



# Recent Developments in Patent Law in Singapore

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## Main Amendments to Singapore Patents Law:

1. Closure of foreign route for search & examination
2. Switching of examination routes
3. Broadening of grace period provision

*These amendments entered into force on **30 October 2017.***



# Overview of Search & Examination Options in Singapore

## Local Route

Search & Examination conducted by IPOS

## Mixed Route

Search conducted by foreign office, IPOS conducts Examination

## Foreign Route

S&E conducted by foreign office, IPOS conducts Supplementary Examination

# Overview of Search & Examination Options in Singapore

Supplementary Examination does *not* cover the main patentability requirements of novelty, inventiveness and industrial application



## Local Route

Search & Examination (S&E) conducted by IPOS

## Mixed Route

Search conducted by foreign office, IPOS conducts Examination

## Foreign Route

S&E conducted by foreign office, IPOS conducts Supplementary Examination

# 1. Closure of Foreign Route



## Foreign Route will be closed on 1 Jan 2020

### Aims:

1. Raise the quality of Singapore-granted patents.
2. Align our patent regime with that of major jurisdictions.

*Relevant Provision: Section 29(11A), Rule 43(4)*

## 2. Switching of Examination Routes

### Old Law

Switch before responding to a written opinion



### New Law wef 30 October 2017

Switch anytime before establishment of report

*Relevant Provision: Section 29(10), Section 29(11)*

**Benefits:** Enable greater flexibility in switching between routes

# 3. Broadening of Grace Period Provision

## Old Law

12-month “grace period” in *limited circumstances* – e.g. display at an “international exhibition”, disclosure was made in breach of confidence.



## New Law wef 30 October 2017

Circumstances broadened to include *any disclosure* by the inventor, or a person who obtained the matter from the inventor.

*Relevant Provision: Section 14(5C), Rule 8*

# 3. Broadening of Grace Period Provision

## Benefits

1. Caters to modern business realities and practices – e.g. publication in scientific journal, early disclosure to source for investments.
2. Safety net for inventors who inadvertently disclose inventions prior to seeking patent protection.



# Other New Initiatives: Patents Open Dossier

**Patents Open Dossier (POD) is a new online service which provides public a single point of access to a collection of published patent documents<sup>1</sup>. Enhances transparency of records and facilitates work-sharing**

*<sup>1</sup> Include S&E reports, office actions and responses to written opinion relating to SG published patent applications lodged on or after 14 February 2014 under the positive grant system.*



Scan QR code to access POD

# Other New Initiatives: Patents Formalities Manual



Provide applicants with a better understanding on the Registry's practices and requirements in accordance with the Singapore Patents Act and Rules



Scan QR code to download a copy of our Patents Formalities Manual



**Thank you for  
your attention!**

For more information about IPOS,  
scan QR code to access our website.

