

This information is intended to help an applicant to better understand some of the main requirements for a patent application **before** filing a Search request or a Search & Examination request. It is **NOT** a comprehensive or a complete list of all of the requirements for a successful patent application in Singapore.

- For an invention to be granted patent protection in Singapore, the invention must be technical in nature and must satisfy the following conditions:
 - ✓ it is new
 - ✓ it involves an inventive step (to the person skilled in the art)
 - ✓ it is capable of industrial application
- All patent applications must contain an abstract, at least one claim relating to the invention, and a clear and sufficiently detailed description of the invention.
- The extent of patent protection for an invention is determined by the **claim(s)** of a patent application, and the claim(s):
 - should define an invention in terms of its **technical features**; and
 - should not contain statements relating to commercial or other non-technical elements.
- A claim must be drafted:
 - as a **single statement** in a two-part form consisting of a preamble pertaining to the state of the art, a bridging phrase such as "wherein", and a characterizing portion defining the technical features that make a contribution over the prior art; or
 - as a **single statement** containing all the features of the invention.
- The claim(s) must be **supported** by the description, i.e., the subject matter of the claim across the entire scope of the claim must be explicitly or implicitly present in the description, for example:
 - If the description discloses only an embodiment of an apparatus with specific features, and the claim defines a **broader** version of the apparatus without these features, then the claim will lack support;
 - Similarly, if the description discloses only a method with specific steps or details and the claim defines a **generic** method without these details, then the claim will lack support;
 - All the **essential technical features** pertaining to the inventive concept (i.e. features that are fundamentally required to make the invention work as intended) must be present in the claim.
- The specification of the patent application must be **sufficiently** detailed such that it **enables** the person skilled in the art to **reproduce the invention**, in particular:
 - technical features that are necessary to make the invention, particularly those that are new in the art and make a technical contribution over the art, **must be described in sufficient detail**;
 - if the invention is a process or method, all the **relevant steps** must be disclosed; or if the invention is an apparatus or product, then the **relevant details** of the apparatus, how it works, and how to make it, must be disclosed.
- Merely claiming an **end result**, without disclosing the technical features or steps required to achieve this result, will **not** fulfil the requirements of sufficiency.
- Not having sufficient detail in the application to enable the invention to be worked, or to show that it does work, is usually a **serious flaw** and it is **very difficult** to correct after a Search & Examination request has been filed. Therefore applicants should ensure that the description is sufficiently detailed **before filing** the application, or at the very least **before filing** a Search & Examination request.
- **A lack of sufficiency of the patent application will lead to a patent application being refused or a granted patent being revoked.**
- During the course of patent prosecution, the description and claims can be **amended** to overcome objections pertaining to novelty, inventive step, clarity etc., but:
 - Similarly, if the description discloses only a method with specific steps or details and the claim defines a **generic** method without these details, then the claim will lack support;
 - All the **essential technical features** pertaining to the inventive concept (i.e. features that are fundamentally required to make the invention work as intended) must be present in the claim.

- these amendments have to be made using only subject matter **already present** in the application when it was **originally filed**;
 - these amendments **cannot** contain features, details, explanations or any other content that was not explicitly or implicitly present in the patent application when it was originally filed;
 - since new subject matter cannot be introduced into the application during the Search & Examination stage, it is **critical** that the application contains all the relevant details of the invention to fulfil the requirements of support and sufficiency, **when the application is filed**.
- The set of claims in a patent application can pertain to only **a single invention**.
 - If the set of claims contains more than one invention, only the **first** invention will be searched and/or examined.

As preparing patent applications in a proper manner is a complex process, it is **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** that you engage a qualified registered patent agent to assist you. You can find a list of patent agents from the weblink to the Register of Patent Agents below.

Additional Information

The Register of Patent Agents

<https://www.ipos.gov.sg/about-ip/patents/patent-agents>

Patents Act and Patents Rules

Patents Act

Patents Rule

Applying for a patent in Singapore

<https://www.ipos.gov.sg/about-ip/patents/how-to-register>

Infopack and Guidelines

[Patents infopack](#)

[Examination Guidelines for Patent Applications at IPOS](#)

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