

German Patent and Trade Mark Office

I. Document SCP/14/2

We suggest that the present statements in item 148 of document SCP/14/2 should be replaced by the following explanations of the German system:

Requirements/qualifications for patent advisors

One need not be a qualified lawyer in order to become a patent attorney in Germany. Applicants must have a university degree in engineering or natural sciences. A university degree in engineering or natural sciences is the only way to become a patent attorney in Germany. Lawyers cannot become patent attorneys, however they can be fully active in the field of patent law and other fields of industrial property law.

A practical technical job of 12 months' duration in total is a precondition for being admitted as patent attorney in Germany. Applicants can work in this practical technical job either before, during or after the university studies.

In Germany, the patent attorney training takes three years, including two years' legal training with an established patent attorney. Alternatively, instead of a three-year patent attorney training, the applicant may provide proof of a 10-year occupation in the field of IP protection in industry or with an established patent attorney. In that case, too, the applicant is admitted to the examination for patent attorneys.

After three years' training the applicant must pass a patent attorney examination relating to legal studies and intellectual property law.