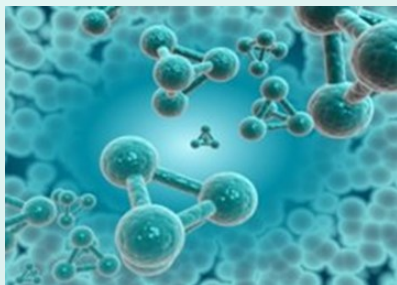


BRAZIL'S UPDATES

INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY — DEC/JAN 2018

Resolution establishes guidelines for the examination of patent applications in the chemical field



On January 2, 2018, the Industrial Property Magazine published the Resolution nº 208/2017, establishing the Guidelines for the Examination of Patent Applications in the chemical field.

Brazilian Patent and Trademark Office INPI will receive R\$ 20 million in 2018 to improve proceedings and IT

The Ministry of Industry, Foreign Trade and Services MDIC has approved the plan of action from the Brazilian Industrial Development Agency ABDI, forecasting an investment of R\$ 20 million with INPI. The project includes decisions to reduce the delay in replying to patent applications, with actions such as file digitalization, data base organization and information technology infra-structure update. Decisions to update the flow of patents will also be established, from mapping of proceedings, activities, interfaces and systems. The cooperation agreement has the object to guarantee that

INPI reaches a deadline which is compatible with international practices, joining other initiatives as already adopted by the institution, with MDIC's support. Some of them are the nomination of new examiners, the pilot remote work project linked to the increase of productivity, the signature of Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) agreements with various countries to prioritize applications and the joint decree with the National Sanitary Vigilance Agency (Anvisa) for the previous approval of pharmaceutical patent applications. The adopted decisions already had a positive impact on the management of the institution. Up to October 2017, INPI reduced its patent backlog in 6.6% over the same period of 2016.



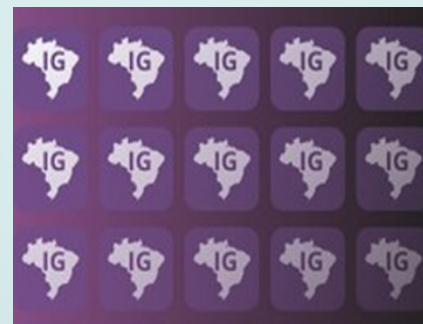
INPI introduces a Letter of Service to Users and a Booklet for Foreign Investors

INPI has made available on its Web portal a Letter of Service to Users, following Decree nº 9094/2017, with the purpose to inform all the services offered by the institution, the access to them and the quality standards and commitments on public service. As a part of information transparency and to

support foreign investors, INPI also published the Booklet for Foreign Investors in the Intellectual Property Field, as per the Agreement for Cooperation and Easy Investments as signed by Brazil and various countries.



First GI registration in 2018 is granted to Guarana from Maués, in Amazonas



INPI published on January 16, on the Industrial Property Magazine (RPI) nº 2454, the first geographic indication (IG) registration in 2018, in the class of indication of origin (IP), for Guarana from Maués, a typical product from the Amazon region carrying the name of a town located at about 270 km from Manaus.

The application was presented in 2015 by the Association of Producers of Guarana with the Geographic Indication of Maués.

Free pilot project will issue pre-examination opinions for patent applications

On January 23, INPI started a pilot project from which the applicant will be able to freely present new copies of the patent application with amendments as already indicated by other international industrial property offices. By means of this initiative, INPI will publish pre-examination opinions, indicating the state-of-the-art documents as mentioned by the foreign office opinion, which will be considered for the technical examination. Even with the publication of the preliminary opinion, the examiners will be able to make new searches in the examination stage and add documents considered as pertinent. With this action, INPI aims to identify applications which are still of interest for the applicant and previously adapt claims to the state of the art, aiming to increase promptness of the substantive analysis of patent applications.



How it will work

The service will be applied to the applications available for examination, following the chronological order of applications, until reaching the total of 40 pre-examinations issued by each technical division, not exceeding the quantity of 80 analyzed applications. The pilot project will be performed until March this year.

INPI reduces patent, trademark and industrial design backlog in 2017

“The reduction was 7.6% for patents, 14.9% for trademarks and 26 for ID”



In 2017, INPI reduced the stock of applications outstanding examination (backlog) in the fields of patents, trademarks and industrial designs. The reduction was 7.6% for patents, 14.9% for trademarks and 26 for ID.

With the assistance of the Ministry of Industry, Foreign Trade and Services (MDIC), backlog reduction was the result of the nomination of 210 employees approved in the past two years (thus increasing INPI staff personnel in about 25%), internal procedure optimization steps and improvements in the institution's electronic systems, among other aspects.

With these steps, INPI has managed to increase its production, closing the year 2017 with more decisions than applications in these three areas, thus causing the fall in backlog.

Results reached by INPI in 2017 disclose the technical effort and the high professional level of workers and managers to enhance services.

INPI discusses Industrial Property at the Japanese Embassy



On January 18, INPI President, Mr. Luiz Otávio Pimentel, has attended a meeting at the Japanese Embassy in Brasília with the Ambassador Mr. Akira Yamada, the Minister Mr. Osamu Yamanaka, chief of the economic field, and Mr. Masao Mitsuhiro, secretary for agricultural affairs.

During the meeting, Mr. Pimentel highlighted the success of INPI's cooperation with the Japanese Patent Office (JPO), especially in the qualification of examiners. Furthermore, as for the applications with the institution, INPI's president disclosed that Japan represents about 7% of patent applications in Brazil, in second place in the ranking of applicant countries, side by side with Germany. In a wider scenery, Mr. Pimentel also disclosed the importance of Japanese investments in Brazil.