

## Opposition systems

### Andean Community

Article 42 of Decision No. 486 Establishing the Common Industrial Property Regime of 2000, which is the industrial property law applicable in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru, provides that any person having a legitimate interest may file within a period of 60 days following the date of publication of the patent application in the Industrial Property Gazette one reasoned opposition contesting the patentability of the invention. The same article provides that the opponent may be granted, only once, a further period of sixty days to substantiate the opposition.

Article 43 of the aforementioned Decision states that, in the event of opposition, the competent national office shall notify the applicant so that he may, within the next 60 days, present his/her arguments, submit supporting documents, and revise the claims or the description of the invention, as appropriate; and that this period may be extended once, for another 60 days, at the request of a party.

Filing an opposition may be subject to payment of an opposition fee.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> For example, the Unique Circular Letter of the Superintendency of Industry and Commerce, the national industrial property office of Colombia, provides for the payment of an administrative fee for filing of oppositions within the patent application procedure.