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DEFERRAL OF EXAMINATION FEE PAYMENT WILL NO LONGER BE
POSSIBLE AS OF MARCH 31, 2012

January 2012

Under current rules, applicants may defer the payment of examination fees for up to one year when requesting examination. However, this deferral program will end on March 31, 2012.

Therefore, we suggest considering the possibility of filing a request for examination along with a request for deferral of payment on or before March 31, 2012 for applications of which the deadline for requesting examination, which is 3 years from the filing date in Japan, falls between April 1, 2012 and March 31, 2013.

If you intend to request deferral of payment with a request for examination, we would appreciate receiving your instructions well before March 31, to avoid a crowd of requests at the last moment.

Instead of the above-described deferral of examination fees, the JPO will reduce registration fees, annuities and international filing fees as of April 1, 2012.

SONODA & KOBAYASHI

