

Questionnaire on Exceptions and Limitations to Patent Rights

The answers to this questionnaire have been provided on behalf of:

Country: Azerbaijan.....
Office: State Committee on Standardization, Metrology and Patents, Patent Department

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Section I: General

This section is intended to obtain general information on exceptions and limitations to patent rights that are provided under the applicable laws. For the purpose of this questionnaire, the term "applicable law" refers to relevant national and regional statutory law and, where applicable, case law.

The terms used in the questionnaire are drafted in a general way aiming at providing a broad understanding of each concept used, assuming that the exact wording of these exceptions and limitations might differ under the applicable laws. More detailed explanations of the various exceptions and limitations may be found in the following documents: SCP/13/3, SCP/15/3 and CDIP/5/4.

- 1. As background for the exceptions and limitations to patents investigated in this questionnaire, what is the legal standard used to determine whether an invention is patentable? If the standard for patentability includes provisions that vary according to the technology involved, please include examples of how the standard has been interpreted, if available. Please indicate the source of law (statutory and-or case law) by providing the relevant provisions and/or a brief summary of the relevant decisions.

An invention is a technical solution relating to a product or process in any field and is granted by a legal protection if it is new, involves an inventive step and is industrially applicable ("Law on Patent" of the Republic of Azerbaijan (1997, 2009, Article 7)

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Correspondingly, please list exclusions from patentability that exist in your law. Furthermore, please provide the source of those exclusions from patentability if different from the source of the standard of patentability, and provide any available case law or interpretive decisions specific to the exclusions.¹

The following subject matter shall not be deemed inventions:

¹ This question does not imply that the topic of exclusions from patentability is dealt with in this question exhaustively.

- scientific theories;
- mathematical methods;
- outcome of the art-constructive performance (design);
- methods of organization and performing for intellectual activity and for business activity;
- rules and methods for playing games;
- algorithms and programs for computers;
- methods of presenting information;
- symbols, schedules and rules;
- projects and plans for structures and buildings and for land development;
- plant and animal varieties (except for microorganisms) and essentially biological processes for raising them (except for non-biological or microbiological processes
- layout designs of integrated circuits;
- methods for the diagnostic of illnesses, methods for therapeutic and surgical treatment of humans or animal organisms.

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2. As background for the exceptions and limitations to patents investigated in this questionnaire, what exclusive rights are granted with a patent? Please provide the relevant provision in the statutory or case law. In addition, if publication of a patent application accords exclusive rights to the patent applicant, what are those rights?

Exclusive right on use of subject matter of industrial property shall belong to the owner of the patent, if it does not infringe upon the rights of other patent owners and the present Law (Article 14 (1)).

According to article 14(2) patent shall confer on its owner the following exclusive rights:

- (a) where the subject matter of a patent is a product, to prevent third parties not having the owner's consent from the acts of: making, using, offering for sale, selling, or importing² for these purposes that product;
- (b) where the subject matter of a patent is a process, to prevent third parties not having the owner's consent from the act of using the process, and from the acts of: using, offering for sale, selling, or importing for these purposes at least the product obtained directly by that process.

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3. Which exceptions and limitations does the applicable law provide in respect to patent rights (please indicate the applicable exceptions/limitations):

- ✓ Private and/or non-commercial use;
- ✓ Experimental use and/or scientific research;
- ✓ Preparation of medicines;³
- ✓ Prior use;
- ✓ Use of articles on foreign vessels, aircrafts and land vehicles;
Acts for obtaining regulatory approval from authorities;
- ✓ Exhaustion of patent rights;

² This right, like all other rights conferred under this Agreement in respect of the use, sale, importation or other distribution of goods, is subject to the provisions of Article 6.

³ For example, extemporaneous preparation of prescribed medicines in pharmacies.

- ✓ Compulsory licensing and/or government use;
Exceptions and limitations related to farmers' and/or breeders' use of patented inventions.⁴

If the applicable law provides for any of the above-listed exceptions and limitations, please fill out those parts of Sections II to X that apply to you. If the applicable law does not contain all of the exceptions and limitations provided in Sections II to X, then you should respond only to the other parts of the questionnaire. If the applicable law includes other exceptions and limitations that are not listed above, please answer the questions under Section XI "Other Exceptions".

Where reference is made to case law, please indicate, if possible, the official source in which the case has been published (for example, the publication number, issue, title, URL, etc.).

Section II: Private and/or non-commercial use

4. If the exception is contained in statutory law, please provide the relevant provision(s):

The use of a product containing the patented invention in the non-commercial purposes without the income not recognized as an infringement of the exclusive rights of the patent (Article 23).

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⁴ For example, in some countries where patent rights extend to propagated or multiplied material derived from patented biological material, certain uses by farmers of harvested plant material or of breeding livestock or other animal reproductive material under patent protection on his own farm do not constitute patent infringement. Similarly, in some countries, patent rights do not cover uses by breeders of patented biological material for the purpose of developing a new plant variety (see paragraphs 133 to 137 of document SCP/13/3).

5. If the exception is provided through case law, please cite the relevant decision(s) and provide its(their) brief summary:

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6. (a) What are the public policy objectives for providing the exception?

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- (b) Where possible, please explain with references to the legislative history, parliamentary debates and judicial decisions:

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7. If the applicable law defines the concepts “non-commercial”, “commercial” and/or “private”, please provide those definitions by citing legal provision(s) and/or decision(s):

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8. If there are any other criteria provided in the applicable law to be applied in determining the scope of the exception, please provide those criteria by citing legal provision(s) and/or decision(s):

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9. Is the applicable legal framework of the exception considered adequate to meet the objectives sought (for example, are there any amendments to the law foreseen)? Please explain:

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10. Which challenges, if any, have been encountered in relation to the practical implementation of the exception in your country? Please explain:

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Section III: Experimental use and/or scientific research⁵

11. If the exception is contained in statutory law, please provide the relevant provision(s):

The use of protected object of the invention in the purposes of a scientific research, experimental study and its validation prior to the patent term expiration with providing of exclusion of the manufacture or storage of products in large volume not recognized as an infringement of the patent holder's exclusive rights. (Article 23).

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12. If the exception is provided through case law, please cite the relevant decision(s) and provide its(their) brief summary:

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13. (a) What are the public policy objectives for providing the exception?

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(b) Where possible, please explain with references to the legislative history, parliamentary debates and judicial decisions:

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14. Does the applicable law make a distinction concerning the nature of the organization conducting the experimentation or research (for example, whether the organization is commercial or a not-for-profit entity)? Please explain:

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15. If the applicable law defines the concepts "experimental use" and/or "scientific research", please provide those definitions by citing legal provision(s) and/or decision(s):

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16. If the purpose of experimentation and/or research is relevant to the determination of the scope of the exception, please indicate what that purpose is:

Experimentation and/or research should aim to:

⁵ Exceptions and limitations on acts for obtaining regulatory approval are dealt with in Section VII of the questionnaire.

- determine how the patented invention works
- determine the scope of the patented invention
- determine the validity of the claims
- seek an improvement to the patented invention
- invent around the patented invention
- other, please specify:

17. If any of the following criteria is relevant to the determination of the scope of the exception, please indicate:

Research and/or experimentation must be conducted on or relating to the patented invention ("research on")

Research and/or experimentation must be conducted with or using the patented invention ("research with")

- Both of the above

Please explain by citing legal provision(s) and/or decision(s):

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18. If the commercial intention of the experimentation and/or research is relevant to the determination of the scope of the exception, please indicate whether the exception covers activities relating to:

A non-commercial purpose

A commercial purpose

- Both of the above

The commercial intention of the experimentation and/or research is not relevant

19. If the applicable law makes a distinction between "commercial" and "non-commercial" purpose, please explain those terms by providing their definitions, and, if appropriate, examples. Please cite legal provision(s) and/or decision(s):

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20. If the applicable law provides for other criteria to be applied in determining the scope of the exception, please describe those criteria. Please illustrate your answer by citing legal provision(s) and/or decision(s):

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21. Is the applicable legal framework of the exception considered adequate to meet the objectives sought (for example, are there any amendments to the law foreseen)? Please explain:

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22. Which challenges, if any, have been encountered in relation to the practical implementation of the exception in your country? Please explain:

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Section IV: Preparation of medicines

23. If the exception is contained in statutory law, please provide the relevant provision(s):

The occasional preparation of medicines prescribed by a physician is not recognized as an infringement of the patent holder's exclusive rights. (Article 23, Acts not constituting infringement of the exclusive rights of patent owners).

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24. If the exception is provided through case law, please cite the relevant decision(s) and provide its(their) brief summary:

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25. (a) What are the public policy objectives for providing the exception? Please explain:

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(b) Where possible, please explain with references to the legislative history, parliamentary debates and judicial decisions:

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26. Who is entitled to use the exception (for example, pharmacists, doctors, physicians, others)? Please describe:

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27. Does the applicable law provide for any limitations on the amount of medicines that can be prepared under the exception?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please explain your answer by citing the relevant provision(s) and/or decision(s):

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28. If the applicable law provides for other criteria to be applied in determining the scope of the exception, please describe those criteria. Please illustrate your answer by citing legal provision(s) and/or decision(s):

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29. Is the applicable legal framework of the exception considered adequate to meet the objectives sought (for example, are there any amendments to the law foreseen)? Please explain:

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30. Which challenges, if any, have been encountered in relation to the practical implementation of the exception in your country? Please explain:

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Section V: Prior use

31. If the exception is contained in statutory law, please provide the relevant provision(s):

Any legal entity or natural person who, before the priority date of subject matter of invention protected by a patent and independently of the author, has devised and used in good faith on the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan an identical subject matter of invention or has up until that date been making the necessary preparations for such use, has the right, without hindrance and without paying any compensation to the patent owner, to continue independently using the subject matter, provided that the scope of the use of the subject matter is not expanded (Article 16(1)).

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32. If the exception is provided through case law, please cite the relevant decision(s) and provide its(their) brief summary:

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33. (a) What are the public policy objectives for providing the exception? Please explain:

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(b) Where possible, please explain with references to the legislative history, parliamentary debates and judicial decisions:

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34. How does the applicable law define the scope of “use”? Does the applicable law provide for any quantitative or qualitative limitations on the application of the “use” by prior user? Please explain your answer by citing legal provision(s) and/or decision(s):

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35. Does the applicable law provide for a remuneration to be paid to the patentee for the exercise of the exception? Please explain:

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36. According to the applicable law, can a prior user license or assign his prior user’s right to a third party?

- Yes
- No

37. In case of affirmative answer to question 36, does the applicable law establish conditions on such licensing or assignment for the continued application of the prior use exception?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please explain what those conditions are:

The right of prior use may only be transferred to successor, another legal entity or natural person together with the enterprise where the subject matters of invention is used or where the necessary preparations for such use had been made. Successor, legal entity or natural person might use this right in a scope given a prior user in accordance with item 1 of the Article 16. (Article 16(3))

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38. Does this exception apply in situations where a third party has been using the patented invention or has made serious preparations for such use after the invalidation or refusal of the patent, but before the restoration or grant of the patent?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please explain the conditions under which such use can continue to apply:

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39. If the applicable law provides for other criteria to be applied in determining the scope of the exception, please describe those criteria. Please illustrate your answer by citing legal provision(s) and/or decision(s):

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40. Is the applicable legal framework of the exception considered adequate to meet the objectives sought (for example, are there any amendments to the law foreseen)? Please explain:

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41. Which challenges, if any, have been encountered in relation to the practical implementation of the exception in your country? Please explain:

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Section VI: Use of articles on foreign vessels, aircrafts and land vehicles

42. If the exception is contained in statutory law, please provide the relevant provision(s):

The use of devices forming the patented subject matter of industrial property in the construction or operation of means of transport of other countries when such means of transport, if the means of transport temporarily or accidentally enter the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan, provided that such devices are used there exclusively for the needs of the means of transport, if the means of transport belong to legal entity or natural persons of countries affording the same rights to owners of means of transport of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Law on Patent, Article 23

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43. If the exception is provided through case law, please cite the relevant decision(s) and provide its(their) brief summary:

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44. (a) What are the public policy objectives for providing the exception? Please explain:

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(b) Where possible, please explain with references to the legislative history, parliamentary debates and judicial decisions:

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45. The exception applies in relation to:

- ✓ Vessels
- ✓ Aircrafts
- ✓ Land Vehicles
- ✓ Spacecraft

46. In determining the scope of the exception, does the applicable law apply such terms as "temporarily" and/or "accidentally" or any other equivalent term in relation to the entry of foreign transportation means into the national territory? Please provide the definitions of those terms by citing legal provision(s) and/or decision(s):

Yes, «temporarily» or «accidentally», (Article 23 Acts not constituting infringement of the exclusive rights of patent owners).

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47. Does the applicable law provide for any restrictions on the use of the patented product on the body of the foreign vessels, aircrafts, land vehicles and spacecraft for the exception to apply (for example, the devices to be used exclusively for the needs of the vessel, aircraft, land vehicle and/or spacecraft)? Please explain your answer by citing legal provision(s) and/or decision(s):

Yes, provided that such devices are used there exclusively for the needs of the means of transport, if the means of transport belong to legal entity or natural persons of countries affording the same rights to owners of means of transport of the Republic of Azerbaijan, (Article 23, Acts not constituting infringement of the exclusive rights of patent owners).

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48. If the applicable law provides for other criteria to be applied in determining the scope of the exception, please describe those criteria. Please illustrate your answer by citing legal provision(s) and/or decision(s):

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49. Is the applicable legal framework of the exception considered adequate to meet the objectives sought (for example, are there any amendments to the law foreseen)? Please explain:

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50. Which challenges, if any, have been encountered in relation to the practical implementation of the exception in your country? Please explain:

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Section VII: Acts for obtaining regulatory approval from authorities

51. If the exception is contained in statutory law, please provide the relevant provision(s):

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52. If the exception is provided through case law, please cite the relevant decision(s) and provide its(their) brief summary:

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53. (a) What are the public policy objectives for providing the exception? Please explain:

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(b) Where possible, please explain with references to the legislative history, parliamentary debates and judicial decisions:

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54. Who is entitled to use the exception? Please explain:

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55. The exception covers the regulatory approval of:

any products
certain products. Please describe which products:

56. Please indicate which acts are allowed in relation to the patented invention under the exception?

Making
Using
Selling
Offering for sale
Import
Export
Other. Please specify:.....

57. If the applicable law provides for other criteria to be applied in determining the scope of the exception, please describe those criteria. Please illustrate your answer by citing legal provision(s) and/or decision(s):

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58. Is the applicable legal framework of the exception considered adequate to meet the objectives sought (for example, are there any amendments to the law foreseen)? Please explain:

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59. Which challenges, if any, have been encountered in relation to the practical implementation of the exception in your country? Please explain:

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Section VIII: Exhaustion of patent rights

60. Please indicate what type of exhaustion doctrine is applicable in your country in relation to patents:

- National
- Regional
- International
- Uncertain, please explain.....

If the exception is contained in statutory law, please provide the relevant provision(s):

The placing on the market of any product in which a patented a subject matter of invention has been used or the application process protected by a patent shall be deemed to have been used of a subject matter of invention if they contain all of the essential features a patented of subject matter of industrial property. (Article 15(1))

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If the exception is provided through case law, please cite the relevant decision(s) and provide its(their) brief summary:

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61. (a) What are the public policy objectives for adopting the exhaustion regime specified above? Please explain:

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(b) Where possible, please explain with references to the legislative history, parliamentary debates and judicial decisions:

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62. Does the applicable law permit the patentee to introduce restrictions on importation or other distribution of the patented product by means of express notice on the product that can override the exhaustion doctrine adopted in the country?

- Yes
- No
- Uncertain

Please explain your answer by citing legal provision(s) and/or decision(s):

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63. Has the applicable exhaustion regime been considered adequate to meet the public policy objectives in your country? Please explain:

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64. Which challenges, if any, have been encountered in relation to the practical implementation of the applicable exhaustion regime in your country? Please explain:

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Section IX: Compulsory licenses and/or government use

Compulsory licenses

65. If the exception is contained in statutory law, please provide the relevant provision(s):

Law on Patent, Article 20

66. If the exception is provided through case law, please cite the relevant decision(s) and provide its(their) brief summary:

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67. What grounds for the grant of a compulsory license does the applicable law provide in respect to patents (please indicate the applicable grounds):

- ✓ Non-working or insufficient working of the patented invention
- ✓ Refusal to grant licenses on reasonable terms
- ✓ Anti-competitive practices and/or unfair competition
- ✓ Public health
- ✓ National security

- ✓ National emergency and/or extreme urgency
- ✓ Dependent patents
- Other, please specify:

68. (a) What are the public policy objectives for providing compulsory licenses in your country? Please explain:

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(b) Where possible, please explain with references to the legislative history, parliamentary debates and judicial decisions:

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69. If the applicable law provides for the grant of compulsory licenses on the ground of “non-working” or “insufficient working”, please provide the definitions of those terms by citing legal provision(s) and/or decision(s):

Where the owner of a patent or his right successor does not use the subject matter of invention property within 3 years time from the date a patent is granted without any valid reason and does not made serious preparation to use or suspend more than 3 years and refuses from grant the license after termination of this period, any legal entity or natural person may appeal to the Court with a request for the grant compulsory license on use the subject matter of invention. Compulsory license shall be of non-exclusive character. Article 20(1)

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70. Does the importation of a patented product or a product manufactured by a patented process constitute “working” of the patent? Please explain your answer by citing legal provision(s) and/or decision(s):

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71. In case of the grant of compulsory licenses on the grounds of non-working or insufficient working, does the applicable law provide for a certain time period to be respected before a compulsory license can be requested?

- ✓ Yes
- No

If yes, what is the time period?

Within 3 years time from the date a patent is granted

72. In case of the grant of compulsory licenses on the grounds of non-working or insufficient working, does the applicable law provide that a compulsory license shall be refused if the patentee justifies his inaction by legitimate reasons?

Yes

No

If yes, what are "legitimate reasons"?

73. If the applicable law provides for the grant of compulsory licenses on the ground of refusal by the patentee to grant licenses on "reasonable terms and conditions" and within a "reasonable period of time", please provide the definitions given to those terms by citing legal provision(s) and/or decision(s):

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74. If the applicable law provides for the grant of compulsory licenses on the ground of anti-competitive practices, please indicate which anti-competitive practices relating to patents may lead to the grant of compulsory licenses by citing legal provision(s) and/or decision(s):

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75. If the applicable law provides for the grant of compulsory licenses on the ground of dependent patents, please indicate the conditions that dependent patents must meet for a compulsory license to be granted:

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76. Does the applicable law provide a general policy to be followed in relation to the remuneration to be paid by the beneficiary of the compulsory license to the patentee? Please explain:

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77. If the applicable law provides for the grant of compulsory licenses on the ground of "national emergency" or "circumstances of extreme urgency", please explain how the applicable law defines those two concepts and their scope of application, and provide examples:

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78. Please indicate how many times and in which technological areas compulsory licenses have been issued in your country:

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79. Is the applicable legal framework for the issuance of compulsory licenses considered adequate to meet the objectives sought (for example, are there any amendments to the law foreseen)? Please explain:

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80. Which challenges, if any, have been encountered in relation to the use of the compulsory licensing system provisions in your country? Please explain:

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Government use

81. If the exception is contained in statutory law, please provide the relevant provision(s):

With the objectives of safeguarding the interests of national security respective body of executive power has the right of giving his consent on use of the subject matter of industrial property without the consent of patent owner. In this case remuneration compensation is paid to patent owner . In the case when patent owner is not satisfied with the amount of compensation, he may appeal to the Court in an order established by legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Law on Patent, Article 18.....

82. If the exception is provided through case law, please cite the relevant decision(s) and provide its(their) brief summary:

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83. What grounds for the grant of government use does the applicable law provide in respect to patents (please indicate the applicable grounds):

- ✓ Non-working or insufficient working of the patented invention
 - ✓ Refusal to grant licenses on reasonable terms
 - ✓ Anti-competitive practices and/or unfair competition
 - ✓ Public health
 - ✓ National security
 - ✓ National emergency and/or extreme urgency
 - ✓ Dependent patents
- Other, please specify:

84. (a) What are the public policy objectives for providing government use in your country?

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(b) Where possible, please explain with references to the legislative history, parliamentary debates and judicial decisions:

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85. If the applicable law provides for the grant of government use on the ground of “national emergency” or “circumstances of extreme urgency”, please explain how the applicable law defines those two concepts and their scope of application, and provide examples:

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86. Please indicate how many times and in which technological areas government use has been issued in your country:

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87. Is the applicable legal framework for the issuance of government use considered adequate to meet the objectives sought (for example, are there any amendments to the law foreseen)? Please explain:

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88. Which challenges, if any, have been encountered in relation to the use of the government use mechanism in your country? Please explain:

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Section X: Exceptions and limitations related to farmers’ and/or breeders’ use of patented inventions

Farmers’ use of patented inventions

89. If the exception is contained in statutory law, please provide the relevant provision(s):

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90. If the exception is provided through case law, please cite the relevant decision(s) and provide a brief summary of such decision(s):

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91. (a) What are the public policy objectives for providing the exception related to farmers’ use of patented inventions? Please explain:

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(b) Where possible, please explain with references to the legislative history, parliamentary debates and judicial decisions:

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92. Please explain the scope of the exception by citing legal provision(s) and/or decision(s) (for example, interpretation(s) of statutory provision(s) on activities allowed by users of the exception, limitations on their use, as well as other criteria, if any, applied in the determination of the scope of the exception):

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93. Is the applicable legal framework of the exception considered adequate to meet the objectives sought (for example, are there any amendments to the law foreseen)? Please explain:

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94. Which challenges, if any, have been encountered in relation to the practical implementation of the exception related to farmers' use of patented inventions in your country? Please explain:

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Breeders' use of patented inventions

95. If the exception is contained in statutory law, please provide the relevant provision(s):

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96. If the exception is provided through case law, please cite the relevant decision(s) and provide a brief summary of such decision(s):

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97. (a) What are the public policy objectives for providing the exception related to breeders' use of patented inventions? Please explain:

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(b) Where possible, please explain with references to the legislative history, parliamentary debates and judicial decisions:

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98. Please explain the scope of the exception by citing legal provision(s) and/or decision(s) (for example, interpretation(s) of statutory provision(s) on activities allowed by users of the exception, limitations on their use, as well as other criteria, if any, applied in the determination of the scope of the exception):

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99. Is the applicable legal framework of the exception considered adequate to meet the objectives sought (for example, are there any amendments to the law foreseen)? Please explain:

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100. Which challenges, if any, have been encountered in relation to the practical implementation of the exception related to breeders' use of patented inventions in your country? Please explain:

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Section XI: Other Exceptions and Limitations

101. Please list any other exceptions and limitations that your applicable patent law provides:

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102. In relation to each exception and limitation, please indicate:

- (i) the source of law (statutory law and/or the case law) by providing the relevant provision(s) and/or a brief summary of the relevant decision(s):

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- (ii) the public policy objectives of each exception and limitation. Where possible, please explain with references to the legislative history, parliamentary debates and judicial decisions:

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- (iii) the entitlement and the scope of the exception and limitation by citing legal provision(s) and/or decision(s):

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In addition, in relation to each exception and limitation, please explain:

- (i) whether its applicable legal framework is considered adequate to meet the objectives sought (for example, are there any amendments to the law foreseen?):

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- (ii) if there have been any challenges encountered in the practical implementation of the exception in your country:

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103. If other mechanisms for the limitation of patent rights external to the patent system exist in your country (for example, competition law), please list and explain such mechanisms:

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[End of Questionnaire]