

UTILITY MODELS

What is a utility model?

It is a form of intellectual property right granted for an invention.

What are the main differences between a utility model and a patent?

- The requirements for obtaining a utility model are less stringent than for patents. An invention must be new and capable of being used by industry to qualify for protection with a utility model.
- A utility model is usually granted within four to six months of the filing date, compared to a patent which is usually granted after two years of filing the application.
- It is less expensive to obtain and maintain a utility model compared to a patent.
- The period of protection for a utility model is shorter (*usually 7 – 10 years*) than for patents.

Can I convert my patent application or application for utility model?

In some countries, you can do so prior to the grant or refusal of the patent or utility model and upon payment of the prescribed fee.