



Convention patent applications

Prosecution  
Prosecution  
Prosecution  
Prosecution  
Prosecution

**EXAMINATION SYSTEM (substantive examination)**

12 months

12 months

**PCT**

± 5 months

**Search Report & Written Opinion**

**Demand for IPE**

**Prosecution**

**IPRP**

**National phase patent applications**

Prosecution  
Prosecution  
Prosecution  
Prosecution

**EXAMINATION SYSTEM (substantive examination)**

**PRIORITY DATE**

May disclose invention during priority period

Prior art?

**X**

12 months

6 – 10 months

3 months

**SA Patent 20 years max**

**SA Provisional patent application**  
-Absolutely novel  
-Inventive  
-Useful

**SA Complete patent application**

**Acceptance by Registrar**

**Publication in SA Patent Journal: Patent is Granted**

**DEPOSIT SYSTEM in SA (no substantive examination)**