

Expedited Examination Programs of IP Offices

Slovakia

The Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic offers expedited examination under a single program.

Grounds/Qualification: The Office offers accelerated examination for all types of patent applications in all technical fields in the same manner. Applicants do not have to request expedited examination of a patent application – examination of an application is expedited based on fulfilment of qualifying conditions.

Conditions & Fees: No additional fees are required; Examination of a patent application is expedited by the Office if all of the following conditions are met: (i) the request for search is filed together with the patent application; (ii) the request for substantive examination is filed within 10 months after filing of the application; (iii) the applicant requests earlier publication of the application, which implies a publication within 10 months from filing; and (iv) no documents are found in the performed search that destroy the novelty and/or inventive step.

Reduced Pendency: Patent applicants that are granted expedited examination status can expect a grant within 24 months from the filing date (an average time of patent application proceeding in 2021 was 42.2 months from filing).

Statistics: The expedited examination program was implemented on March 1, 2021. 24 per cent of patent applications filed with the Office in 2021 were qualified for expedited examination.