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Status as of May 2005

FEATURES	STATUS	CHANGES IN LAWS SINCE 1990
Types of protection for inventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patents 	N.A
Term of protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 years • An extension of 5 years is possible at the end of the 15 years period. 	No
Subject matters excluded from patentability or not considered to be inventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The following subject matters are excluded from patentability: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inventions contrary to morality/public order - Pharmaceutical products • The following subject matters are not considered to be inventions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discoveries - Scientific theories/mathematical methods - Diagnostic, therapeutic and surgical methods for the treatment of humans and animals 	No
Filing language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Filing an application in languages other than official languages is not possible. 	No
Certain requirements relating to filing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The inventor rarely waives his right to be mentioned in the patent. 	No
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is not possible to file provisional applications. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The most frequent route used by foreign applicants to file patent applications is the Paris Convention. 	
Link between different inventions in the same application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The applicable law requires that the claims in a patent application relate to a single invention only. 	No
Publication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The information related to the application is published or open for public access when the patent is granted. 	No

Classification system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The patent classification system used is the National Patent Classification. 	N.A
Search and examination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The applicable law does not establish a substantive search and examination system. 	N.A
Specific legal provision regarding ownership of patents derived from public (government) research funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No 	No
Exceptions to exclusive rights conferred by a patent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are exceptions to the exclusive rights conferred by a patent as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Private use - Compulsory licenses - Governmental use - Research and/or experimental exception - Prior user's right 	No
Options to challenge a patent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are different options to challenge a patent as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pre-grant administrative procedure within 2 months - Post-grant administrative procedure within 2 months - Court procedure 	No