

## **BG – BULGARIA**

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### 1. Requirements for Deposit

If an invention involves a strain of a microorganism, it should be deposited with the Bulgarian depositary institution or with an international depositary authority with a separate deposit number.

(Instructions for Drafting and Examining Applications for Inventions by the Chairman of the State Committee for Science and Technological Progress of August 4, 1969, Sections 2.20, 3.11 and 7.3)

Under the practice of the Bulgarian industrial property office, a culture of a microorganism should be deposited with the National Bank for Industrial Microorganisms and Cell Cultures (NBIMCC), if the microorganism is not available to the public or the invention involving that microorganism cannot be described in such a manner as to enable the invention to be carried out by a person skilled in the art.

The applicant should file a copy of the document proving the deposit of the microorganisms issued by the depositary authority at the time of filing the application. The applicant must indicate the deposit number of the microorganism and the name of the depositary authority with which such microorganism has been deposited.

### 2. Time of Deposit

Under the existing practice, the deposit must be made not later than the filing date of the application or, if priority is claimed, the priority date.

### 3. Duration of Storage

Under the existing practice, the duration of storage is unlimited.

#### 4. Conditions for the Furnishing of Samples

(i) Time of Availability of Samples

Under the existing practice, the deposited culture should be available to the public as from the date of the grant of the relevant title of protection.

(ii) Restrictions Concerning the Furnishing of Samples

Under the existing practice, samples of the deposited microorganism should be furnished only to the requesting party who undertakes vis-à-vis the patentee to use the samples for experimental purposes only and not to make the samples available to any third party.