



Guidelines for Accelerated Patent Grant under the Cooperation between the Belize Intellectual Property Office (BELIPO) and the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), and, in accordance with Belize Patent Law

Rule 1

The accelerated patent grant under cooperation for accelerated grant of patent application in a Belize-related patent application from the USPTO shall be made at the BELIPO.

Rule 2

Applicant can request an accelerated patent grant for patent applications that had been filed with the BELIPO.

Rule 3

The request for an accelerated patent grant can be used only for a patent application that had been filed at the BELIPO that has following criteria:

1- A patent application validly claiming priority under the Paris Convention based on the corresponding USPTO patent application; or

2- A patent application that serves as the basis for validly claiming priority under the Paris Convention of the corresponding USPTO patent, including a PCT patent application that entered the national phase, or

3- A patent application that is based on the same patent application for claiming priority under the Paris Convention, as the corresponding USPTO patent application, including a PCT patent application that entered the national phase.

Rule 4

For request for an accelerated patent grant, applicant shall use the Form as attached in Annex 1 and shall provide the following information:

a- Title of the invention;

b- Date of filing;

c- Patent application number;

d- Applicant name;

e- Corresponding patent application filed at the USPTO;

f- An attached document that includes the following:

i- A copy of the patent granted by the USPTO on the corresponding patent application which had been published in the Official Gazette for Patents and certified by the USPTO; and

ii- A claims correspondence table.

Rule 5

The request for an accelerated patent grant can be accepted only for a patent application corresponding to patent application filed at USPTO that has following criteria:

1- There must be a USPTO patent application that has the same earliest date as the patent application filed at the BELIPO on which acceleration is requested;

2- The corresponding USPTO patent application has been determined to be patentable by the USPTO; and

3- The corresponding USPTO patent application must have claims that had been filed at the BELIPO and in which one or more claims in the corresponding USPTO patent application determined to be patentable by the USPTO.

Rule 6

The request for an accelerated patent grant under the cooperation for accelerated grant of patent application in the Belize-related patent application from the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) under these Guidelines is free of charge.

Rule 7

Any provision whose meaning is contrary to these Guidelines shall be considered as null and void.

Rule 8

The BELIPO shall have the duty to implement these Guidelines from the date of signing (issuance).

END