

PATENTS

The Canadian Patent Office is part of Consumer and Corporate Affairs Canada. Its publication, *A Guide to Patents*, provides general information on patents, including instructions on how to prepare a patent application. For recent issues of the patent office newsletter *PatentInfo*, and up-to-date information on the Canadian *Patent Act* and the international *Patent Cooperation Treaty*, contact:

Enquiries Group
Intellectual Property Directorate
Consumer and Corporate Affairs Canada
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For detailed information on the *Patent Cooperation Treaty*, consult the *PCT Applicant's Guide*, available from:

World Intellectual Property Organization
Headquarters
34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 GENEVA 20
Switzerland

The guide is available in English, French, Japanese and a number of other languages.

Legal Advice

The value of a patent depends to a great extent upon the skill with which the application papers have been prepared. For this reason, it is advisable to obtain the services of a registered patent agent. For a current list of *Patent Agent Firms and Sole Practitioners in Private Practice*, write to the Canadian Patent Office at the address given previously. The *Canada Legal Directory* and *Canadian Law List*, published by Canada

Lawbook Inc., also list patent and trademark lawyers.

Patent Information Exploitation Program

It is estimated that 10 percent of research and development in Canada leads to a duplication of already patented technology; and 70 percent of new patented technology is not described in any trade journal for at least five years after those patents are issued. The Patent Information Exploitation Program, administered by the Intellectual Property Directorate of Consumer and Corporate Affairs Canada, is designed to make the technological information within the patent system more accessible to the public.

Small and medium-sized Canadian manufacturers may wish to take advantage of the program. If you request information in a specific field of technology, the Patent Office will provide a selection of the most relevant patents. Requests must be made through an intermediary organization that deals primarily with small businesses. To obtain a list of these organizations, contact the Patent Office at the address given above, or any of the Business Service Centres of Industry, Science and Technology Canada (See page 29).

Patent Search Tools in Public Libraries

Some information about existing patents may be obtained by consulting the Patent Office's weekly publication, the *Patent Office Record*, which is on file in the libraries of a number of cities throughout the country. Some public libraries have the subject matter index, class schedules and class listings of patents on microfilm. The class listings may be used in conjunction with the *Patent Office Record* to do a preliminary patent search. A list of these libraries is available from the Enquiries Group of the Patent Office at the address on this page.

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