

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a patent?

A Patent is a title that gives an inventor exclusive rights to his invention. A patent protects new inventions and covers how things work, what they do, how they do it, what they are made of and how they are made. Generally, an "invention" is described as a solution to a technical problem in any field of science and technology.

Why apply for a patent?

The patent provides the owner with the exclusive right to prevent others from commercially exploiting the invention for a limited period of time in return for disclosing the invention to the public. It gives the owner the right to prevent others from making, using, importing or selling the invention without permission.

What are the criteria for an invention to be patentable?

To be patentable your invention must:

- be **new**
- have an **inventive step**, that is, not obvious to someone with knowledge and experience in the subject
- be capable of being **made** or **used** in some kind of industry.

What cannot be protected?

- Discoveries, scientific theories and mathematical methods
- Schemes, rules or methods for doing business, performing purely mental acts or playing games
- Methods for treatment of the human or animal body by surgery or therapy, as well as diagnostic methods practiced on the human or animal body
- Plants and animals (or the varieties thereof) other than microorganisms
- Essentially biological processes for the production of plants and animals

How long is a patent effective?

The life of a patent in Mauritius is 20 years from the filing date of the application. Payment of annual maintenance fees throughout the life of the patent or patent application is also required to keep it in force.

How do I obtain a patent?

You must file an application on the prescribed forms with the Mauritius Industrial Property Office, 11th Floor, Sterling House, Lislet Geoffroy Street, Port Louis and pay the required fees.

Does a patent in Mauritius protect my rights in other countries?

No. Patent laws are national so you must obtain a patent in each country in which you want protection.