

## Patents

Patent applications in Nigeria are regulated by the Patents and Designs Act. An application for a grant of patent shall be made to the Registrar of Patents, signed by the applicant or his agent and shall contain the following;

1. A request for a patent with the applicant's full name and address. If the applicant's address is outside Nigeria, an address for service in Nigeria shall be included.

2. A description of the relevant invention with appropriate plans and drawings. The description should describe the invention in a manner sufficiently clear and complete for the invention to be put in effect by a person skilled in the art or field of knowledge to which the invention relates.

3. Power of Attorney (where application is made by an agent)

4. Where the applicant seeks foreign priority in respect of an application made in a country other than in Nigeria (i.e. a convention application), then such application must include;

- date and number of earlier application
- country in which earlier application was made
- name of person who made the earlier application

5. If the inventor is not an employee of the applicant, then a Deed of Assignment is necessary to assign all patent rights to the applicant.

An applicant should within 3 (three) months of making an application for foreign priority furnish the Registrar with a copy of the earlier application

certified by the Industrial Property office or its equivalent of the country where the earlier application was made.

The Registrar shall grant the application after proper examining and finding same to be in conformity with the law. After the grant, the Registrar is required to enter the particulars of the grant in a Registrar of Patents. He is also required to cause a notification of the grant to be published in the Federal Gazette.