## PATENTS ACT 2021 (ACT NO. 37 OF 2021)

#### SECTIONS

#### PART 1-PRELIMINARY

- 1. Short title and commencement
- 2. Interpretation
- 3. Objectives
- 4. Meaning of novel
- 5. Meaning of inventive step
- 6. Meaning of prior art base
- 7. Disclosure to be disregarded in certain circumstances
- 8. Meaning of useful
- 9. Computer programs
- 10. Act binds the State

## PART 2-PATENTABLE INVENTIONS AND PATENT RIGHTS

#### Division 1-Patentable inventions

- 11. Patent may be granted for patentable inventions only
- 12. Patentable inventions
- 13. Inventions contrary to public order or morality not patentable inventions
- 14. Other exclusions

## Division 2-Patent

- 15. Nature of patent
- 16. Exclusive rights given by patent
- 17. Extent, effect and form of patent
- 18. Term of patent
- 19. Extension of period for paying renewal fees

#### Division 3–Patent ownership

- 20. Who may be granted patent
- 21. Power of patentee to deal with patent
- 22. Co-ownership of patent
- 23. Rights of buyers from co-owners of patent
- 24. Power of Commissioner to give directions to co-owners
- 25. Miscellaneous provisions concerning directions
- 26. Inventions made during and after employment
- 27. Employment Relations Tribunal or Commissioner may apportion benefit of invention and of patent
- 28. Review of Commissioner's decision

# PART 3—PROCESS FOR OBTAINING GRANT OF PATENT AND OTHER MATTERS

#### Division 1-Patent applications

- 29. Right to apply for patent
- 30. Application requirements
- 31. Commissioner may post-date application or specification
- 32. Divisional applications
- 33. Applicant must pay maintenance fee

#### Division 2-Specifications

- 34. Complete and provisional specifications
- 35. Filing of complete specification after provisional specification has been filed
- 36. Contents of provisional specification
- 37. Contents of complete specification
- 38. Amendment of complete specification before acceptance
- 39. Supply of drawings

#### Division 3-Convention applications

- 40. Convention applicants may make convention applications
- 41. How convention applications are made and dealt with
- 42. Withdrawn, abandoned or refused basic applications
- 43. Basic applications for 2 or more cognate inventions

#### Division 4-Priority dates

- 44. Priority date of claims of complete specification
- 45. Priority date if complete specification filed for single application
- 46. Priority date if complete specification filed for 2 or more applications
- 47. Priority date for convention applications
- 48. Rules that apply if 2 or more priority dates apply or other rules do not apply
- 49. Priority date in case of lack of entitlement in respect of another patent application

#### Division 5-Examination

- 50. Request for examination
- 51. Examination
- 52. Commissioner may refuse to proceed with application or require application or specification to be amended
- 53. Applicants must act by deadline if deadline set by Commissioner
- 54. Application treated as abandoned if applicant fails to act within set deadline
- 55. Commissioner must examine amended specification
- 56. Duty to inform Commissioner of search results

# Division 6-Acceptance and publication

- 57. Time for putting application in order for acceptance
- 58. Time may be extended if appeal pending or possible
- 59. Notice of entitlement must be filed before acceptance
- 60. Acceptance of complete specification
- 61. Applicant may request Commissioner to postpone acceptance
- 62. Publication in case of applications
- 63. Publication in case of divisional applications made as provided for in section 32
- 64. Documents open to public inspection
- 65. Certain documents not to be published
- 66. Effect of publication of complete specification
- 67. Court must consider whether it would be reasonable to expect that patent would be granted

# Division 7-Amendment of specifications after acceptance

- 68. General rules concerning amendments of specifications after acceptance
- 69. Amendment must be published in Gazette
- 70. Amendment of specification with leave of Commissioner
- 71. Request for leave to amend must be published in Gazette
- 72. Opposition to proposed amendment
- 73. Provisions concerning amendments with leave of Commissioner do not apply in certain circumstances
- 74. Amendment of specification with leave of court

# Division 8-Assertions by third parties, opposition, and re-examinations

- 75. Assertions by third parties on novelty and inventive step
- 76. Commissioner must consider and deal with notice in prescribed manner
- 77. Opposition to grant of patent
- 78. Hearing and decision by Commissioner
- 79. Re-examination before patent is granted
- 80. Re-examination after patent is granted
- 81. Relationship between re-examination and other proceedings
- 82. Report on re-examination
- 83. Refusal to grant patent: re-examination before grant
- 84. Revocation of patent: re-examination after grant
- 85. Person who requests re-examination has no right to participate further in reexamination proceeding

# Division 9-Grant of patent

- 86. When patent must be granted
- 87. Validity of patent not guaranteed
- 88. Patent date

- 89. Patent granted for one invention only
- 90. Amendment of patent granted to deceased person or to body corporate that has been liquidated or wound up
- 91. Patents of addition
- 92. Commissioner may revoke patent for improvement or modification and grant patent of addition
- 93. Restrictions on granting of patents of addition
- 94. Term of patent of addition
- 95. Renewal fees for patents of addition
- 96. Provisions concerning inventive step requirement and validity in connection with patents of addition

# Division 10-Revocation and surrender of patents

- 97. Revocation of patent
- 98. Provisions concerning applications for revocation made to Commissioner
- 99. Grounds for revoking patent
- 100. Court may also revoke patent if patentee, without reasonable cause, refuses request of Government department to exploit invention
- 101. Surrender of patent

# Division 11-Restoration of lapsed patents and restoration of patent applications

- 102. Restoration of lapsed patents
- 103. Request must describe circumstances that led to failure to pay renewal fee
- 104. Persons who may make request for restoration of patent
- 105. When request for restoration of patent may be made
- 106. Commissioner must give person who made request reasonable opportunity to be heard if not satisfied that *prima facie* case has been made out for restoration
- 107. Commissioner to publish request in Gazette
- 108. Notice of opposition and reasonable opportunity to be heard
- 109. Order to be made on payment of unpaid fees
- 110. Request for restoration of void or abandoned patent applications
- 111. When request for restoration of void or abandoned patent applications may be made
- 112. Notice of opposition
- 113. Commissioner to determine matter

# Division 12-Miscellaneous provisions

- 114. Persons claiming under assignment or agreement or by operation of law
- 115. Death of applicant
- 116. Disputes between interested parties
- 117. Directions in relation to inventions concerning defence
- 118. Commissioner must give notice to Minister responsible for defence

266

- 119. Minister responsible for defence must consider whether publication would be prejudicial to defence of Fiji
- 120. Commissioner must revoke directions on receipt of notice from Minister responsible for defence
- 121. Acceptance of complete specification while directions in force
- 122. Maintenance fees and renewal fees not payable while directions in force
- 123. Offence to fail to comply with directions
- 124. Liability of directors and managers if body corporate commits offence

# PART 4—INFRINGEMENT, OTHER PATENT PROCEEDINGS, AND MATTERS AFFECTING PATENT OWNERSHIP

#### Division 1-Infringement proceedings

- 125. Infringement by doing anything patentee has exclusive right to do
- 126. Infringement by supplying means to infringe to another person
- 127. Presumption that product produced by infringing process
- 128. No infringement for experimental use
- 129. No infringement by use in or from foreign vessels, aircraft or vehicles
- 130. No infringement for use to produce information required by law
- 131. No infringement for prior use of invention
- 132. Defendant may counterclaim for revocation of patent
- 133. Who may bring infringement proceeding
- 134. When proceeding may be brought
- 135. Right to bring infringement proceeding if registrable assignment or licence has occurred
- 136. Proceeding brought by exclusive licensee
- 137. Types of relief available for infringement
- 138. Court must not award damages or account of profits if innocent infringement
- 139. Court must refuse damages or account of profits for infringement before amendment to accepted specification
- 140. Court may refuse damages or account of profits if renewal fees not paid
- 141. Limits on damages and accounts of profits do not affect power to grant injunction
- 142. Court may grant relief for partially valid patent
- 143. Court may grant costs for subsequent proceeding if validity of specifications contested

## Division 2-Declarations of non-infringement

- 144. Application for declaration of non-infringement
- 145. Proceeding for declaration of non-infringement
- 146. Costs in declaration of non-infringement
- 147. Validity of patent not at issue in proceeding for, and not affected by, declaration of non-infringement