

Patents (Amendment) Bill

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Bill No: 15/2008

Read the first time: 21st July 2008

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Expenditure of Public Money

Patents (Amendment) Bill

Bill No. 15/2008

Read the first time on 21st July 2008.

An Act to amend the Patents Act (Chapter 221 of the 2005 Revised Edition).

Be it enacted by the President with the advice and consent of the Parliament of Singapore, as follows:

Short title and commencement

1. This Act may be cited as the Patents (Amendment) Act 2008 and shall come into operation on such date as the Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, appoint.

Amendment of section 2

2. Section 2(1) of the Patents Act is amended —

(a) by inserting, immediately after the definition of “corresponding patent”, the following definition:

“ “Council for TRIPS” means the Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights established under the TRIPS Agreement;”;

(b) by inserting, immediately after the definition of “designate”, the following definition:

“ “Doha Declaration Implementation Decision” means the Decision adopted by the General Council of the World Trade Organisation on 30th August 2003 on the implementation of paragraph 6 of the Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health adopted in Doha on 14th November 2001;”;

(c) by inserting, immediately after the definition of “relevant authority”, the following definition:

“ “relevant health product” means a patented invention which is a product referred to in —

(a) paragraph 1(a) of the Doha Declaration Implementation Decision; or

(b) paragraph 1(a) of the Annex to the TRIPS Agreement;” and

(d) by deleting the full-stop at the end of the definition of “scientific adviser” and substituting a semi-colon, and by inserting immediately thereafter the following definitions:

““TRIPS Agreement” means the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, set out in Annex 1C to the WTO Agreement, as revised or amended from time to time;

“WTO Agreement” means the World Trade Organisation Agreement signed in Marrakesh in 1994 as revised or amended from time to time.”.

New section 50A

3. The Patents Act is amended by inserting, under Part X immediately before section 51, the following section:

“Application of this Part

50A. This Part shall apply only to —

- (a) any contract for the supply of a patented product;
- (b) any licence to work a patented invention; and
- (c) any contract relating to any such supply or licence,

that was entered into or granted on or after 23rd February 1995 but before the date of commencement of section 3 of the Patents (Amendment) Act 2008.”.

Amendment of section 56

4. Section 56 of the Patents Act is amended —

- (a) by deleting the word “provision” in subsection (1) and substituting the word “section”;
- (b) by inserting, immediately after subsection (1), the following subsection:

“(1A) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), subject to sections 60, 61 and 62, but notwithstanding any other section of this Act, the Government and any party authorised in writing by the Government may import any relevant health product, and do anything in relation to any relevant health product so imported, for or during a national emergency or other circumstances of extreme urgency, if the Government has given the Council for TRIPS a relevant notification in relation to the relevant health product.”; and

- (c) by deleting subsection (4) and substituting the following subsection:

“(4) In this section —

“integrated circuit” means a product, in its final or an intermediate form, in which the elements, at least one of which is an active element, and some or all of the interconnections are integrally formed in and on, or in or on, a piece of material and which is intended to perform an electronic function;

“relevant notification” means a notification that satisfies the requirements of —

- (a) paragraph 2(a) of the Doha Declaration Implementation Decision; or
- (b) paragraph 2(a) of the Annex to the TRIPS Agreement.”.

Amendment of section 60

5. Section 60 of the Patents Act is amended —

(a) by inserting, immediately after subsection (1), the following subsection:

“(1A) The right under section 56 to use a relevant health product which is imported under section 56(1A) does not include a right to export the relevant health product.”; and

(b) by inserting, immediately after subsection (2), the following subsection:

“(3) Where the court has terminated the right under section 56 to use a patented invention, the court may make such consequential orders as it thinks necessary.”.

Repeal and re-enactment of section 62

6. Section 62 of the Patents Act is repealed and the following section substituted therefor:

“Patentee entitled to remuneration

62.—(1) Subject to subsection (2), where an act is done under section 56, the Government shall pay such remuneration to the patentee as may be agreed, or as may be determined by a method agreed, between the Government and the patentee having regard to the economic value of the patented invention or as may, in default of agreement, be determined by the court under section 58.