



ADDRESS Shinjuku Mitsui Building Suite 3401 • PO Box 268 • 2-1-1 Nishi-Shinjuku • Shinjuku-ku • Tokyo 163-0434

TELEPHONE +81-3-5339-1093

FACSIMILE +81-3-5339-1094

EMAIL mailbox@patents.jp

URL www.patents.jp

NOTICE RE CHANGE IN JPO EXAMINATION FEES

July 2011

The JPO has recently announced a reduction in examination fees on patent applications for which a Request for Examination is filed on or after August 1, 2011. As a result of the change, applicants can expect their examination fees to be about 25% lower. This comes as a welcome change to applicants and practitioners, but may also be a reflection of a general deflationary trend in the Japanese economy.

New Examination Fee Schedule

Examination fees are the fees that must be paid to the JPO when requesting examination of a patent application. The JPO will not examine a patent application until a Request for Examination is filed and the examination fee is paid. The new fee schedule announced by the JPO is as follows:

	New Fee (in JPY)	Old Fee (in JPY)
Normal Patent Application	118,000 + (4,000 per claim)	168,600 + (4,000 per claim)
PCT Application for which the JPO prepared the ISR	71,000 + (2,400 per claim)	101,200 + (2,400 per claim)
PCT Application for which an entity other than the JPO prepared the ISR	106,000 + (3,600 per claim)	151,700 + (3,600 per claim)
Patent Application with search report from a registered search organization	94,000 + (3,200 per claim)	134,900 + (3,200 per claim)

As can be seen from the table, in the case of a normal patent application (including those claiming Convention priority), there is a reduction of JPY 50,600, which is equivalent to about EUR 460 and USD 640 at current exchange rates. In the case of a PCT application with a non-Japanese ISR, the reduction is JPY 45,700, equivalent to about EUR 410 or USD 580 at current rates. Exchange rates are of course subject to change; the EUR and USD figures are provided only to present an approximate idea of equivalent costs, and should be considered to be neither precise nor conclusive. Only the numbers in JPY are official and valid.

Effect and Exceptions

The new fees will be applicable to all examination fees paid on Requests for Examination filed on or after August 1, 2011. Note the new fee schedule will not apply to fee payments that were originally due before the new schedule takes effect but have been postponed under the Examination Fee Postponement System, in which case the old fee schedule will remain applicable.

Our Policy

In order to take advantage of the reduced fees, in applications for which the deadline for requesting examination arrives after August 1, **we intend to postpone the filing of requests for examination until after the fee change takes place**, even if we have already received instructions to file a request for examination. Please let us know if you would rather have us file requests for examination as soon as possible, without regard to the fee change.

