filing.

12 month Paris Convention priority period.

TYPE OF EXAMINATION



Formal examination.

Substantive examination.

PUBLICATION



Patents are published in the official gazette before grant.

OPPOSITION



Third parties may oppose the grant of a patent within 2 months of publication in the official gazette.

In the absence of opposition, the letters patent is issued.

USEFUL INFORMATION

REQUIREMENTS

PROTECTION
TERM

Patents expire 20 years from the international filing date for PCT applications and from the earliest filing date for Non-PCT filings provided all annuities are paid.

CHANGE OF
NAME
AND/OR
ADDRESS

Changes of name and/or address may be recorded against pending applications and registrations.

The original documents are required.

Power of Attorney simply signed.

Certified copy of Certificate of Incorporation (Commercial Extract) OR Notarised change of name and/or address declaration.

ASSIGNMENTS



Assignments may only be recorded against pending applications and registrations.

The original documents are required.

Power of Attorney from the assignee, simply signed.

Deed of assignment simply signed.

ANNUITIES



Annuities must be paid every year on the anniversary of the earliest filing date (or the international filing date if the application is a PCT-national phase application).

There is a 6-month grace period for late payment of annuities (penalty fees apply).



DESIGNS

USEFUL INFORMATION

REQUIREMENTS

SEARCHES



Non-official searches are not possible.

Official searches are possible.

Limited to applicant name.

Limited to published and granted designs.

FILING REQUIREMENTS



The original documents are required.

French is the official language.

At the time of filing:

- Figures in French.
- Description of figures in French.
- Description of design in French.
- Applicant(s) and designer(s) details in French.

Within 30 days of filing:

- Power of Attorney simply signed.

Within 3 months of filing:

- Certified copy of priority document, if priority is claimed with its French translation.
- A simply signed deed of assignment with its French translation.

MULTIPLE DESIGN FILING SYSTEM



Yes - up to 50 homogeneous designs.

PRIORITY CLAIM(S)



Priority must be claimed at the time of filing.

6 month Paris Convention priority period.

EXAMINATION



Formal examination only.

Designs are filed without a novelty examination at the applicant's responsibility.

PUBLICATION



Designs are published in the official gazette after decision to grant.

OPPOSITION



No opposition period.

USEFUL INFORMATION

REQUIREMENTS

PROTECTION
TERM

Design protection is valid for 15 years from the date of filing. If filed for 5 years, the design can be renewable for two further 5-year periods, bringing the total protection period available to 15 years.

Grace period for renewal is 6 months.

CHANGE OF
NAME
AND/OR
ADDRESS

Changes of name and/or address may be recorded against pending applications and registrations.

The original documents are required.

Power of Attorney simply signed.

Change of name (and address) declaration, simply signed OR a simple certified copy of the commercial extract showing change, with its French translation.

ASSIGNMENTS



Assignments may be recorded against pending applications and registrations.

The original documents are required.

Power of Attorney simply signed.

Deed of Assignment simply signed with its French translation.

ANNUITIES



There are no annuity payments.



TRADE MARKS

USEFUL INFORMATION

REQUIREMENTS

SEARCHES



Word mark searches are available.

Device mark searches are not available.

FILING
REQUIREMENTS

Applicant's details (name, address and jurisdiction of incorporation).

Trade mark name and image.

Classes of interest and goods and services description.

A simply signed Power of Attorney.

Late filing of this document is possible.

PRIORITY
CLAIM(S)

Six month Paris Convention priority period.

Priority must be claimed at the time of filing the trademark registration application.

A certified copy of the priority document is required.

Late filing of this document is possible.

CLASSIFICATION



Nice Classification (11th Edition).

Vienna Classification is not used to classify figurative marks.

EXAMINATION



Formal and relative grounds.

Refused marks must be appealed to the Trade Marks Committee.

A simply signed Power of Attorney must be submitted upon filing the appeal.

OPPOSITIONS



2 month opposition period.

If the applicant does not defend the opposition, the opponent will succeed by default.

If the opposition is defended, the parties may request a hearing, following which a decision will issue.

A simply signed Power of Attorney.

Supporting documents and evidence may be filed with the opposition or at any stage before the hearing.

USEFUL INFORMATION

REQUIREMENTS

PROTECTION TERM



10 years calculated from the filing date of the trade mark registration application.

Registrations can be renewed every 10 years in perpetuity.

USE REQUIREMENT



Marks may become vulnerable to cancellation after 5 years of non-use.

CHANGE OF NAME AND/OR ADDRESS



Changes of name and/or address may be recorded against pending and registered trade marks.

- A simply signed Power of Attorney.
- A simple copy of the trade mark registration or latest renewal certificate.
- A notarised or true copy of the change of name and/or address declaration.
- Late filing of supporting documents is not possible.

ASSIGNMENTS



Assignments may be recorded against trade mark applications and registrations.

- A simply signed Power of Attorney from the assignee.
- A simple copy of the trade mark registration or latest renewal certificate.
- A notarised deed of assignment.
- Late filing of supporting documents is not possible.

RENEWALS



Trade mark registrations are due for renewal every 10 years calculated from the filing date.

There is a 6 month grace period for late renewals with additional fees.

- A simply signed Power of Attorney.
- A simple copy of the trade mark registration or latest renewal certificate.
- Late filing of supporting documents is not possible.



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