

Lithuania

The Patent Law of the Republic of Lithuania No.1-372/1994 as amended by Law No. X-287/2005 does not provide for special provisions in cases of *force majeure*.

The existing Lithuanian patent legislation and practice provides for:

- 1) an extension of a time limit fixed by the Office upon a request made prior to the expiration of a time limit; and
- 2) excusing a failure to comply with a time limit on legitimate grounds (for example *force majeure* circumstances) upon carrying out the omitted act simultaneously with the filing of a request for *restitutio in integrum*.

It is also possible that as part of an emergency preparedness plan, the State Patent Bureau of the Republic of Lithuania could be declared officially closed by an announcement on the website (<http://www.vpb.gov.lt/en/>) or by other means. An applicant could then rely on Article 4(C)(3) of the Paris Convention and file an application on the next working day after closure is declared.

29 August 2006