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Compulsory licensing in Europe

A country-by-country overview



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Introduction

Compulsory licensing of patents is not frequently used throughout Europe, but in certain situations it allows government or government-appointed authorities to override patent holders' exclusive right to exclude all others from using their inventions. From the patent holder's perspective, a compulsory licence may seem radical whilst from that of the public interest, it may be a necessity, for example where life-saving inventions are concerned. Compulsory licences are granted on limited grounds with significant judicial or administrative scrutiny.

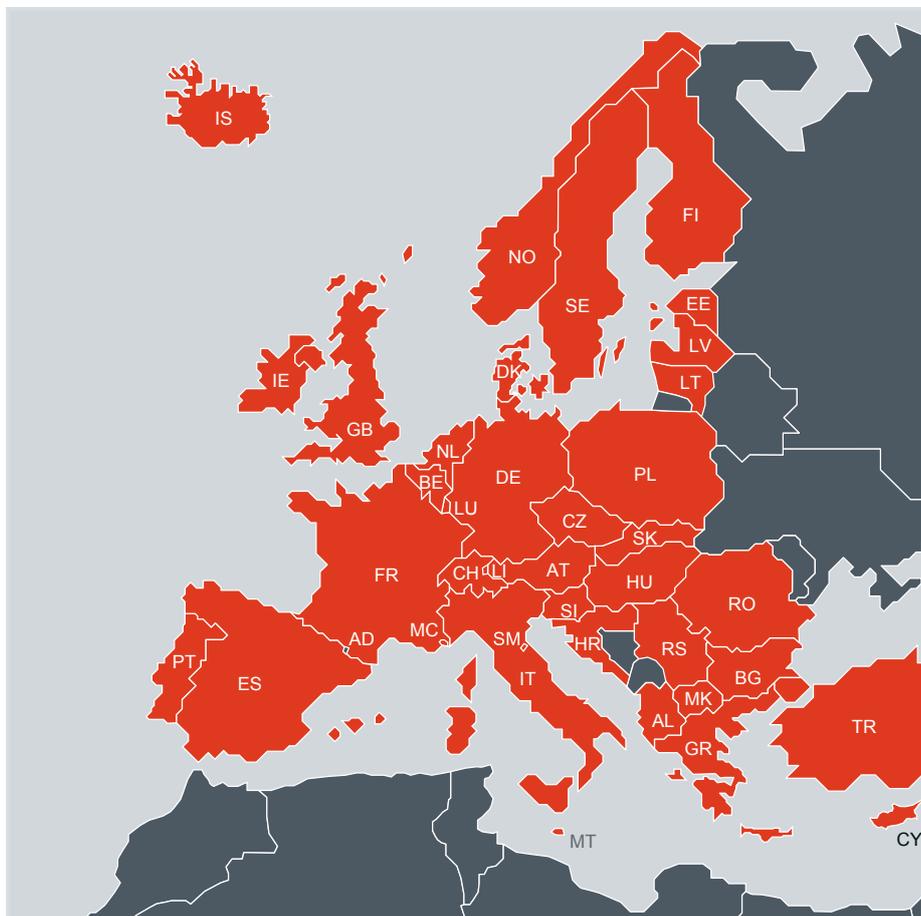
The various justifications and conditions for this measure are largely based on international agreements, and regional and national legislation. The Paris Convention recognises the countries' competence for providing compulsory licences to prevent abuses that may result from failure to work the invention or failure to work it on reasonable terms. Decades later, the WTO countries concluded the TRIPS Agreement, which lays down further rules applicable to compulsory licences, in particular grounds for their grant. On an EU level, legal bases for granting compulsory licences are provided for in the 1998 Biotech Directive regarding plant variety rights

and, in view of implementing Art. 31bis TRIPS, the EU Regulation No. 816/2006 with regard to the manufacture of pharmaceutical products for export to countries with public health problems.

Most European countries have integrated the regime of granting compulsory licences into their IP legislations, although possible grounds for grant may differ between them. The competent authorities vary as does the procedural framework leading to the grant of a compulsory licence as this depends on the national civil or administrative procedures.

This book has been developed by the European Patent Academy together with the European Patent Lawyers Association (EPLAW) and other patent practitioners to provide a comprehensive overview of the different compulsory licensing regimes in all 38 EPC contracting states.

European Patent Academy



EPC contracting states
(1 December 2018)

List of abbreviations

Biotech Directive	Directive 98/44/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 July 1998 on the legal protection of biotechnological inventions (OJ L 213, 30.7.1998, p. 13-21).
ECHR	European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, as amended by Protocols Nos. 11 and 14, 4 November 1950.
EPC	Convention on the Grant of European Patents (European Patent Convention) of 5 October 1973 as revised by the Act revising Article 63 EPC of 17 December 1991 and the Act revising the EPC of 29 November 2000.
EU Regulation 816/2006	Regulation (EC) No 816/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2006 on compulsory licensing of patents relating to the manufacture of pharmaceutical products for export to countries with public health problems (OJ L 157, 9.6.2006, p. 1-7).
Paris Convention	Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property of March 20, 1883, as revised at Brussels on December 14, 1900, at Washington on June 2, 1911, at The Hague on November 6, 1925, at London on June 2, 1934, at Lisbon on October 31, 1958, and at Stockholm on July 14, 1967, and as amended on September 28, 1979.
TRIPS	Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, April 15, 1994, Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization, Annex 1C, 1869 U.N.T.S. 299, 33 I.L.M. 1197 (1994).
WTO	World Trade Organization

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Albania

Legal basis

Law No. 9947 of 7 July 2008 on Industrial Property (as amended) (hereinafter IP Law).

This legislation implements the relevant TRIPS articles on intellectual property including those on compulsory licensing.

Grounds for applying for a licence

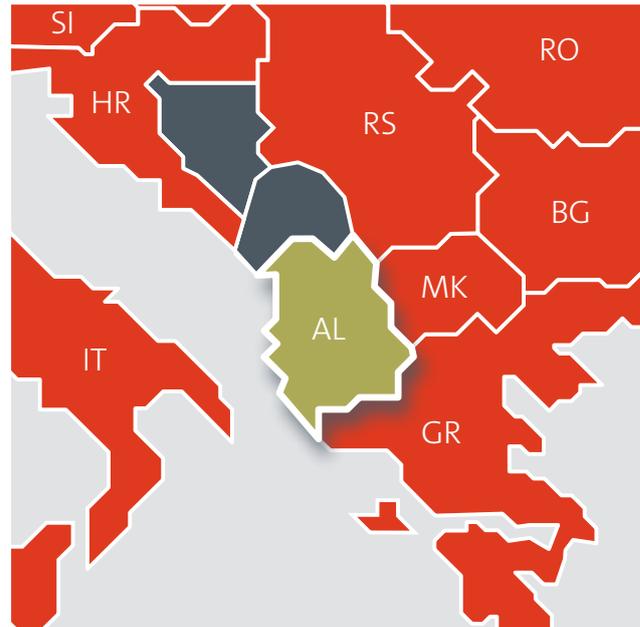
(1) The court may grant a compulsory licence:

(a) to any person who can demonstrate that he is able to exploit the invention, which is the subject-matter of a patent granted in the Republic of Albania, as well as who meets the requirements provided in the respective regulation issued for the implementation of IP Law, provided that:

- (i) four years have passed from the filing of the patent application or three years have passed from the grant of the patent;
- (ii) the patent owner has not exploited the patent for a reasonable period of time or has not made efficient and serious preparations to do so, unless he provides legitimate reasons for omission to act;
- (iii) the person has made all efforts to obtain authorisation from the patent owner, under reasonable conditions and within reasonable time periods, and if such efforts had not been successful within a reasonable period of time.

(b) based on the request for a non-exclusive use of the invention protected by the patent or of the plant species protected by this patent right. The court may grant a compulsory licence for an earlier patent to the owner of a later patent or right holder of the plant species, who cannot use the later patent or the right of a plant species without infringing the earlier patent, against a payment set by an expert chosen by the court, provided that:

- (i) the invention claimed in the later patent or the protected plant species is a technical innovation of considerable economic significance as compared with the invention contained in the earlier patent;
- (ii) they have asked the patent or right holder of the plant species for the right to obtain a contractual licence, but it has not been granted to them.



For a non-exclusive use of a protected invention, the court may take any measure it deems necessary to verify these facts.

The owner of an earlier patent or the holder of the right of a plant species may obtain an interrelated licence with reasonable conditions to use the invention protected by the later patent or the protected plant species.

(c) according to Art. 50(3) IP Law, the court may grant a compulsory licence for a patent and a supplementary protection certificate regarding the production and sale of pharmaceutical products, when such products are intended for export to countries considered as being “in need” in order to meet public health problems.

(2) In specific cases, a compulsory licence may be granted for a patented invention, without the consent of the patent owner, by the Minister of Defence or the Minister of Health in the interests of defence or national security.

General procedure

As a rule, the competent authority to grant a compulsory licence is the Tirana district court. An interested person may file a request to the Tirana district court to obtain a compulsory licence. The request must meet and comply with all the legal requirements.

The court has the discretion to set the terms and conditions that will be contained in a compulsory licence and will consider:

- (1) the scope and the duration of the exploitation should be limited to the purpose for which the authorisation has been given;
- (2) the exploitation should be non-exclusive;
- (3) the exploitation should be non-transferrable. In the case of a compulsory licence, the authorised exploitation for the earlier patent is transferable only when the later patent or the plant species is transferred;
- (4) the quantity of pharmaceutical products to be produced should not exceed the country's needs or those of the importing countries on the basis of other compulsory licences.

A compulsory licence is valid until the end of the time period determined by the court or until the expiry of the patent. Upon a reasoned request, the court may annul the authorisation in order to protect the legitimate interests of the authorised persons, when the circumstances which led to the issue of the authorisation have ceased to exist and there is no possibility for them to recur.

The use of a compulsory licence is limited to supply the market of the Republic of Albania. The patent owner has the right to adequate compensation for the compulsory licence, taking the economic value of the authorisation into account. If the parties do not agree, the amount of the compensation shall be set by the court.

Compulsory licences must be registered in the patent registry of the Albanian General Directorate of Industrial Property.

The holder of a compulsory licence may renounce it at any time. If the holder of a compulsory licence does not exploit it within one year from the date of grant, the patent owner may request the modification or the annulment of the compulsory licence.

Appeal/review

Compulsory licences granted by the Tirana district court may be appealed to the Court of Appeal.

Decisions of the Minister of Defence or the Minister of Health for exploitation of a patent via a compulsory licence by the government or third parties authorised by the government may be appealed to the Tirana district court.

Statistics and jurisprudence

None to date.

Austria

Legal basis

Sections 36 and 37 of the Austrian Patent Act (*Patentgesetz*; hereinafter PatG).

Sections 36(2) and (3) implement Art. 12 Biotech Directive. A further provision on compulsory licences implementing this Article is found in the Austrian Plant Variety Right Act (*Sortenschutzgesetz*).

EU Regulation 816/2006 applies directly so no implementation measures were undertaken by the Austrian legislator in this regard.

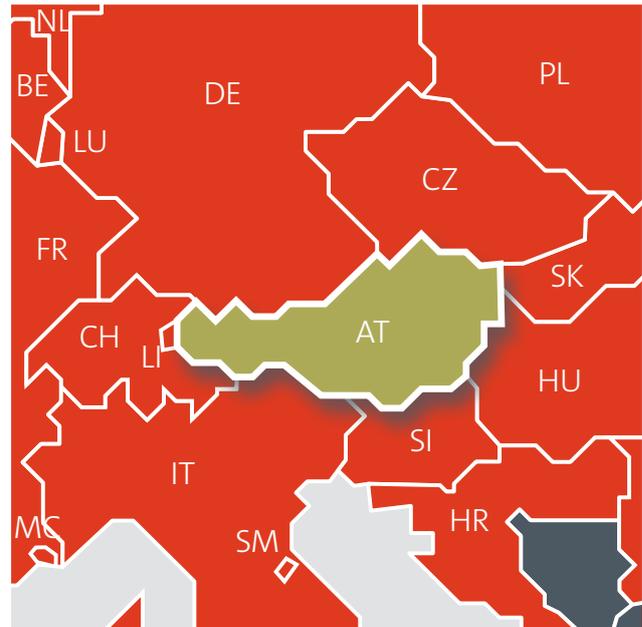
Grounds for applying for a licence

There are three grounds for application for a compulsory licence:

- (i) the patented invention cannot be exploited without infringing an invention patented beforehand and the invention protected by the later patent represents an important technical progress of considerable economic significance compared to the invention protected by the earlier patent;
- (ii) the patented invention is not exploited to an appropriate extent in Austria and the patent proprietor has not done everything necessary for such exploitation (unless the patent proprietor proves that the exploitation of the invention in Austria would be an undue burden);
- (iii) the granting of a licence for a patented invention is in the public interest.

While under scenario (i), the compulsory licence is open only to the holder of a later patent, under scenarios (ii) and (iii), the statute grants “everyone” the non-exclusive licence to use the invention “in the course of his business”.

The grant of a licence pursuant to (ii) may be applied for only upon the later of (a) four years after filing the application or (b) three years after publication of the grant of the patent in respect of which the licence is sought. As explained below, Sec. 36(4) PatG now explicitly states that importation also qualifies as exploitation for the purpose of the compulsory license (ii).



Scenario (i) also applies to plant variety rights and biotechnological inventions. If a licence is granted under scenario (i), the owner of the earlier patent is also entitled to a non-exclusive licence for the later patent.

Under scenario (iii), there is a possibility of a licence being granted via an expedited decision of the Austrian Patent Office if, in addition to the patented invention being in the public interest, there is either a “national emergency” or “other circumstances of extreme urgency”. These expedited proceedings are not preliminary court proceedings but are still conducted before the Patent Office. There is no case law as to how these proceedings are handled.

All licences under this provision are granted on a non-exclusive basis.

General procedure

The competent authority is the Austrian Patent Office (*Patentamt*). The procedure is set out in Section 37 PatG. A request for a licence pursuant to Section 36 PatG may be filed with the Austrian Patent Office if the person entitled to grant a licence pursuant to Section 36 refuses to grant such a licence, even though the prospective licensee endeavoured to obtain the authorisation within a reasonable period under reasonable and customary business conditions.

It is not entirely clear whether a compulsory licence may also be applied for by way of a preliminary injunction (hereinafter PI) in Austria, although there are arguments that this should be possible. Contrary to German law, the Austrian Patent Act does not foresee the specific possibility of enforcing a compulsory licence by way of a preliminary injunction; rather the Austrian Patent Act limits this legal instrument to claims for cease and desist and evidence preservation.

Thus, a compulsory licence could be sought only by way of a “general” PI under Austrian civil procedure (under the Enforcement Act), which is tied to additional requirements, as opposed to the “privileged” PIs in the event of patent infringement. In particular, demonstrable irreparable harm and urgency are required.

A compulsory licence is applied for at the Patent Office, i.e. a public government authority and not a court as part of the civil law system. There is extensive case law from other legal areas, ruling out the possibility of applying for a PI if the underlying claim cannot be asserted within the civil court system¹. However, it may be argued that the underlying claim is definitely a civil claim in the sense of Art. 6 ECHR. Case law has held that PIs must be possible if they primarily aim only at regulating a legal situation (“*Rechtsgestaltung*”), but are in fact aimed at enforcing a civil claim connected thereto. In such cases, the fact that separate proceedings before a government authority are mandatory ahead of asserting a claim does not rule out the option of a PI².

Although there is no case law on this issue, it should be possible to apply for a preliminary injunction for the granting of a compulsory licence in court if the general requirements for a PI (urgency, threat of irreparable harm) are met.

According to Section 37 PatG, an “appropriate remuneration” should be determined by the Austrian Patent Office, taking into account the economic value of the licence. Any necessary guarantees and other conditions of use should be determined, taking into account the nature of the invention and the circumstances of the case. The scope and duration of the licence pursuant to Section 36 should primarily be permitted for the supply of the national market and should be limited to the purpose that has made it necessary.

In the case of semiconductor technology, the licence may be granted only for public, non-commercial use or to terminate an anticompetitive practice established in legal or administrative proceedings. If the parties do not reach an agreement on this, the Austrian Patent Office will decide on this during the proceedings.

Appeal/review

The decision can be appealed to the Higher Regional Court of Vienna and (in exceptional cases) to the Austrian Supreme Court.

Statistics and jurisprudence

Only (some) appeal decisions and Supreme Court decisions are published in Austria. First instance decisions are not published. There are no available statistics pertaining to cases dealt with by the Patent Office that have not reached the appeal stage.

There is only one decision on compulsory licences dating back to 1972. The compulsory licence was granted in first instance, but this decision was quashed and the licence was denied.

On 24 January 1969, the Austrian company Arcana KG Dr. G. Hurka sought a compulsory licence under Sec. 36(2) of the PatG to Austrian Patent No. 244 948 (“Process for the production of new naphthalene derivatives and their salts”), which belonged to the British company Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd.

The product concerned (Inderal, propranolol hydrochloride), according to the patented process, was not manufactured in Austria, but the Austrian market was sufficiently supplied with this product.

By its decision of 9 September 1971, the Patent Office granted a compulsory licence, taking into account the patentee’s development costs and sales. The licence fee was set at 14.5% of the net invoice price of all products sold by the applicant that contain a naphthalene derivative produced by the applicant with the aid of the patented process.

The appeal of the patentee against this decision was successful before the Supreme Court, and the application was dismissed.

The question at issue was whether the import of a product manufactured abroad using a patented process in Austria was or was not an “exploitation of the invention in Austria”. While the first instance did not accept such importation as an exploitation of the invention in Austria and therefore granted a compulsory licence, the board of appeals approached the issue from a different perspective and

¹ B. König, “Einstweilige Verfügungen im Zivilverfahren”, 5th edn., Manz Verlag 2017, para. 2.24

² B. König, “Einstweilige Verfügungen im Zivilverfahren”, 5th edn., Manz Verlag 2017, para. 2.27

argued that under the circumstances, it was unreasonable to demand from the patentee to exploit the patent in Austria and reversed the first instance's decision so that the compulsory licence was denied.

Remarkably, this case and further CJEU case law (C-235/89, C-30/90, C-191/90) finally led to the provision being amended. It now explicitly allows the exploitation of the patent in Austria required by Section 36(4) PatG to take place in form of import, following relevant case law of the CJEU:

“(4) If a patented invention is not exploited to an appropriate extent in Austria, whereby the exploitation may also take place by import, and if the patent proprietor has not done everything necessary for such an exploitation, anyone shall be entitled to a non-exclusive licence to the patent for his business, unless the patent proprietor proves that the exploitation of the invention in Austria is not or not to a greater extent than is reasonable because of the difficulties opposing the exploitation”.

There has been no further case law on this issue.

Belgium

Legal basis

Arts. XI.37 to XI.46 of the Code of Economic Law (hereinafter “CEL”).

Art. XI.37 and Arts. XI.40-XI.46 CEL implement Art. 12 Biotech Directive.

Art. XI.39 implements EU Regulation 816/2006.

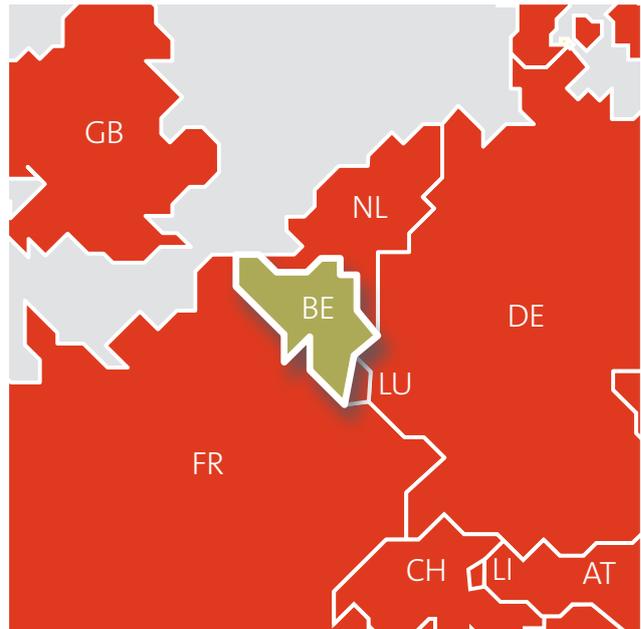
Grounds for applying for a licence

A compulsory licence may be applied for on the following grounds:

- lack of exploitation or dependency;
- export to countries with public health problems; and
- public health grounds.

There are six situations in which an application for a compulsory licence may be filed in Belgium:

- Lack of exploitation:** “when a period of four years from the filing date of the patent application or three years from the grant date of the patent, whichever period expires last, has elapsed without the patented invention having been exploited by means of importation or effective and continuous manufacture in Belgium and without the patentee being able to justify his inaction by legitimate reasons. In the case of a patent whose subject matter is a machine, effective and continuous manufacture in Belgium by the patentee of products obtained by means of that machine may be deemed to constitute exploitation of the patented invention in Belgium, when such manufacture appears more important for the economy of the country than the manufacture of the machine itself. A compulsory licence based on a lack of exploitation or insufficient exploitation shall only be granted on the condition that the licence is granted predominantly for the supply of the domestic market” (Art. XI.37, Sec. 1(1) CEL);
- Dependency (patent-patent):** “when an invention covered by a patent owned by the applicant for the licence cannot be exploited without infringing the rights deriving from a patent granted on an earlier filing, insofar as the dependent patent permits a significant technical progress of considerable economic interest compared to the invention claimed in the dominant patent, and on the condition that the licence is granted predominantly for the supply of the domestic market” (Art. XI.37, Sec. 1(2) CEL);
- Dependency (patent-plant variety):** “when a breeder cannot acquire or exploit a plant variety right without infringing a prior patent, inasmuch as the licence is necessary for the exploitation of the plant variety to be protected and on the condition that the variety represents a significant technical progress of considerable economic interest compared to the invention claimed in the patent, and on the condition that this licence is granted predominantly for the supply of the domestic market” (Art. XI.37, Sec. 1(3) CEL);
- Cross-licensing (dependency patent-plant variety):** “to the holder of a plant variety right, when the holder of a patent concerning a biotechnological invention has obtained, based on the provisions of the law on the protection of plant varieties, a compulsory licence for the non-exclusive exploitation of the plant variety protected by that plant variety right because he cannot exploit the biotechnological invention without infringing said prior plant variety right, on the condition that this licence is granted predominantly for the supply of the domestic market” (Art. XI.37, Sec. 1(4) CEL);
- Export to countries with public health problems:** “for the manufacture of pharmaceutical products for export to countries with public health problems” in the meaning of Regulation (EC) No. 816/2006 (Art. XI.39 CEL);



- (vi) Public health grounds: “in the interest of public health” (Art. XI.38 CEL).

General procedure

For compulsory licences based on lack of exploitation or dependency (Art. XI.37 CEL), the competent authority to grant a compulsory licence is the Minister of Economy. For compulsory licences based on public health grounds (Art. XI.38 and XI.39 CEL) it is the Council of Ministers.

The specific procedure depends on the ground on which the application is based.

For compulsory licences based on lack of exploitation or dependency (situations (i) to (iv) above), the application must be submitted to the Minister of Economy and is then forwarded to the Commission for Compulsory Licences for the purpose of hearing the interested parties, reconciling them if possible and, if not, issuing a reasoned opinion on the merits of the application. Based on that opinion, the Minister then decides on the application and notifies the interested parties of his decision. Within four months of the notification of the decision, the patentee and the applicant must enter into a written licensing agreement determining their mutual rights and obligations. If an agreement cannot be found within that period, their reciprocal rights and obligations are determined by the court. The obligations of the applicant/licensee must in any case include the payment of an adequate remuneration to the patentee, taking the economic value of the licence into account. Once the terms of the licence have been negotiated or determined by the court, the Minister of Economy grants the licence by ministerial decree.

Applications for compulsory licences for the manufacture of pharmaceutical products for export to countries with public health problems (situation (v) above) follow the procedure provided by EU Regulation 816/2006. The authority having competence to grant compulsory licences under said Regulation in Belgium is the Council of Ministers.

For compulsory licences based on public health grounds (situation (vi) above), the applicant must submit his application to the Minister of Economy and send a copy of it to the Bioethics Advisory Committee. The Minister then forwards the request within ten days to the Bioethics Advisory Committee. During the same period, the Minister informs the patentee of the content of the application and invites him to take position concerning both the grant of the licence as such and the reasonable remuneration he would expect in the event the licence be granted. The patentee has one month to file his observations. The Bioethics Advisory

Committee then provides the Minister with a reasoned and non-binding opinion on the merits of the request. Within a period of three months after receiving said opinion, the Minister submits a draft motivated royal decree on the merits of the application as well as a proposal for remuneration of the patentee to the Council of Ministers, which then takes the decision. If the compulsory licence is granted, the royal decree must determine the duration, scope and other terms of exploitation, including the remuneration due to the patentee. In the event of a public health crisis, measures can be taken to accelerate the above procedure.

The above is without prejudice to the rules governing the powers of the Ministers of Economy and Defence to control the exploitation of inventions for national defence or national security reasons.

Contrary to some other countries, such as Germany, there is no possibility of obtaining a compulsory licence by way of preliminary relief in Belgium.

For compulsory licences granted for public health reasons, the terms of the licence are determined by the Council of Ministers. When exercising its discretion, the Council of Ministers has to take the observations of the patentee and the opinion of the Bioethics Advisory Committee into account.

For compulsory licences granted for lack of exploitation or dependency, the court has discretion in case the parties do not succeed in entering into a written licence agreement within four months of the notification of the decision of the Minister of Economy to grant the licence. When exercising its discretion, the court has to take the positions of the parties into account, as well as the opinion of the Commission for Compulsory Licences.

Appeal/review

An administrative appeal for annulment of the decision can be introduced before the Council of State.

The decision can also be revised under specific conditions:

First, the terms of compulsory licences based on lack of exploitation, dependency or public health grounds can be revised upon the request of one of the parties if new elements have arisen. The procedure is the same as for the grant of the licence.

Second, any interested party can request the authority who granted such licence to withdraw it if, after the expiry of the

period determined in the licence, the licensee did not exploit the invention by serious and continuous manufacture activities on Belgian territory. The opinion of the Commission for Compulsory Licences must be requested before the withdrawal of a compulsory licence granted for lack of exploitation or dependency.

Finally, compulsory licences granted for lack of exploitation or dependency can also be withdrawn upon the request of the patentee if it results from a final judgment that the licensee has committed an unlawful act towards the patentee or has violated his obligations.

Statistics and jurisprudence

None to date.

Bulgaria

Legal basis

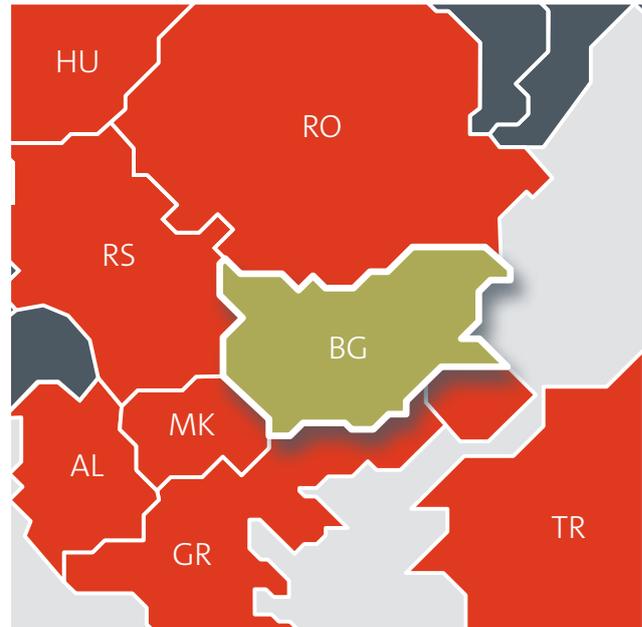
Art. 32 of the Law of Patents and Utility Models Registration (1993) (hereinafter LoP).

Art. 32a was adopted in 2006 and intended to implement Art. 12 Biotech Directive.

Grounds for applying for a licence

Arts. 32 and 32a LoP provide for the grant of a compulsory licence under the following specific circumstances:

- (1) The claimant has unsuccessfully tried to obtain a contractual licence from the patentee under fair conditions and at least one of the following conditions is met:
 - the invention has not been exploited for a period of four years from the date of filing of the patent application or three years from the grant of the patent, the later term being applicable, or
 - within the time limits set out above the invention has not been put to sufficient use to satisfy the needs of the national market, unless the patent owner proves valid reasons thereof.
- (2) The compulsory licence is of public interest, even if negotiations with the right owner over the patented invention have not been conducted.
- (3) The invention is part of the subject matter of a later patent and is included in the scope of another, earlier patent, when the owner of the earlier patent refuses to grant a licence under fair conditions, and where the subject matter of the later patent represents a significant technical progress of great economic importance compared to the subject matter of the earlier patent.
- (4) When a plant breeder cannot obtain or use the right in a plant variety without infringing an earlier patent and insofar as the licence is required for using the plant variety for the purposes of its legal protection, or when the owner of a patent for a biotechnological invention cannot use it without infringing an earlier plant variety right, provided that the breeder or the owner of a patent for a biotechnological invention proves that he has tried unsuccessfully to get a contractual licence



BG

from the patent or plant variety owner, and the plant variety or the invention represents a significant technical progress of great economic importance, compared to the patented invention or the protected plant variety.

General procedure

Compulsory licences are an administrative procedure, conducted before the Bulgarian Patent Office (hereinafter BPO).

According to Arts. 55(2) and 57(1) LoP, the authority competent to grant a compulsory licence is a panel of experts from the Disputes Department of the BPO, specifically appointed for the hearing by the Chairman of the BPO. Art. 57(2) LoP further specifies that the panel must consist of five experts, two of whom are lawyers.

The procedure is initiated by a written request by the person who has a legal interest to request a compulsory licence. The request should be accompanied by evidence (written and material) in support of the facts and circumstances claimed, as well as explicit evidence that the claimant is capable to use the invention within the scope of the licence requested. After a formal examination, a copy of the request and supporting evidence is sent to the patent owner, who has a three-month time limit to respond. The response is sent back to the claimant for review and filing of observations within one month. The statement of the claimant is sent back to the patent owner only if it contains new facts and evidence.

The appointed panel of experts examines the request, opinions and evidence provided and, if necessary, has consultations with outside experts in the relevant technical field. After completing the examination, the panel convenes an oral hearing where all parties, as well as any appointed outside experts in the relevant technical field are summoned. During the oral hearing, each party presents its position. Witnesses may be heard if necessary. Only the grounds for granting the compulsory licence outlined in the initial request are debated during the oral hearing. If new evidence is presented, the hearing will be adjourned. The decision on the merits is taken behind closed doors. It is taken by the panel of experts and subsequently approved by the Chairman of the BPO.

Art. 32(7) LoP provides that the scope of the compulsory licence shall be determined by the purpose it was granted for. This is a precondition to which the panel is bound, thereby granting the panel discretion, albeit limited, as to the terms of the licence. It is, however, disputable whether the panel has discretion with regard to the licence fee. Art. 32(10) LoP provides that the compulsory licensee shall owe the patent owner a remuneration, but does not provide as to who determines it. Art. 66 LoP provides that disputes concerning the amount of remuneration for the grant of a compulsory licence shall be reviewed by the Sofia City Court, which is a civil and not an administrative court. It could therefore be concluded that the panel has no discretion to establish the amount of the remuneration as part of its decision to grant the compulsory licence, but it is the patent owner who must do so. If the licensee does not agree the dispute must be reverted to the Sofia City Court.

The civil procedure to determine the amount of remuneration awarded to the patent owner for the compulsory licence is a general court procedure with open sessions and hearing of the parties, submission of evidence, hearing of witnesses, and so on. The court often appoints one or more experts during these types of disputes to determine the amount of the remuneration, based on the terms of the licence and different methods for its calculation. The experts' testimony usually forms the basis for the decision on the merits. The decision may be appealed to the Sofia Court of Appeals and, in certain circumstances, before the Supreme Court of Cassation as a final instance.

Appeal/review

The BPO decision may be appealed within three months of its announcement to the parties before the Sofia City Administrative Court. The decision of the Sofia City Administrative Court is subject to cassation before the Supreme Administrative Court, whose decision is final.

The Sofia City Administrative Court and the Supreme Administrative Court may return the case back to the BPO for a new decision on the merits based on the court's explicit instructions on the application of the law.

Statistics and jurisprudence

Our research shows that at least since 1993, the year the current LoP was first adopted, there have been no procedures for granting of a compulsory licence initiated before the BPO and, consequently, there is no court practice at all on this topic.

Switzerland

Legal basis

The legal basis for compulsory licences in Switzerland is Arts. 36-40e of the Federal Act on Patents for Inventions (hereinafter Patents Act).

These provisions are intended to implement Arts. 30 and 31bis TRIPS. Even though Switzerland has no obligation to implement EU Directives, Switzerland has also implemented the Biotech Directive, including Art. 12.

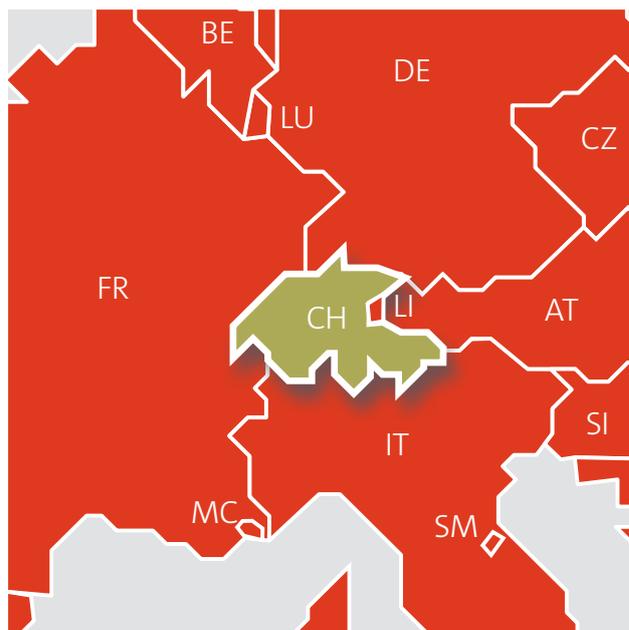
Grounds for applying for a licence

According to Art. 40e of the Patents Act, a compulsory licence may only be granted if efforts by the applicant to obtain a contractual licence on appropriate market terms within a reasonable period of time have been unsuccessful. In the case of a compulsory licence in accordance with Art. 40d (i.e. a compulsory licence for the manufacture and export of pharmaceutical products to countries with insufficient production capacities), a period of 30 working days is regarded as reasonable. Moreover, such efforts are not required in situations of national emergency or other circumstances of extreme urgency or in cases of public non-commercial use.

The court may only grant a non-exclusive licence as a compulsory licence.

Arts. 36 to 40d of the Patents Act provide for various types of compulsory licences. In addition to the general criteria according to Art. 40e of the Patents Act, the following specific criteria apply:

- Pursuant to Art. 36 Patents Act, a compulsory licence may be granted in the case of a dependent invention, i.e. if a patented invention cannot be used without infringing a prior patent. However, the proprietor of the later patent is only entitled to a compulsory licence to the extent required to use his invention, and only provided that the invention represents an important technical advance of considerable economic significance in relation to the invention that is the subject matter of the prior patent¹. The proprietor of the prior patent may make the grant of a compulsory licence conditional on the proprietor of the



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later patent granting him a compulsory licence to use his invention in return;

- According to Art. 37 Patents Act, a compulsory licence may also be granted if the proprietor of the patent has not sufficiently exploited the patented invention in Switzerland within three years from the date of the grant of the patent or at the earliest four years after the filing of the patent application unless the patentee can justify the failure to exploit the patented invention. Importation also qualifies as exploitation of the invention for the purpose of Art. 37 Patents Act².
- Pursuant to Art. 40 Patents Act, a compulsory licence may also be granted in the event that public interest renders it necessary.
- For inventions in the field of semiconductor technology, a compulsory licence may also be granted to remedy a practice held to be anti-competitive in court proceedings or in administrative proceedings before the competition authorities (Federal Competition Commission and Federal Administrative Tribunal), according to Art. 40a Patents Act. The same applies in cases of inventions concerning a diagnostic product or procedure for humans (Art. 40c Patents Act). A practice is held to be anti-competitive if it involves unlawful agreements that significantly restrict or even eliminate effective competition (including, among others, agreements to fix prices, limit quantities of goods or services and/or allocate markets geographically or according to trading

¹ Art. 36 Patents Act does not apply to plant variety rights. However, the Plant Variety Protection Act provides for an analogous compulsory licence in the event a later plant variety right cannot be used without infringing a prior plant variety right.

² This clarification was adopted as a result of Art. 27 TRIPS Agreement according to which importation also qualifies as use of the invention.

partners) or unlawful practices by dominant undertakings (including, among others, refusals to supply, discrimination against trading partners and/or imposition of unfair prices).

- Equally, any person who intends to use a patented biotechnological invention as an instrument or means for research is also entitled to a compulsory licence, according to Art. 40b Patents Act.
- Finally, in accordance with Art. 40d Patents Act, a compulsory licence may be granted for the manufacture and export of patent-protected pharmaceutical products to a country that has insufficient or no production capacity of its own in the pharmaceutical sector, and which requires these products to combat public health problems, in particular those related to HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other epidemics.

General procedure

According to Art. 40e(6) Patents Act and Art. 26(1)(a) Federal Act on the Federal Patent Court (“Patent Court Act”), the Federal Patent Court is competent to grant a compulsory licence.

In the case of a compulsory licence in accordance with Art. 40d Patents Act (i.e. a compulsory licence for the manufacture and export of pharmaceutical products to countries with insufficient production capacities and public health problems), the President of the Federal Patent Court acting as a single judge (rather than a panel of judges) is competent to grant this compulsory licence (Art. 23(1)(e) Patent Court Act).

To initiate the procedure for granting a compulsory licence, the party seeking to obtain a compulsory licence (“applicant”) files an action with the Federal Patent Court. The patentee then files a statement of defence. After this first exchange of briefs, the parties are summoned to a settlement hearing. If the parties are unable to settle the matter, there is a second exchange of briefs, possibly followed by the expert opinion of one of the technical judges. The parties can file observations on the expert opinion of the technical judge. Finally, the parties are summoned to an oral hearing for final pleadings. Following the hearing, the court issues the decision.

The court may also grant a compulsory licence by way of preliminary measures (i.e. without prejudice to the final judgment) providing that the applicant provides *prima facie* evidence that he has an interest in the immediate use of the invention and that he provides adequate security to the

patentee. The patentee has to be given an opportunity to be heard beforehand. The President of the Federal Patent Court will likely summon the parties to an oral hearing following the filing of the action and issue the decision immediately afterwards. This preliminary decision has to be confirmed in the main proceedings.

In the case of a compulsory licence in accordance with Art. 40d Patents Act (i.e. a compulsory licence for the manufacture and export of pharmaceutical products to countries with insufficient production capacities and public health problems), a special procedure applies: the President of the Federal Patent Court has to issue a decision within one month from the filing of the action, and the rules pertaining to summary proceedings apply. As there is not enough time to order a (double) exchange of briefs, the President of the Federal Patent Court will likely summon the parties to an oral hearing following the filing of the action and issue the decision immediately afterwards.

The terms of the compulsory licence, including its scope and duration as well as the remuneration payable, are determined by the court based on the court’s discretion.

The scope and term of the compulsory licence are limited to the purpose for which it has been granted. If the circumstances that led to the compulsory licence being granted no longer apply and it is not expected that they will arise again, the court shall revoke the compulsory licence on request.

The proprietor of the patent has the right to appropriate remuneration. In assessing the remuneration, the circumstances of the individual case and the economic value of the licence are taken into account. If the patent owner has previously granted licences or if there are other comparable contracts, these will equally be taken into account.

In the case of a licence under Art. 40d Patents Act, the remuneration is determined by taking into account the economic value of the licence in the importing country, its level of development and the urgency in public health and humanitarian terms.

Appeal/review

The decision can be appealed to the Federal Supreme Court.

Where a compulsory licence is granted under Art. 40d Patents Act, again special rules apply. The deadline for filing an appeal is 10 days rather than the usual 30 days. Moreover,

the appeal cannot be granted suspensive effect³, and the Federal Supreme Court must issue its decision within one month.

Statistics and jurisprudence

Court of Justice of Geneva: Parke Davis v Lamar SA (21 October 1966)

In this patent infringement proceeding, Parke Davis sued Lamar SA for infringement of six patents relating to the production of the antibiotic chloramphenicol. Lamar SA filed a counterclaim for revocation and, by way of subsidiary motion, requested the grant of a compulsory licence based on Art. 36 Patents Act (alleging a dependent invention) as well as Art. 37 Patents Act (alleging that Parke Davis had not sufficiently exploited the patented inventions in Switzerland). The Court of Justice of Geneva rejected Lamar's claims for relief and found infringement. Lamar filed an appeal to the Federal Supreme Court reiterating its claims for relief, including the grant of a compulsory licence. The Supreme Court partially approved Lamar's appeal, found three patents invalid and found infringement with regard to the other three patents. A compulsory licence was not granted.

Court of Commerce of the Canton of Zurich: Kirin-Amgen v Company X (2 July 1996)

In this preliminary injunction proceeding, Kirin-Amgen sued company X for infringement of European Patent No. 148 605 relating to the production of erythropoietin. Company X invoked invalidity and non-infringement defences and sought the grant of a compulsory licence based on Art. 40 Patents Act (alleging a public interest). The Court of Commerce of the Canton of Zurich found infringement and refused to grant a compulsory licence, holding that there was no sufficient public interest for the purpose of granting a compulsory licence, and that company X had not made a proper request for the grant of a licence as a preliminary measure.

Court of Commerce of the Canton of Bern: Mägert Bautechnik AG v Company Y (6 July 2005)

In this patent infringement proceeding, Mägert Bautechnik AG sued company Y for infringement of Swiss Patent No. 687 471 relating to stop holders for making concrete formworks. Company Y filed a counterclaim for the grant of a compulsory licence based on Art. 36 Patents Act (alleging a dependent invention). The Court of Commerce of the Canton of Bern found infringement and rejected the counterclaim for the grant of a compulsory licence, holding that defendant's invention neither represented an important technical advance nor was it economically significant.

³ An appeal to the Supreme Court does not have automatic suspensive effect, but the Supreme Court may normally grant the appeal suspensive effect upon request of the appellant. This possibility is excluded in the case of a compulsory licence granted under Article 40d Patents Act.

Cyprus

Legal basis

The legal basis for compulsory licences in Cyprus is the Patents Law, Law 16(I) of 1998, as amended (1998 to 2006) (hereinafter PL), Part IX Arts. 49 to 56, which incorporates the European Patent Convention and the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

The Biotech Directive was implemented with Cypriot law in 2002 in relation to the protection of biotechnical inventions; relevant are Arts. 2, 5A, 15A, 27A, 49A PL.

TRIPS was implemented into Cypriot law in 2002.

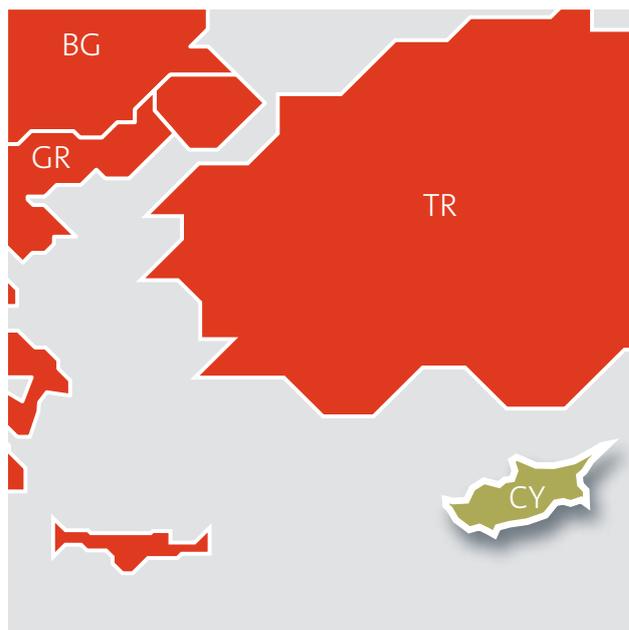
There is no specific reference to EU Regulation 816/2006 in Cypriot patent law on compulsory licensing of patents relating to the manufacture of pharmaceutical products for export to countries with public health problems.

Grounds for applying for a licence

Application under Art. 49 of the Patents Law

Art. 49 provides that at any time after the expiration of four years from the date of the grant of a patent (or any other period as may be prescribed), any person may apply to the Registrar to obtain a compulsory licence under a patent on any of the grounds specified below:

- where the patented invention is capable of being commercially exploited in Cyprus, but it is not being exploited or is not being exploited as fully as is reasonable or practicable;
- where the patented invention is a product for which there is demand in Cyprus which:
 - is not being met; or
 - is not being met on reasonable terms; or
 - in respect of which, by reason of the refusal of the proprietor of the patent to grant a licence or licences on reasonable terms:
 - a market for the export of any patented product made in Cyprus is not being supplied; or
 - the working or efficient working in Cyprus of any other patented invention which makes a substantial contribution to the art is prevented or hindered; or
 - the establishment or development of commercial or industrial activities in Cyprus is unfairly prejudiced;



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- in respect of which, by reason of conditions imposed by the proprietor of the patent on the grant of licences under the patent, or on the disposal or use of the patented product or on the use of the patented process, the manufacture, use or disposal of materials not protected by the patent, or the establishment or development of commercial or industrial activities in Cyprus is unfairly prejudiced.

If the Registrar of Companies, Patents and Trade Marks and Official Receiver (hereinafter Registrar) is satisfied that any of the above grounds are established, he may order the grant of a licence on such terms he thinks fit. Alternatively, the Registrar may by order adjourn the application for such period as will, in his opinion, give sufficient time for the invention to be used if the application is made on the ground that the patented invention is not being commercially used in Cyprus and it appears to the Registrar that the time which has elapsed since the grant of the patent has been insufficient to enable the invention to be used.

An application may be made in respect of a patent notwithstanding that the applicant is already the holder of a licence under the patent. In that event, the Registrar may, if he orders the grant of a licence to the applicant, order the existing licence to be cancelled or, instead of ordering the grant of a licence to the applicant, order the existing licence to be amended.

Under Art. 50 PL, if the Registrar is satisfied, on an application made under Art. 49, that the manufacture, use or disposal of materials not protected by the patent is unfairly

prejudiced by reason of conditions imposed by the proprietor of the patent on the grant of licences under the patent, or on the disposal or use of the patented product or the use of the patented process, he may order the grant of licences under the patent to such customers of the applicant as he thinks fit as well as to the applicant.

If the Registrar orders the grant of a licence under Art. 49 PL, he may direct that the licence should revoke all existing licences granted under the patent or deprive the proprietor of the patent of any right to work the invention concerned or to grant licences under the patent.

Art. 51 PL sets out the principles to be followed by the Registrar when deciding the outcome of applications under Art. 49 for compulsory licences. They are:

- inventions that can be exploited on a commercial scale in Cyprus and that it is in the public interest to exploit should be exploited there without undue delay and to the fullest extent that is reasonably practicable;
- the inventor or other person beneficially entitled to a patent should receive reasonable remuneration having regard to the nature of the invention;
- the interests of any person working or developing an invention in Cyprus under the protection of a patent at the time should not be unfairly prejudiced.

The Registrar is required to take the following matters into account:

- (i) the nature of the invention, the time that has elapsed since the publication in the Official Gazette of the Republic of a notice of the grant of the patent and the measures already taken by the proprietor of the patent or any licensee to make full use of the invention;
- (ii) the ability of any person to whom a licence would be granted under the order concerned to work the invention to the public advantage; and
- (iii) the risks to be undertaken by that person in providing capital and working the invention if the application for an order is granted.

The Registrar is not required to take account of matters occurring after the making of the application.

Grant of a compulsory licence by the Council of Ministers

In the interests of national security or public safety, the Council of Ministers may authorise the grant of a licence to a

government agency or a specified person to make, use or sell an invention to which a patent or an application for a patent relates, subject to payment of equitable remuneration to the proprietor of the patent or the patent application. The decision of the Council of Ministers with regard to remuneration may be the subject of recourse to the Supreme Court.

General procedure

The authority with jurisdiction to grant a compulsory licence is the Registrar. The Council of Ministers may also authorise the grant of a licence, where national security or public safety so requires.

Art. 56 PL provides that the following principles should be respected with regard to compulsory licences:

- each case must be considered on its individual merits;
- a licence should be permitted only if the proposed user has made efforts to obtain authorisation from the right holder on reasonable commercial terms and conditions and has not succeeded in doing so within a reasonable period of time. This requirement does not apply in the case of a national emergency or other circumstance of extreme urgency or in cases of public non-commercial use. Even so, the right holder must be notified as soon as reasonably practicable;
- the scope and duration of use of the right should be limited to the purpose for which it was authorised, and in the case of semiconductor technology should only be for public non-commercial use or to remedy a practice determined after judicial or administrative process to be anti-competitive;
- the use of the right should be non-exclusive and non-assignable, except with the enterprise or business to which it is granted, and predominantly for the purposes of supplying the domestic market;
- subject to adequate protection of the legitimate interests of the person to whom it is granted, the licence should be terminable if and when the circumstances which led to it cease to exist and are unlikely to recur; and
- the right holder should be paid adequate remuneration in the circumstances of each case, taking into account the economic value of the authorisation.

Under Art. 52 PL the proprietor of the patent concerned or any other person wishing to oppose an application may submit a notice of opposition to the Registrar, which the Registrar must consider when deciding whether to grant the application. In the event of opposition, the Registrar may order the whole proceedings, or any question or issue of fact arising in them, to be referred to an arbitrator or mediator,

whose findings the Registrar will accept. If the parties cannot agree on a suitable appointee, the Registrar will decide on the appointment.

Art. 49 PL gives the Registrar discretion to grant a licence on such terms as he thinks fit, but this is subject to the court's jurisdiction to review the legal validity of any decision regarding a compulsory licence contained in Art. 56 PL.

Appeal/review

The Registrar's decision may be referred to the Administrative Court for review and the decision of the Administrative Court may be appealed before the Supreme Court panel of three Supreme Court judges.

The legal validity of any decision regarding a compulsory licence is subject to review by the Supreme Court.

Statistics and jurisprudence

There has been only one case in recent years, which related to licensing of a medication for a genetic condition ordered by the Council of Ministers under Art. 55 PL, but there is no reported decision as the issue was not contested.

Czech Republic

Legal basis

The principal legal basis for compulsory licences is the Act on Inventions and Rationalisation Proposals No. 527/1990 Coll., as amended (Czech Patent Act, hereinafter PA). Compulsory licences are governed by Section 20 PA. The proceedings are governed by Section 22 of the Decree No. 550/1990 Coll., on the procedure in matters of inventions and industrial designs as amended.

To implement Art. 12 Biotech Directive as well as EU Regulation 816/2006, Section 9 of the Act No. 206/2000 Coll., on the protection of biotechnological inventions and Section 21 of the Act No. 408/2000 Coll., on the protection of plant varieties, as amended, apply respectively.

Grounds for applying for a licence

The grounds for granting compulsory licence are:

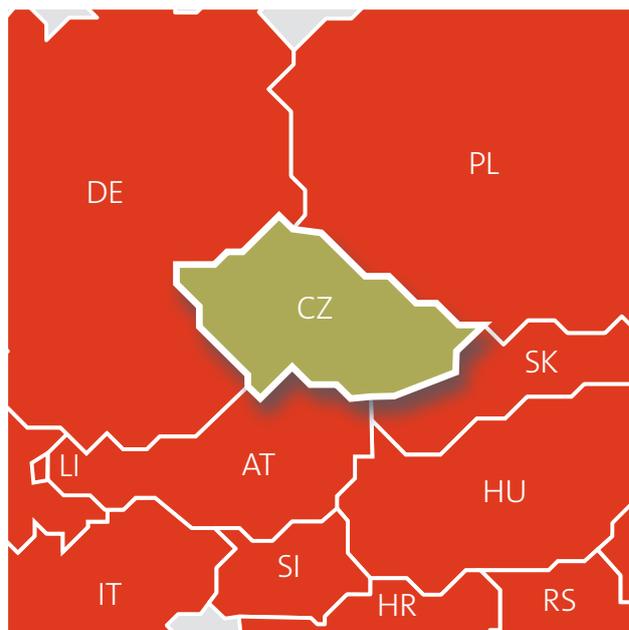
- the patentee does not use the invention or uses it insufficiently without due reasons and did not accept a reasonable offer to conclude a licence agreement within a reasonable term. Importation of a patented product also qualifies as use of the invention;
- such compulsory licence cannot be granted before four years from patent application filing date or three years from the grant, whichever term expires later; or
- threat to important public interest.

With regard to biotechnological inventions, a compulsory licence may be granted if:

- a breeder cannot obtain or exploit a plant or animal variety right without infringing a prior patent; and
- the breeding certificate holder unsuccessfully requested the patentee to conclude a licence; and
- if the plant or animal variety constitutes significant technical progress of considerable economic interest compared with the invention.

General procedure

The Industrial Property Office of the Czech Republic (hereinafter the Office) is the authority competent to grant a compulsory licence upon application by a third party. The Office conducts administrative proceedings under the Czech Code of Administrative Procedure.



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The application for a compulsory licence is submitted in writing to the Office and the applicant must substantiate the grounds and demonstrate fulfilment of the above-mentioned criteria. The Office will invite the patentee to respond to the compulsory licence application.

The Office examines whether the compulsory licence application complies with the conditions set out in Section 20 PA. The terms, scope and duration of the compulsory licence are determined with respect to the circumstances of the case.

In reaching their decision, the Office applies the general principles of administrative decision-making under the Czech Code of Administrative Procedure as well as general legal principles, in particular protection of legitimate interests, proportionality and public interest.

A compulsory licence can be granted primarily to supply the domestic market. The grant of a compulsory licence does not affect the right of the patentee for payment of licence fees. If the parties cannot agree, the amount of the licence fees shall be determined by the Prague City Court. The compulsory licence shall be recorded in the patent register.

Appeal/review

The decision on grant or rejection of the compulsory licence may be appealed within one month to the President of the Office. The appellate decision may be subject to administrative review relating to all factual and legal aspects

before the Prague City Court. The judgment of the Prague City Court may be challenged in a cassation complaint with the Czech Supreme Administrative Court.

Statistics and jurisprudence

Compulsory licence procedures are rare in the Czech Republic. One request was filed for a compulsory licence in 2000 by Czech company EXIMPO, a.s. against Philips Electronics, N.V. The application was rejected, because the patentee proved that it sufficiently works the invention through licensees in the Czech Republic.

In addition, the Office held that refusal to conclude a licence agreement under conditions less favourable for the licensor than standard terms offered to other licensees did not constitute unreasonable refusal to conclude an offer to conclude a licence.

CZ

Germany

Legal basis

Section 24 Patent Act (*Patent Gesetz*, hereinafter PatG).

Section 24(2) and (3) PatG was amended in order to implement the Biotech Directive.

EU Regulation 816/2006 did not lead to a change in Section 24 PatG, as the content of Section 24 PatG was deemed to be in line with the Regulation.

Grounds for applying for a licence

According to Section 24(1) PatG, it must be demonstrated that:

(1) the applicant has tried, within a reasonable period of time, unsuccessfully to obtain permission from the proprietor of the patent to use the invention on reasonable commercial terms and conditions;

(2) the public interest calls for the grant of a compulsory licence.

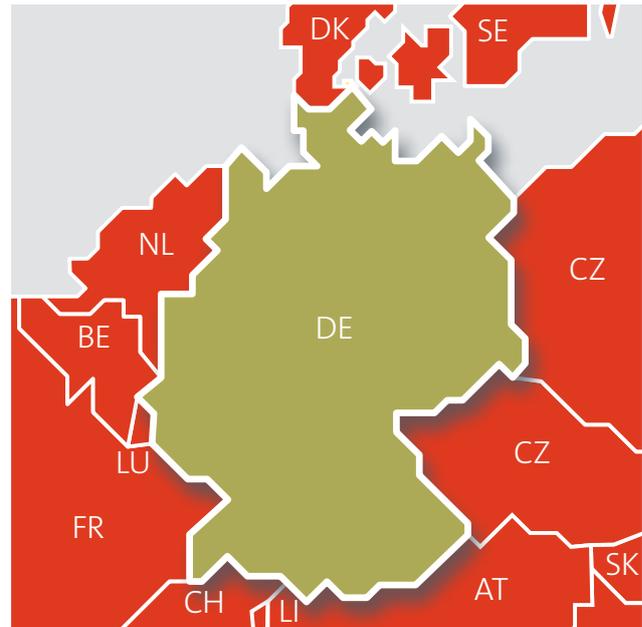
When the applicant has a dependent patent, Section 24(2) PatG adds to the abovementioned requirements:

“Where a licence seeker cannot exploit an invention for which he holds protection under a patent with a later filing or priority date without infringing a patent with an earlier filing or priority date, he shall be entitled, in respect of the proprietor of the patent with the earlier filing or priority date, to the grant of a compulsory licence from the proprietor of the patent if:

1. the condition [set out in Sect. 24(1)(1) PatG] is fulfilled; and

2. his own invention demonstrates an important technological advance of substantial economic significance compared to that of the patent with the earlier filing or priority date.”

The proprietor of the patent can require the licence seeker to grant him a cross-licence on reasonable terms and conditions for the use of the patented invention with the later filing or priority date.



“(3) Section 24(2) PatG shall apply mutatis mutandis where a plant breeder cannot obtain or exploit a plant variety right without infringing an earlier patent.”

A special clause applies to the field of semiconductor technology. Here it is mandatory that the compulsory licence is granted only to overcome anti-competitive practices pursued by the proprietor of the patent. These practices have to be established in court or administrative proceedings according to Section 24(4) PatG:

“A compulsory licence under subsection (1) may be granted for a patented invention in the field of semiconductor technology only where this is necessary to eliminate those anti-competitive practices pursued by the proprietor of the patent which have been established in court or administrative proceedings.”

Further special requirements are set out in Section 24(5) to (7) PatG:

“(5) Where the proprietor of the patent does not apply the patented invention in Germany or does not do so predominantly, compulsory licences in accordance with Subsection (1) may be granted to ensure an adequate supply of the patented product on the German market. Import shall thus be equivalent to the use of the patent in Germany.

(6) *The grant of a compulsory licence in respect of a patent shall be admissible only after the patent has been granted. The compulsory licence may be granted subject to limitations and made dependent on conditions. The extent and the duration of use shall be limited to the purpose for which the compulsory licence was granted. The proprietor of the patent shall be entitled to remuneration from the proprietor of the compulsory licence, such remuneration being equitable in the circumstances of the case and taking into account the economic value of the compulsory licence. Where, in relation to recurrent remuneration payments due in the future, there is a substantial change in the circumstances which governed the fixing of the amount of remuneration, each party shall be entitled to require a corresponding adjustment. Where the circumstances upon which the grant of a compulsory licence was based no longer apply and if their recurrence is improbable, the proprietor of the patent can require withdrawal of the compulsory licence.*

(7) *A compulsory licence in respect of a patent may be transferred only together with the business that is involved in exploiting the invention. A compulsory licence in respect of an invention which is the subject matter of a patent with an earlier filing or priority date may be transferred only together with the patent with a later filing or priority date.”*

General procedure

The Federal Patent Court (*Bundespatentgericht*) is competent to grant a compulsory licence. The applicant must apply for a compulsory licence before the Federal Patent Court, either as part of the main proceedings or with a preliminary injunction (Section 85 PatG).

The court must apply Section 24(6) PatG, which states that the compulsory licence may be subject to limitations and can be dependent on conditions. Those limitations and conditions should be in line with the purpose of the compulsory licence.

The court also has the discretion to determine the amount for the remuneration accorded to the patent owner. As a starting point, a court would consider a “usual” licence. However, it shall be taken into account that the risk of revocation or invalidity stays with the patentee. Therefore, if a comparison to a licence agreement in which a licensee would refrain from attacking the patent cannot be made, the criteria for determining the reasonable royalty can be different. Hence the remuneration payable for the compulsory licence shall be reasonably higher than a usual non-exclusive licence.

The Federal Court of Justice (*Bundesgerichtshof*, hereinafter FCJ) has recently provided guidance on how to apply the requirements set out in the PatG:

(i) It is sufficient that the applicant has tried to obtain permission by the end of the oral hearing. However, the potential licensee must have tried to compromise with the patentee over a certain period of time. Therefore, it is not sufficient for the potential licensee to only declare his will to take a licence at the last minute, meaning during the proceedings.

The term “reasonable conditions” also suggests that mere mock negotiations are not sufficient. The court may however decide at its own discretion how far the range of offers and counteroffers can be spread. The FCJ explicitly states that the potential results of an invalidity proceeding against the patent can be taken into account when assessing the reasonableness of the offers. It is not necessary for the applicant to give a specific number – this will ultimately be set by the court. It is sufficient that the applicant declare that they are willing to pay a reasonable licence fee.

(ii) The term “public interest” can, according to a recent decision of the FCJ, not be described in general. Whether or not the public interest calls for a compulsory licence is always a question of the particular facts of the case. Therefore, special circumstances need to be present. According to the case law of the FCJ, public interest exists if a medicine to treat serious illnesses has specific therapeutic characteristics that comparable medicines do not have, or not to the same extent. Furthermore, public interest can exist if the use of such a medicine leads to a reduction of side effects that would have been suffered when prescribing/using different medicines. However, public interest cannot exist if there is a similar treatment possible with a different medicine.

(iii) In the special situation that the applicant asks the FCJ for a compulsory licence by way of a preliminary injunction, then it is not the interests of the parties that need to be weighed against each other but the interest of the patentee to exert his exclusive position against the above-described public interest. The interest of the applicant is of no relevance as the compulsory licence will be granted to the applicant so that he can use the licence for the public interest.

Appeal/review

The decision of the Federal Patent Court may be appealed before the FCJ.

Statistics and jurisprudence

There have been two cases in Germany concerning compulsory licences, one case where the compulsory licence was not granted and, more recently, one where it was.

BGH - GRUR 1996, 190 (192) – Interferon-gamma/Polyferon: not granted

In this case, the Federal Patent Court granted the compulsory licence. However, on appeal the FCJ denied it as all requirements were not fulfilled.

More specifically, the FCJ declined the public interest argument. The patentee had a patent on the active ingredient Interferon-gamma. The applicant found a new use of this active ingredient for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. The applicant was even granted a patent for that specific use. This patent was however dependent on the patentee's interferon-gamma patent, so that the patentee could demand from the applicant to cease and desist from offering medicine for that specific use. The applicant was furthermore granted an authorisation for the medicine Polyferon, which was the embodiment of the specific use that the applicant discovered.

In its decision, the FCJ found that neither the fact that a patent had been granted for a new use of the active ingredient nor the authorisation as a medicine could constitute a public interest. Furthermore, the FCJ stated that the patentee was also exploring the use of Interferon-gamma to treat rheumatoid arthritis. The FCJ also came to the conclusion that there were other medicines available which could be used in a similar way as Polyferon. It was not sufficiently proven by the applicant that Polyferon was the only available medicine for any subset of patients. Therefore, the FCJ denied the existence of a public interest and rejected the claim for a compulsory licence.

BGH GRUR 2017, 1017 Rn. 22 f. – Raltegravir: compulsory licence granted (in preliminary injunction proceedings)

This is the first case in which a compulsory licence granted by the Federal Patent Court was upheld by the FCJ. In addition, it was granted in preliminary injunction proceedings.

The applicant distributes the medicine Isentress that includes the active ingredient Raltegravir. This medicine can be used for the treatment of HIV. The patentee claimed that Raltegravir falls under the scope of protection of their patent and started infringement proceedings. The patentee also offers a medicine for the treatment of HIV that falls under the scope of the patent. Parallel to the infringement proceedings, the parties talk about worldwide licences. After the infringement complaint was filed, the applicant filed a complaint with the Federal Patent Court to obtain a compulsory licence (as a main action). After the applicant filed the main action, they later filed the request in addition as a preliminary injunction request.

The FCJ decided that the applicant had requested a licence from the patentee on reasonable terms, especially since the applicant had claimed a compulsory licence and requested the Court to set the licence fee. Furthermore, the applicant had stated that previous licence offers did not present a maximum value for a compulsory licence. The applicant would have accepted any licence fee the court set. Therefore, the first requirement according to Section 24(1) PatG was fulfilled.

The FCJ went on to state that there was a public interest in the continued availability of a medicine for HIV, even though only a small group of patients would have been affected (second requirement). The court determined that there was a considerable risk of serious side effects, interaction or therapy failure for the patients if they had to change the medicine. This would have been the case had the patentee been successful with their infringement suits and the applicant would have had to stop selling Raltegravir. In that case, all patients undergoing treatment with Raltegravir would have had to change the treatment to different medicines with a considerable risk of side effects. The FCJ therefore confirmed that the public interest condition was met.

Denmark

Legal basis

The legal basis for compulsory licences under Danish patent law is the Danish Patents Act (hereinafter Patents Act) Chapter VI (Sections 45-50).

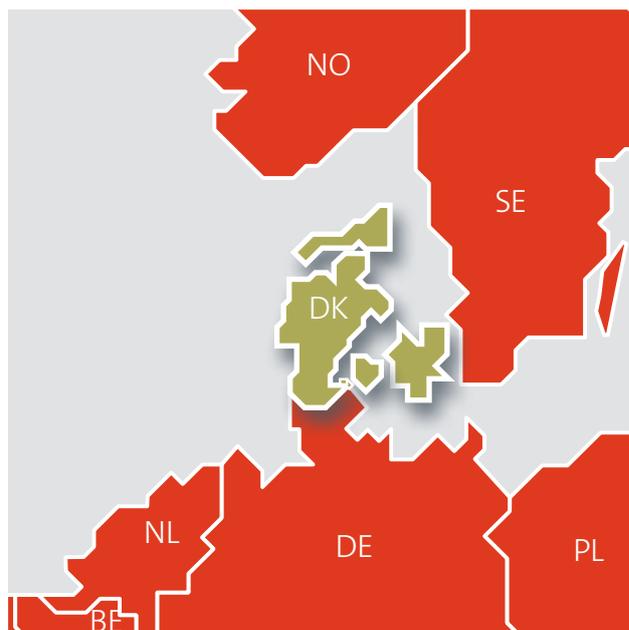
The Patents Act implements the Biotech Directive. EU Regulation 816/2006 is directly applicable under Danish law.

Grounds for applying for a licence

According to Section 49 Patents Act (the “general criteria”), a compulsory licence may be granted only if (i) it has not been possible to obtain a licence through agreement on reasonable terms and (ii) the licensee is considered capable of exploiting the invention in a proper and reasonable manner and in compliance with the licence.

The specific criteria in Sections 45-48 of the Patents Act provide various scenarios according to which a compulsory licence may be granted:

- Pursuant to Section 45, a compulsory licence may be granted if the patented invention is not exercised in Denmark (or in the EU, EEA or a WTO state) to a reasonable extent within 3 years of the grant of the patent or 4 years from the filing of the patent application, unless legitimate reasons exist. For the purpose of Section 45, import does not amount to work of the invention. However, work of the patented invention within EU or EEA or a state that has ratified the WTO is with respect to the question of compulsory licence equivalent to work of the patent in Denmark. Therefore, the exception regarding import is of very little significance (i.e. in relation to non-WTO states only).
- Pursuant to Section 46, the proprietor of a patented invention, the exploitation of which is dependent on a patent or a registered utility model which belongs to another person, may be granted a compulsory licence to exploit the invention protected by said patent or utility model registration, provided that the former invention constitutes significant technical progress of considerable economic importance.
- According to Section 46a(1) of the Patents Act, a breeder who cannot acquire or exploit a plant variety right without infringing a prior patent may apply for a compulsory licence for the exploitation of the invention, provided that the compulsory licence is necessary for the exploitation of the plant variety to be protected, subject



to the payment of an appropriate royalty. The compulsory licence shall be granted only if the breeder demonstrates that the variety constitutes significant technical progress of considerable economic importance compared with the invention.

- Pursuant to Section 47, a compulsory licence may be granted when essential public interests render it necessary.
- Pursuant to Section 48, a compulsory licence may be granted to a person who, at the time of the filing of a patent application, was already exploiting the invention described in the application. However, this requires very special circumstances in favour of such a grant and it is essential that the person who exploited the invention commercially did not know of the application and could not reasonably have obtained knowledge thereof.

General procedure

Pursuant to Section 50 of the Patents Act, the grant of a compulsory licence requires court proceedings, the Maritime and Commercial High Court being the sole competent entity for granting compulsory licences.

The court assesses whether the general criteria in Section 49 of the Patents Act and one (or more) of the specific criteria in Sections 45-48 of the Patents Act are met.

It is unclear whether there is the possibility of obtaining a compulsory licence by way of preliminary relief. Arguably, the rules allow the Maritime and Commercial High Court or the

district court to order a compulsory licence as a preliminary measure. On the other hand, it may be argued that the competence to grant compulsory licences lies only with the Maritime and Commercial High Court in cases on the merits, according to Section 50 of the Patents Act. Whether that would prevent the same court from granting a compulsory licence as a preliminary measure is unclear. If a potential compulsory licence can be granted as a preliminary measure, it would probably at least require that the person requesting the compulsory licence had negotiated with the patentee to obtain a licence by agreement first, according to Section 49 of the Patents Act. Further, the person requesting the compulsory licence would have to prove that the requirements for obtaining a compulsory licence were fulfilled.

The terms of the compulsory licence, including the compensation level and the extent of the licence, are determined by the court based on the court's discretion. In general, the extent of a compulsory licence should not be more extensive than necessary considering the circumstances that prompt the grant of the compulsory licence. The court can determine the nature, volume, time frame and geographical extent of the utilisation. As to the nature and volume of the exploitation, this usually covers all commercial use, although there are substantial exceptions hereto. If the court does not specify a time frame for the compulsory licence, the licence is valid as long as the patent is. The geographical scope of the compulsory licence is limited to the state of Denmark.

The compensation level is determined in accordance with the general principles on damages. Thus, the patent owner is to be fully compensated for the loss he incurs due to the grant of a compulsory licence. Due to the difficulties of determining this loss, the courts usually set the damages on a discretionary basis. If the patent owner has previously granted licences or if there are other comparable contracts, these will be taken into account. Otherwise, the compensation will correspond to the value to the exploiter of using the patent or in the absence of such specific value the value will generally be determined as 5% of the sales price of the sold packaged units ex works. This compensation level has its basis in a decision from 1966 (see below).

Appeal/review

Decisions delivered by the Maritime and Commercial High Court or the district court can be appealed to the Eastern or Western High Court, or the Supreme Court, see the Danish Administration of Justice Act, Sections 368(1) and (4).

According to Section 368(4) of the Danish Administration of Justice Act, a decision delivered by the High Courts or the

Maritime and Commercial High Court may be appealed to the Supreme Court if the outcome of the case is of fundamental legal importance and of general importance to the application and development of the law or has significant societal implications in general, or where there are other special reasons why the case should be heard before the Supreme Court.

Statistics and jurisprudence

There have been three cases concerning compulsory licences (as reported in *Ugeskrift for Retsvæsen*: U 1972.325H, U 1966.566H, 1943.752/2H).

The leading one is a Supreme Court decision from 17 June 1966 (case No. I 194/1964 (U.1966.566H)). The Danish Patents Commission granted a compulsory licence (today, only the courts have such competence, as described above) to a defendant due to the fact that the patent for a medicinal product (phenylbutazone) had not been sufficiently exploited in Denmark considering the demand for it and without there being any legitimate reasons for it. The decision by the Patent Commission was confirmed by the Maritime and Commercial Court and subsequently by the Supreme Court. The courts did not find that there was any information in the trials which could give reason to change the compensation level awarded by the Patent Commission, which was 5% of the sales price ex works. The compensation level in the decision has since been considered the standard level in this type of case if another compensation level is not substantiated to be more relevant.

In the case reported in U.1972.325H, the Danish Ministry of Defence had imported SAAB Draken fighter planes that had catapult seats. An English company had a patent to a delaying mechanism that was part of the catapult seat. The Danish Ministry of Defence and SAAB were awarded a compulsory licence for said delaying mechanism. The amount awarded was set by the Supreme Court to GBP 100 per seat. The majority of the court stated that, considering the significance of the technology for the catapult seat, the court found that although the compensation should be less than a licence for the entire catapult seat (which had a price of GBP 4,000), the compensation should anyway be reasonable in comparison to the price for the entire seat.

The third decision reported in U.1943.752/2H concerned a compulsory licence for a medicinal product (Isopropylantipyrin), in which the Supreme Court confirmed a compulsory licence for production of a medicine during the Second World War as the product was not exploited in Denmark. The compensation awarded is not considered generally applicable.

Estonia

Legal basis

Estonian Patents Act of 16 March 1994 (hereinafter PA).

The Biotech Directive was implemented several years before Estonia joined the EU in 2004, and EU Regulation 816/2006 applies directly.

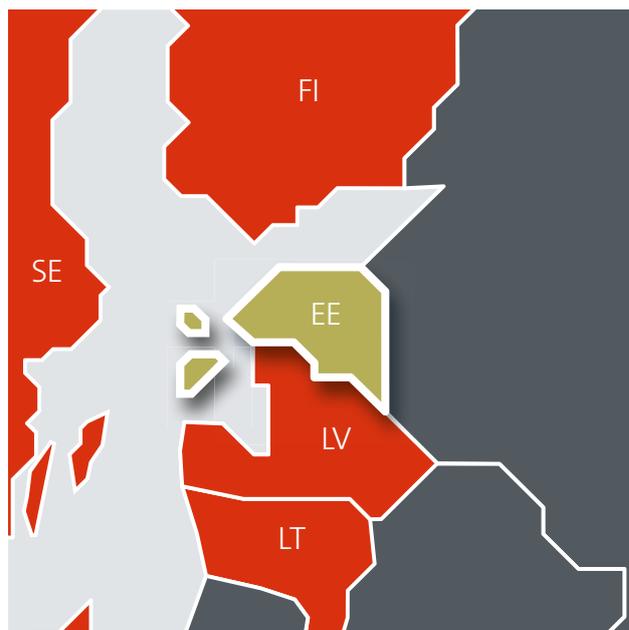
Grounds for applying for a licence

Pursuant to Section 47(1) PA, a person who is interested in using a patented invention and is capable of doing so in the Republic of Estonia, may, upon refusal of the proprietor of the patent to grant a licence, file a court action to acquire a compulsory licence in any of the following cases:

- the proprietor of the patent has not used the invention in the Republic of Estonia within three years from the publication of the notice concerning the grant of the patent or within four years from the filing of the patent application, whereas the term which expires later shall apply;
- the proprietor of the patent does not use the invention to an extent corresponding to the needs of the domestic market of the Republic of Estonia;
- the patent hinders the use of another, technically advanced invention significant for the economy of the Republic of Estonia;
- national defence, environmental protection, public health and other significant national interests of the Republic of Estonia require the use of the invention, including the need to use the invention in connection with a natural disaster or other emergency;
- the patent hinders the grant of plant variety rights pursuant to the Plant Propagation and Plant Variety Rights Act or the use of the protected variety.

Pursuant to Section 47(2) PA, a compulsory licence shall not be granted if the proprietor of a patent imports the product protected by the patent from any member state of the WTO to an extent corresponding to the needs of the domestic market of the Republic of Estonia.

The legal basis for compulsory licences for protected plant varieties is laid down in Section 53(1) of the Estonian Plant Propagation and Plant Variety Rights, which provides that a person interested in using and able to use the variety protected by the plant variety right may apply for a compulsory licence in the following cases:



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- 1) the use of the protected variety is in the public interest, or
- 2) the licensor has not, within three years after the plant variety right was granted, used the variety or issued a licence for use of the variety to another person.

General procedure

Granting compulsory licences for inventions is under the jurisdiction of Harju County Court as the court of first instance. Granting compulsory licences for protected plant varieties falls under the jurisdiction of the Estonian Minister of Rural Affairs.

Inventions

A prerequisite for the grant of a compulsory licence for an invention is the refusal of the proprietor of the patent to grant a licence, so the person interested in a compulsory licence must first ask the proprietor of the patent for a voluntary licence. If the proprietor of the patent refuses, it is possible to file an action for obtaining a compulsory licence with a court. The court hears the action in accordance with the general rules of civil procedure, with the patent proprietor participating as the defendant, and at the end of the proceeding issues a decision granting or refusing the action. A compulsory licence granted by the court is valid as of the date of making an entry in the register of patents based on the respective court decision.

Upon the grant of a compulsory licence for an invention, the court shall determine the terms and conditions of the compulsory licence, including the extent and duration of the use of the invention and the amount and procedure for payment of the licence fee. The extent and duration of the use of the invention shall be determined on the basis of the needs of the domestic market of the Republic of Estonia. If circumstances change after a compulsory licence has been granted, both the licensor and the licensee may file a new action with a court for amendment of the terms of the compulsory licence.

by filing a challenge to the decision in administrative procedure or filing a complaint to the administrative court. The administrative court's decision may in turn be appealed in higher courts.

Statistics and jurisprudence

None to date.

Plant varieties

To obtain a compulsory licence for a protected plant variety, the person interested in using the plant variety must submit a relevant application to the Minister of Rural Affairs. The application shall set out the information proving the existence of the basis for a compulsory licence (as described above). The owner of the plant variety is notified of the application and may submit its opinion. Based on the information contained in the application, the Minister shall assess whether the issue of the compulsory licence is justified and shall make a decision to issue or to refuse a compulsory licence within 30 working days after the receipt of the application. The right to exploit a protected variety arising from a compulsory licence is created as of the date of making the relevant entry in the Plant Varieties Register.

A compulsory licence will set out the extent of the use of the rights attached to the protected variety subject to transfer as well as the territory where those rights may be used, and specify the licence fee which the licensee must pay to the holder of the plant variety rights. The licence fee will be based on the average licence fee applied to relevant plant species. In the event of a compulsory licence for exploitation of an essentially derived variety, payment of a fee to the holder of the initial variety right will also be prescribed. A compulsory licence is issued for a term of two to four years. If the circumstances which constituted the basis for issue of a compulsory licence continue to exist at the time of expiry of the term of the compulsory licence, the licensee may apply for a new compulsory licence for a term of four years.

Appeal/review

The court decision granting or refusing a compulsory licence for an invention may be appealed first to the circuit court and further to the Supreme Court.

The Minister's decision granting or refusing a compulsory licence for protected plant varieties may be disputed either

Spain

Legal basis

Arts. 91 to 101 of the new Patents Act (Ley 24/2015, hereinafter “nLP”). This piece of legislation replaces the former Patents Act (Ley 11/1986) as amended, *inter alia* by the legislation Ley 10/2002, which implemented the Biotech Directive in Spain.

The 2015 Patents Act explicitly refers to EU Regulation 816/2006.

Grounds for applying for a licence

Pursuant to the nLP, compulsory licences may be applied for in the following situations:

- Failure to exploit or insufficient exploitation of the patented invention (for more than four years after the filing of the patent application, or three years after the publication of the mention of grant, whichever expires later). Importation may be sufficient to avoid a compulsory licence for lack of working of the invention. What is required by the Spanish law is simply that the invention is put in practice (by the patentee or with his authorisation) in any member state of the WTO, in a sufficient amount so as to satisfy the demand of the Spanish market. The Supreme Court Judgment (Contentious-Administrative Chamber) of 6 February 2003, Appeal No. 2966/1997, for example (cited below) considered that a product that was being imported from Japan to Belgium and then shipped to Spain qualified as sufficient working of the invention for the purpose of this provision of the Spanish Patents Act;
- Dependent patents (including dependency between patents and plant varieties);
- Violations of competition law (in cases where the patent holder has been declared to violate competition law, competition authorities may impose that in order to restore competition a patent must be subject to compulsory licence; if such a requirement becomes final in the administrative or judicial channel, it shall be communicated to the Spanish Patent and Trademark Office, which shall initiate the compulsory licence procedure);
- Reasons of public interest;
- Compulsory licences issued according to EU Regulation 816/2006.



General procedure

The Spanish Patent and Trademark Office (*Oficina Española de Patentes y Marcas*, hereinafter OEPM) is competent to grant a compulsory licence.

The procedure is described in Arts. 97 to 99 nLP and can be summarised as follows:

- (1) Before applying for a compulsory licence, the interested party must prove that it has tried to obtain from the patentee a licence on commercially reasonable terms, and that such agreement has not been possible after a reasonable time.
- (2) The request for the compulsory licence, together with the proof of the previous attempt to obtain the licence amicably, plus the evidence that the applicant has the necessary capacity to exploit the patent, plus the receipt of payment of the applicable taxes, must be filed before the OEPM.
- (3) The OEPM will then give the patentee one month to reply to the request.
- (4) If the patentee fails to reply, the OEPM will unilaterally grant the licence. If the patentee replies and the OEPM finds that the conditions for granting the licence are met, it will prompt both parties to agree on a mediator, or alternatively that each of them appoints an expert

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who, together with the expert appointed by the OEPM, will determine the terms of the licence. The OEPM will decide unilaterally when disagreements arise.

- (5) The decision adopted by the OEPM is appealable at an administrative level and ultimately before the contentious administrative courts, but this appeal has no suspensive effect unless so requested and justified by the licensee.

There is no provision in Spanish law that expressly provides for the possibility of obtaining a compulsory licence by way of preliminary relief. However, the provisional measures that both courts and administrative bodies may adopt under general procedural law constitute an open list, and therefore in cases of urgency it might be theoretically possible for the OEPM (or, ultimately, for the contentious-administrative courts) to provisionally grant a compulsory licence, if circumstances so justify, while proceedings are pending. Also, in an indirect manner, a similar result might be achieved if a civil court refuses a preliminary injunction (applied for by the patentee) on the grounds that a compulsory licence (or, in the context, for instance, of standard-essential patents, a FRAND commitment) should apply.

Requests for compulsory licences are very rare in practice and so far have been anecdotal. They are, however, subject to procedural regulations. Otherwise the decision will be subject to review, according to the general norms of administrative law. Any administrative decision which is believed to infringe the law can be subject to an administrative appeal by the interested party before the superior body, or before the same body if there is no superior body, within one month, and if this appeal is dismissed, the interested party may then file a judicial appeal before the contentious-administrative courts in the two months following the notification of the dismissal.

In the event of disagreement between the parties or between the experts appointed by the parties, the OEPM has discretion as to the terms of the compulsory licence.

The OEPM issues a decision and has discretion to determine the terms of the licence, including its scope, royalties, duration and guarantees that must be offered by the licensee, and any other relevant clauses. The following rules apply (Arts.100 and 101 nLP):

- Compulsory licences are non-exclusive.
- The remuneration (royalties) is determined based on the economic importance of the invention.

- The parties must act in good faith. For the patentee this means *inter alia* that it must disclose to the licensee the know-how in its possession that is necessary for an adequate exploitation of the invention.
- The compulsory licence will also be extended to the supplementary protection certificates that may be granted for the patent.
- The compulsory licence cannot be assigned to the licensee unless with the whole business or business unit in charge of its exploitation. In the case of dependent patents, it is also necessary that the dependent patent is assigned together with the compulsory licence over the previous patent.
- Sub-licensing is prohibited and will be deemed null and void.
- The OEPM, through the procedure explained above, will determine the remaining conditions regarding the scope of the licence, its duration, the guarantees that may be requested from the licensee, and any other relevant clauses. General rules on licensing apply to fill in any possible gaps.
- Any of the parties may submit a request to the OEPM for the amendment of the terms of the compulsory licence when there are new circumstances that justify so. In particular, the licensee can request the amendment of the terms of the compulsory licence if the patentee has granted voluntary licences to other third parties in more favourable terms.
- The OEPM, ex officio or at the request of the interested party, may declare the termination of the licence, after hearing the licensee, if the licensee incurs a material or repeated breach of the terms of the compulsory licence.

Appeal/review

The decision reached by the OEPM is appealable at an administrative level (i.e. to be resolved within the OEPM) and subsequently before the contentious-administrative courts, first to the *Tribunal Superior de Justicia*, then to the Contentious-Administrative Chamber of the *Tribunal Supremo*. The appeal will be heard by the *Tribunal Supremo* only if it deems the case to have a cassational interest for the formation of case law.

Statistics and jurisprudence

The OEPM has published statistics for compulsory licences between 1986 and 2010 only. Six applications for compulsory licences were reported by the OEPM during that period: one

application (denied) related to a national patent, two applications (denied) related to European patents, and three applications (one denied, and two archived for reasons not reported – presumably settled or deemed to be withdrawn) related to utility models.

As for court precedents on compulsory licences, these include:

Supreme Court Judgment (Contentious-Administrative Chamber) of 6 February 2003, Appeal No. 2966/1997

A pharmaceutical company had requested a compulsory licence over a patent that was considered to be unexploited in Spain. The OEPM refused to grant the licence and Madrid's High Court of Justice revoked the OEPM decision based on formal reasons, namely the fact that the OEPM had not respected the established procedure for granting compulsory licences. However, the patentee appealed before the Supreme Court, which reinstated the original OEPM decision, denying the compulsory licence on the grounds that a compulsory licence cannot be granted in a situation when the substantive requirements are not met. In this case it was concluded that the patent was being exploited in Belgium, and therefore this exploitation in an EU member state was considered sufficient in view of the rulings of the Court of Justice of the European Union in the cases C-60/1990 and C-235/1989.

Supreme Court Judgment (Criminal Chamber) of 29 April 2015, appeal No. 20119/2015

This decision deals with a social problem that was widely reported in the Spanish media, namely a criminal complaint (among other collective actions such as demonstrations and protests) filed by a group of patients suffering from hepatitis C. This complaint was filed against the Minister of Health for, *inter alia*, refusing to grant a compulsory licence that would enable these patients to have access to a life-saving patented medicine that, due to budgetary constraints, at that time was accessible only to 10% of the patients within the context of the public health system. The complaint was dismissed by the Supreme Court on the grounds that the possibility of granting compulsory licences in cases of public interest is at the discretion of the government, and not an obligation imposed by the law.

Supreme Court Judgments (Contentious-Administrative Chamber) of 25 May 2001 and 26 May 1994, Appeals No. 4083/1994 and 545/1992

The OEPM closed the compulsory licence proceedings because the parties settled. The patentee appealed the OEPM's decision but the Court of Appeals and later the Supreme Court dismissed the appeal and confirmed the OEPM's decision. Since a licence agreement between the parties was reached, it was no longer a compulsory licence (subject to the contentious administrative courts) but a contractual licence (subject to the civil courts) and therefore the contentious administrative jurisdiction could not rule in relation to its validity.

Finland

Legal basis

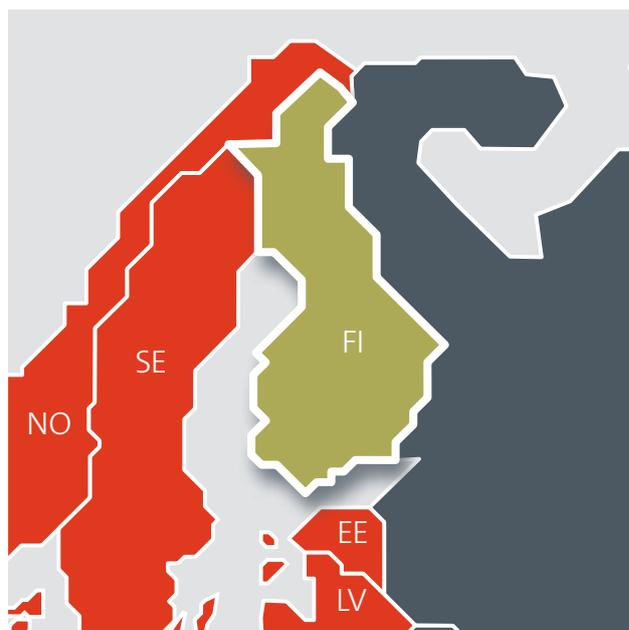
The Finnish Patents Act (550/1967) (hereinafter PA) sets forth the legal basis for granting compulsory licences. The grounds for granting compulsory licences are set out in Chapter 6, Sections 45-50 PA.

Art. 12 Biotech Directive is implemented based on Government Proposition 21/2000, and EU Regulation 816/2006 is implemented based on Government Proposition 175/2010.

Grounds for applying for a licence

The Market Court may grant a compulsory licence on the following grounds:

- If three years have elapsed since the grant of the patent and four years have elapsed from the filing of the application and the invention is not worked or brought into use to a reasonable extent in Finland, any person who wishes to work the invention in Finland may obtain a compulsory licence to do so unless legitimate grounds for failing to work the invention may be shown (Section 45); importation also qualifies as working of the invention in Finland;
- The proprietor of a patent for an invention whose exploitation is dependent on a patent held by another person may obtain a compulsory licence to exploit the invention protected by such patent if deemed reasonable (Section 46 PA);
- In specific situations relating to plant variety rights (Section 46a PA);
- In the event of considerable public interest (Section 47 PA); or
- Any person who was commercially exploiting an invention in Finland that is the subject of a patent application at the time the application documents were made available shall, if the application results in a patent, be entitled to a compulsory licence for such exploitation, provided there are special reasons for this and also provided that he had no knowledge of the application and could not reasonably have obtained such knowledge. This also applies, under corresponding conditions, to any person who has made substantial preparations for commercial exploitation of the invention in Finland (Section 48 PA).



General procedure

The Market Court is the competent court (Sections 50 and 64 PA).

The procedure before the Market Court may follow the structure of a declaratory action before the court, in which the applicant initiates proceedings at the Market Court and claims to have a right to a compulsory licence under the grounds set forth in Sections 45-48 PA. A claim regarding a compulsory licence may also be presented in an infringement procedure, in which the defendant as a defence claims to have a right to a compulsory licence. The court may grant the compulsory licence only as a non-exclusive licence.

Further, any person authorised to exploit an invention under license may bring an action before the court for a declaratory judgment to establish whether he enjoys protection against other parties on the basis of the patent in the event of uncertainty that may be prejudicial to him (Section 63 PA).

A compulsory licence may only be granted to a person deemed to be in a position to exploit the invention in an acceptable manner and in accordance with the terms of the licence. Before filing a claim for a compulsory licence, the person shall have made a verifiable effort to obtain, on reasonable commercial terms, a licence to the patented invention (Section 49 PA).

As to the possibility of obtaining a compulsory licence by way of preliminary relief, a preliminary injunction does in theory appear possible under the wording of the law, but it is uncertain as to whether it would be possible in practice to obtain a compulsory licence by way of a preliminary injunction.

Under Section 50 PA, the court granting compulsory licences shall also decide the extent to which the invention may be exploited and shall determine the remuneration to be paid and any other conditions under the licence. In the event of a substantial change in the circumstances, the court may also, on request, revoke the licence or lay down new conditions.

Appeal/review

Under Section 7(4) of the Market Court Proceedings Act (100/2013), a party may appeal by submitting a written petition of appeal to the Supreme Court. Any appeal to the Supreme Court is subject to a leave to appeal. The period for filing a request for an appeal is 60 days from the day of the Market Court's initial adjudication.

FI

Statistics and jurisprudence

There is very limited case law relating to compulsory licences.

In a Helsinki District Court decision on 29 March 1979, the Court dismissed an action for obtaining a compulsory licence. The key questions were whether the requirements for obtaining a compulsory licence were met on the grounds that the invention had not been worked or brought into use to a reasonable extent in Finland (Section 45 PA) and that a considerable public interest required that the drug manufactured by means of the patented process in question should be manufactured in Finland (Section 47 PA). The District Court concluded that also subjective reasons, such as market-related and economic reasons presented by the defendant in the case, could constitute a legitimate ground for non-exploitation of a patent within the meaning of Section 45 PA. As the demand for the drug was sufficiently satisfied through import and production in Finland, and was available at a reasonable price, also no such public interest as set forth in Section 47 existed. The decision was later confirmed by the Court of Appeals, and further appealed to the Supreme Court. The parties settled before the Supreme Court was able to render its decision.

France

Legal basis

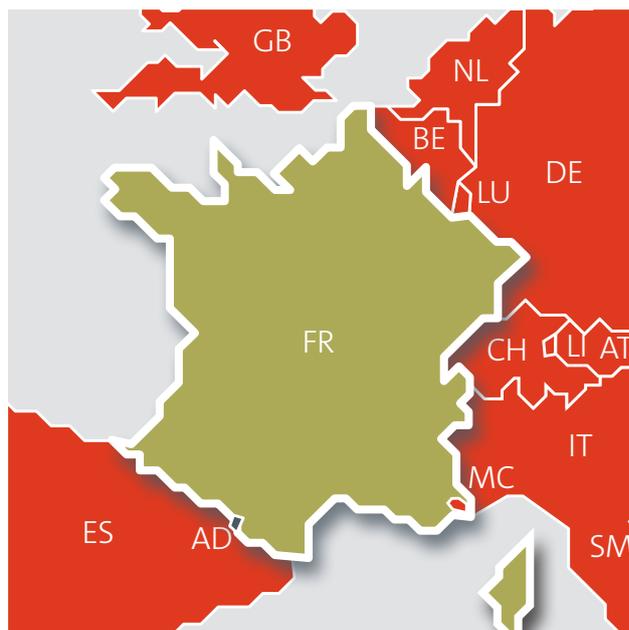
Compulsory licences fall under the scope of a series of articles in the French Intellectual Property Code (hereinafter IPC), notably Arts. L.613-11 to L.613-19 and Art. L.623-22-1 et seq.

This legislation implements Art. 12 Biotech Directive on the legal protection of biotechnological inventions and complies with EU Regulation 816/2006.

Grounds for applying for a licence

In general, all compulsory licences are granted on a non-exclusive basis (Art. L. 613-3 IPC) on the following grounds:

- (i) Compulsory licence due to the lack of exploitation of the patent by its holder: the licence will be granted if the patentee has not been exploiting or seriously preparing the exploitation of the patent, or has not been commercialising its patent enough in the European Union for three years following the grant of the patent, or four years following the publication of the application. Any party that can prove both its ability to exploit the invention and the impossibility to obtain a negotiated licence from the patent owner may ask for a licence (Art. L. 613-12 IPC).
- (ii) Compulsory licences in respect of dependent patents cover cases where a person owns a patent that cannot be exploited without infringing a prior patent. If the authorisation of the prior patent owner is impossible to obtain amicably, the judge may grant the licence if the invention would bring significant technical progress and is of great economic interest. The party requesting the licence must prove both its ability to exploit the invention in a serious and effective manner and the impossibility of obtaining a negotiated licence from the patent owner. The owner of the prior patent is automatically granted a licence back on the dependent patent of its licensee.
- (iii) Compulsory licence in the interest of public health (Art. L. 613-16 IPC): this kind of licence may be imposed when (i) the conditions under which the patent is exploited are contrary to the interest of public health or (ii) the quality or the quantity of the products based on the patent made available to the public are not sufficient or too expensive or (iii) in the case of anticompetitive behaviour recorded in a final court or administrative decision.
- (iv) Compulsory licence in the interest of the national economy (Art. L.613-18 and R.613-26 IPC): when the patent owner does not exploit (or not sufficiently exploit) the patent, the Ministry in charge of industrial property may order the patent owner to exploit the patent in order to “satisfy the needs of the national economy”. If, after one year, the patent owner has not done so, and if the situation is highly prejudicial to public interest and economic development, an order is issued to allow compulsory licences on the patent.
- (v) In the interest of the national defence (Art. L. 613-19 IPC): the French State may ask for a compulsory licence on a patent at any time in the interest of national defence, without providing further justification.
- (vi) Licences on veterinary drugs (Art. L. 5141-3 of the Public Health Code): this kind of licence may be imposed when the farming economy requires it.



FR

General procedure

French law distinguishes between two types of compulsory licence:

(1) Licences granted by the Paris First Instance Civil Court (*tribunal de grande instance* of Paris):

- lack of exploitation of the patent (Art. L. 613-11 to L 613-14 IPC); pursuant to Art. L. 613-11 IPC, importation also qualifies as working of the invention);

- dependent patents (Art. L. 613-15 IPC).

The party requests a licence by launching proceedings before the court. The claim must be accompanied with the justification that the claimant unsuccessfully sought to obtain a licence with the patentee and that he/she is able to exploit the patent.

General rules of civil procedure are applied. However, to be admissible, summons and pleadings in compulsory licence proceedings have to be sent to the National Institute of Industrial Property within fifteen days of the day of their service or notification (Article R. 613-5 IPC). The minister responsible for industrial property may submit observations to the court (Art. R. 613-6 IPC).

The law does not foresee the granting of a compulsory licence by way of preliminary relief. There is no case law to date.

(2) *Ex officio* licences granted in the public interest by the ministry in charge of industrial property:

- public health (Art. L. 613-16 IPC) on request of the Ministry of Public Health;
- national economy (Art. L. 613-18 and R. 613-26 IPC);
- national defence (Art. L. 613-19 IPC) on request of the ministry in charge of national defence;
- veterinary drugs (Art. L. 5141-13 of the Public Health Code) on request of the ministry in charge of agriculture.

The ministry takes a decision to subject the patent at stake to the regime of compulsory licences. Then, any relevant third party may require to be granted a licence, and the ministry will issue another decision determining the terms of the licence, except for the royalties. In the absence of an agreement between the patentee and the compulsory licensee, the royalty is determined by the Paris First Instance Civil Court.

There are however some exceptions:

- Licences in the interest of public health: the Ministry needs to have sought an amicable agreement with the patentee;
- Licences in the interest of the national economy: the licence may be granted only if the patentee failed to comply, for more than one year, with an order from the Ministry to exploit its patent in a way sufficient to satisfy the interest of the national economy;
- Licences in the interest of national defence: the licence may be granted only to the French State and all proceedings and hearings are confidential.

Generally, the Paris First Instance Civil Court, which has exclusive jurisdiction in respect of patent matters since decree No. 2009-1205 of 9 October 2009 (see Arts. R. 613-4, L. 615-17, and D. 631-2 IPC, in reference to Art. D. 211-6 of the French Judicial Organisation Code), and the Ministry in charge of industrial property may, at their discretion, determine the terms of a compulsory licence, including regarding the scope, royalty and term.

However, the Ministry in charge of the industrial property may not determine the royalty, which will be determined by the Paris First Instance Civil Court (Art. R. 613-32 IPC) if the parties do not agree on it.

All compulsory licences are granted on a non-exclusive basis.

In the case of a dependence licence, due to the nature of this compulsory licence, its scope is limited to what is strictly necessary to be able to exploit the improvement patent.

The owner of the patent or the holder of the compulsory licence can request that the court amends the granted licence (Art. L. 613-12 IPC).

Moreover, if the holder of the compulsory licence does not fulfil its obligations, the owner of the patent and, if any, the other licensees, can request the court to withdraw the compulsory licence (Art. L. 613-14 IPC).

Amendments to an *ex officio* licence can also be requested by the owner of the patent or by the holder of the *ex officio* licence to the ministry responsible for industrial property, regarding the duration and the scope of the licence. An agreement, or failing that, a judgment of the court, is necessary to amend the amount of royalties (Art. R. 613-25 IPC).

Appeal/review

Decisions may be appealed following the regular civil appeal procedures (i.e. within one month).

Decisions of the ministry in charge of industrial property may be appealed pursuant to the relevant public law provisions.

Statistics and jurisprudence

There is very limited case law on this question.

Cour d'appel de Nancy (Nancy Court of Appeal), 24 June 2003, RG n° 98/01893: the requested compulsory licence was not granted because the patent had expired.

Cour d'appel de Lyon (Lyon Court of Appeal), 11 September 1997, n° 97/00631, confirmed by *Cour de cassation, chambre commerciale* (French Supreme Court, Commercial Division), 11 January 2000, n° M 97-20.822: EMSENS was the owner of a patent on a machine for the automatic production of skewers, which EMSENS was not exploiting. For this reason, the Court of Appeal granted a licence on the patent to NIJAL, a company commercialising a machine for the automatic production of skewers.

Cour d'appel de Paris (Paris Court of Appeal), 2 February 1983: A compulsory licence was granted (for a “coupling head intended to air brake systems on motor vehicles”) to the alleged infringer because the patent owner did not exploit the patent in France (the patent was however exploited in Germany).

United Kingdom

Legal basis

Compulsory licences under Section 48 Patents Act

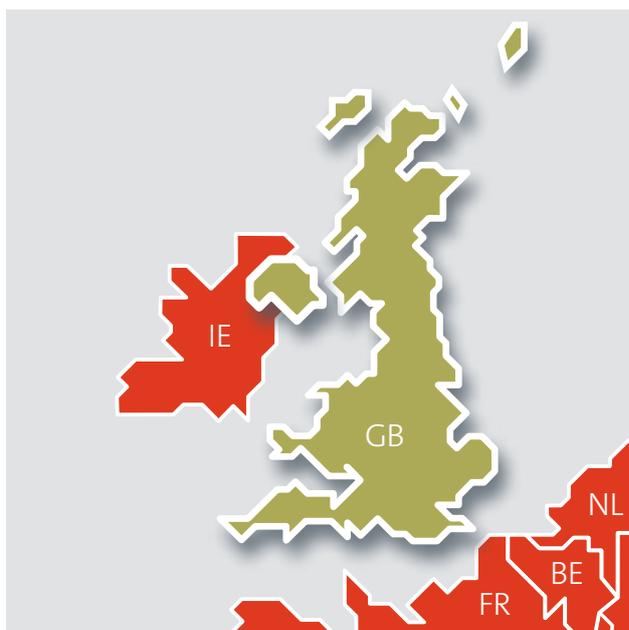
Compulsory licences are available for patents that were granted three or more years ago¹ under Sections 48 to 54 Patents Act 1977 (the “Patents Act”). Some of the provisions contained in these sections, particularly those relevant to WTO proprietors (defined below), derive from the UK’s obligations arising under the TRIPS Agreement.

The basis for obtaining a compulsory licence under the Patents Act depends on whether or not the proprietor is a national of, or is domiciled in, a country which is a member of the WTO, or has a real and effective industrial or commercial establishment in such a country (a “WTO proprietor”). The procedure and grounds for obtaining a compulsory licence under Section 48 Patents Act are discussed below.

Other compulsory licences

Compulsory licences over plant variety rights are also available pursuant to Art. 12 Biotech Directive, enacted into the UK by Statutory Instrument. This provides that, where a breeder cannot acquire or exploit a plant variety right without infringing a prior patent, he may apply for a compulsory licence for non-exclusive use of the invention protected by the patent inasmuch as the licence is necessary for the exploitation of the plant variety to be protected, subject to payment of an appropriate royalty.

Finally, EU Regulation 816/2006 (the “Compulsory Licensing Regulation”) has been implemented into UK law through the introduction of Section 128A of the Patents Act. These Regulations arise from the TRIPS Agreement and are intended to be part of wider European and international action to address public health problems faced by least developed countries and other developing countries, and in



particular to improve access to affordable medicines which are safe and effective, including fixed-dose combinations, and whose quality is guaranteed².

Grounds for applying for a licence

The relevant grounds for obtaining a compulsory licence to a WTO proprietor patent or a non-WTO proprietor patent differ, and are discussed below, but in general they are concerned with determining whether a monopoly is being used against public interest.

WTO Proprietors

For WTO proprietor patents, the relevant grounds for obtaining a compulsory licence are³:

(a) where the patented invention is a product, that a demand⁴ in the UK for that product is not being met on reasonable terms⁵;

1 Patents Act, s48(1)

2 Compulsory Licensing Regulation, recital 5

3 Patents Act, Section 48A(1)

4 There must be an actual demand, rather than one which is hoped and expected to be created should a licence be granted (*Cathro's Applications* (1934) 51 RPC 75). Whilst this case was decided under repealed patent statute, it is still considered to be applicable today.

5 The answer to the question of what constitutes “reasonable terms” must in each case depend on a careful consideration of all the surrounding circumstances. The nature of the invention, the terms of the licences (if any) already granted, the expenditure and liabilities of the patentee in respect of the patent, the requirements of the purchasing public, and so on (*Brownie Wireless Co Ltd's Applications* (1929) 46 R.P.C. 457, 473). In order to be “reasonable”, any price charged by the patentee should be a bona fide one and not one adopted to suppress or depress demand, although this is not to deny that demand and price are almost always related (*Swansea Imports' Application* BL O/170/04). Further, if the price being charged by the patentee or its licensee is reasonable and the demand at that price is being fully met, it is irrelevant to say (as one almost invariably could) that the demand would be greater at a lower price (*Research Corporations' (Carboplatin) Patent* [1990] RPC 663).

(b) that by reason of the refusal of the proprietor of the patent concerned to grant a licence or licences on reasonable terms

(i) the exploitation in the UK of any other patented invention that involves an important technical advance of considerable economic significance in relation to the invention for which the patent concerned was granted is prevented or hindered, or

(ii) the establishment or development of commercial or industrial activities in the UK is unfairly prejudiced;

(c) that by reason of conditions imposed by the proprietor of the patent concerned on the grant of licences under the patent, or on the disposal or use of the patented product or on the use of the patented process, the manufacture, use or disposal of materials not protected by the patent, or the establishment or development of commercial or industrial activities in the UK, is unfairly prejudiced.

Further, the applicant must have made efforts to obtain a licence from the WTO proprietor on reasonable commercial terms and conditions, and his efforts must have not been successful within a reasonable period⁶. Note that WTO proprietor patents in the field of semiconductor technology are excluded from the compulsory licensing regime⁷.

Non-WTO proprietors

For non-WTO proprietor patents, the relevant grounds for obtaining a compulsory licence are⁸:

(a) where the patented invention is capable of being commercially worked in the UK, that it is not being so worked or is not being so worked to the fullest extent that is reasonably practicable⁹;

(b) where the patented invention is a product, that a demand for the product in the UK

(i) is not being met on reasonable terms: or

(ii) is being met to a substantial extent by importation from a country which is not a member state;

(c) where the patented invention is capable of being commercially worked in the UK, that it is being prevented or hindered from being so worked

(i) where the invention is a product, by the importation of the product from a country which is not a member state;

(ii) where the invention is a process, by the importation from such a country of a product obtained directly by means of the process or to which the process has been applied;

(d) that by reason of the refusal of the proprietor of the patent to grant a licence of licences on reasonable terms

(i) a market for the export of any patented product made in the UK is not being supplied¹⁰; or

(ii) the working or efficient working in the UK of any other patented invention which makes a substantial contribution to the art is prevented or hindered; or

(iii) the establishment or development of commercial or industrial activities in the UK is unfairly prejudiced;

(e) that by reason of conditions imposed by the proprietor of the patent on the grant of licences under the patent, or on the disposal or use of the patented product or on the use of the patented process, the manufacture, use or disposal of materials not protected by the patent, or the establishment or development of commercial or industrial activities in the UK, is unfairly prejudiced.

Note that unlike WTO proprietor patents, there is no obligation on the applicant to have made efforts to obtain a licence from the proprietor prior to making an application.

Finally, with respect to compulsory licences under the Biotech Directive, it is necessary to try and obtain a licence voluntarily from the right owner before applying for a compulsory licence. Further, in order to obtain a licence under Art. 12 Biotech Directive, the applicant must show¹¹:

⁶ Patents Act, Section 48A(2)

⁷ Patents Act, Section 48A(3)

⁸ Patents Act, Section 48B(1)

⁹ A compulsory licence will not be ordered if the patent invention is being commercially worked in a country which is a member state, and demand in the UK is being met by importation from that country (Patents Act, Section 48B(3)). This provision is particularly important in light of the free movement of goods arising from of Art. 34 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU). See *Re Compulsory Patent Licences: EC Commission v United Kingdom* (C-30/90) [1992] 1 E.C.R. 777, which addressed this issue prior to the introduction of this provision. Further, the applicant must show what the demand for the invention might reasonably be expected to be, and how far short, if at all, production under the patent falls, as far as is practicable to supply it (*Kamborian's Patent* [1961] RPC 403).

¹⁰ Note that a licence granted under this ground must contain provisions as appear to the UKIPO to be expedient for restricting the countries in which any product concerned may be disposed of or used by the licensee (Patents Act, Section 48B(4)).

¹¹ The Patents and Plant Variety Rights (Compulsory Licensing) Regulations 2002, Regulations 3 and 6.

(a) that they cannot acquire or exploit plant breeders' rights or a Community plant variety right without infringing a prior patent;

(b) that they have applied unsuccessfully to the proprietor of the prior patent for a licence to use that patent to acquire or exploit plant breeders' rights or a Community plant variety right; and

(c) the new plant variety, in which the applicant wishes to acquire or exploit the plant breeders' rights or Community plant variety right, constitutes significant technical progress of considerable economic interest in relation to the invention protected by the patent.

General procedure

The competent authority to grant a compulsory licence is the Comptroller i.e. the UK Intellectual Property Office (the "UKIPO").

Given their greater scope, the below information focuses on the procedure for compulsory licences under the Patents Act, Sections 48 to 54. The procedures for compulsory licences under the Biotech Directive and the Compulsory Licensing Regulation are, however, largely similar.

An application for a compulsory licence may be made by anyone, including an existing licensee¹². The application is made to the UKIPO by filing Patents Form 2 on one of the grounds set out above. This must include a concise statement of the facts on which the applicant relies¹³, as well as the period or terms of the licence which it believes are reasonable¹⁴.

The proprietor of the relevant patent (and anyone else that the UKIPO believes is likely to have an interest in the applicant) is informed by the UKIPO of the application. The application is also advertised in the Official Journal¹⁵.

The proprietor (or any other person) may then oppose the application within four weeks from the advertisement by giving the UKIPO notice of opposition (i.e. by filing a

counterstatement in the proceedings), which must be considered when deciding whether to grant a compulsory licence¹⁶. The applicant is informed of any filed opposition and all parties are informed of the time by which any evidence must be submitted¹⁷.

Once the evidence has been concluded, the application is then decided by the UKIPO, which may involve an oral hearing¹⁸. This involves a two-step process, namely, determining whether a relevant ground has been satisfied, followed by an exercise of discretion, during which the UKIPO must take account of¹⁹:

(a) the nature of the invention, the time which has elapsed since the publication in the journal of a notice of the grant of the patent and the measures already taken by the proprietor of the patent or any licensee to make full use of the invention;

(b) the ability of any person to whom a licence would be granted under the order concerned to work the invention to the public advantage²⁰; and

(c) the risks to be undertaken by that person in providing capital and working the invention if the application for an order is granted.

A decision will be made based on the balance of probabilities. If the application for a compulsory licence is successful, the UKIPO may then order that a licence be granted²¹ or if the applicant is already a licensee, the UKIPO may amend the existing licence or order for it to be cancelled and grant a new licence²².

It is possible for a defendant to apply for a compulsory licence before the UKIPO and simultaneously deny infringement in parallel court proceedings. However, pending compulsory licence proceedings before the UKIPO are not usually sufficient reason to justify staying infringement proceedings before the court, and so they will not ordinarily be obtainable by way of preliminary relief. That being said, in the event that a compulsory licence is granted by the UKIPO before the patent infringement action is heard before the court, then the court may refuse to grant an injunction.

12 Patents Act, Section 48(3)

13 Patents Rules 2007, r76(4)(a)

14 Patents Rules 2007, r76(4)(c)

15 Patents Rules 2007, r75

16 Patents Act, Section 52(1)

17 Note that an applicant cannot seek discovery from the proprietor to establish a relevant ground in its evidence (*Richco Plastic Co's Patent* [1989] RPC 722).

18 Patents Rules 2007, r80(4)

19 Patents Act, Section 50(2)

20 An applicant does not need to show contracts or firm agreements for finance or other forms of assistance to work the invention, but the UKIPO will need to establish whether the applicant is likely to have available to them the various resources, including technical expertise and know-how, which would be necessary to put the inventions into practice in a way that would benefit the public (*Enviro-Spray Systems Inc's Patents* [1986] RPC 147).

21 Patents Act, Section 48(2)(a)

22 Patents Act, Section 49(2)

A proprietor (or any other person) may apply for the termination of a compulsory licence to a WTO proprietor patent (which may be opposed) if the circumstances that led to the making of the order have ceased and are unlikely to recur²³. This will be a matter of discretion for the UKIPO. Termination is not, however, available in relation to non-WTO proprietor patents.

Where there is opposition to an application for (or termination of) a compulsory licence and the parties consent, or the proceedings require prolonged examination of documents or scientific or local investigation which cannot in the opinion of the UKIPO conveniently be made before it, then the matter (or any part thereof) may be referred to arbitration²⁴.

If an application for a compulsory licence is successful, the UKIPO may order the grant of a licence to the applicant on such terms as it thinks fit²⁵. The terms of the licence will depend on the facts of each case.

Factors the UKIPO will consider when exercising its discretion as to the terms of a compulsory licence will depend on whether or not the proprietor of the patents is a WTO proprietor. In particular, in respect of WTO proprietor patents, the licence²⁶:

- (a) shall not be exclusive;
- (b) shall not be assigned except to a person to whom there is also assigned the part of the enterprise that enjoys the use of the patented invention, or the part of the goodwill that belongs to that part;
- (c) shall be predominantly for the supply of the market in the UK²⁷;
- (d) shall include conditions entitling the proprietor of the patent concerned to remuneration adequate in the circumstances of the case, taking into account the economic value of the licence; and
- (e) shall be limited in scope and in duration to the purpose for which the licence was granted.

The above provisions do not apply to compulsory licences concerning non-WTO proprietor patents. In these circumstances, however, the UKIPO should have regard to the following general purposes when exercising its discretion as to the terms of the compulsory licence (which, for the avoidance of doubt, are not applicable to WTO proprietor patents)²⁸:

- (a) that inventions which can be worked on a commercial scale²⁹ in the UK shall be worked there without undue delay and to the fullest practicable extent;
- (b) that the inventor or other person entitled shall receive reasonable remuneration having regard to the invention; and
- (c) that the interests of any person working or developing an invention in the UK shall not be unfairly prejudiced³⁰.

Further, as with WTO proprietor patents, compulsory licences to non-WTO proprietor patents must not be exclusive³¹.

The UKIPO applies its discretion and the factors outlined above by considering what would result from negotiations between a willing licensor and a willing licensee, particularly when considering appropriate royalties³².

Guidance may also be found on the approach taken by the UKIPO in the context of "licences as of right" i.e. the approach taken by the UKIPO when settling terms of a licence under a patent that are available as of right. These arise when either a proprietor has volunteered their patent to be open to licensing³³ or by order of the UKIPO³⁴.

Appeal/review

A decision of the UKIPO may be appealed to the Patents Court³⁵.

23 Patents Act, Subsection 52(2) and (3)

24 Patents Act, Section 52(5)

25 Patents Act, Section 48(2)(a)

26 Patents Act, Section 48A(6)

27 The licence may accordingly place restrictions on exportation.

28 Patents Act, Section 50(1)

29 "Commercial scale" was considered in *McKechnie Bros Ltd's Application* (1934) 51 R.P.C. 461, 468. to mean "in contradistinction to research work or work in the laboratory".

30 The fact that the proprietor may be prejudiced by loss of its own market share cannot of itself be said unfairly to prejudice the proprietors (and any licensees). (*Therma-Tru Corporation's Patent* (BL O/92/96))

31 *Allen & Hanburys Ltd v Generics* (UK) Ltd [1986] R.P.C. 203, HL

32 *Montgomerie Reid's Application* BL O/145/83

33 Patents Act, Section 46(1)

34 Patents Act, Section 48(2)(b)

35 Patents Act, Section 97

Where a proprietor did not oppose the application, it is unlikely that they will be permitted to appeal the UKIPO's decision, on the basis that in the absence of an opposition the proprietor is considered to have supported the applicant's case³⁶.

If the decision concerning a compulsory licence under the Patents Act was referred to arbitration, any appeal shall lie from the award to the court, unless the parties otherwise agree before the award of the arbitrator is made³⁷.

Statistics and jurisprudence

In practice, compulsory licences are rarely granted in the UK. Applications for compulsory licences are accordingly infrequent. By way of illustration, since 2002 the UKIPO has received four filings for compulsory licences under Section 48 Patents Act, of which two were withdrawn, with the remaining two applications resulting in one decision, namely, Swansea Imports' Application³⁸.

In Swansea Imports' Application, an application for a compulsory licence was made in respect of heater units manufactured by the patentee for use in caravans. The patentee was acquired and the manufacture of the heater units in issue subsequently ceased, causing the products to no longer be installed in new caravans. The applicant therefore wished to continue to repair and replace (using existing stock) the heater units falling under the patent. It therefore sought a compulsory licence by arguing that there was a demand among users of the old heater units for new heaters of similar design, which was not being met.

The patent was a WTO proprietor patent, and so the UKIPO considered whether the conditions set out in Section 48A(1) Patents Act were met (as set out above). The UKIPO cited Cathro's Application³⁹, and in particular the principle that the demand to be established must be an actual one and not merely one which an applicant hopes and expects to create. After considering the evidence, the UKIPO considered that many of the spare parts needed to repair the heaters are generic spare parts (such as bolts), and there was no evidence as to which of these may fall within the scope of the patent.

With respect to replacing complete heater units, whilst the patentee did not deny that some demand existed for these, the UKIPO asked two questions, namely, whether there is a demand, and whether that demand is being met. The UKIPO relied on evidence indicating that some intermediaries (i.e. dealers) retained the particular heater units in stock that were not being sold, and so found that the demand is being met by the existing supply held by dealers.

Therefore, in summary, the UKIPO found that the applicants failed to show that the situation amounted to a failure to meet the demand on reasonable terms, and for this reason, the application for a compulsory licence was refused.

Cases have been provided in the footnotes where relevant. There are earlier cases where a compulsory licence has been granted under Section 48 Patents Act. These include Gebhardt's Patent⁴⁰ and F Hoffmann La Roche & Co AG's Patent⁴¹.

Gebhardt's Patent was an appeal to the Patents Court. The patented invention, namely, an accumulation conveyor for articles such as packages and pallets, was manufactured and sold under licence by a UK company which became insolvent. As a result, exploitation of the patented invention in the UK ceased for five years, after which time a new company was established (formed with personnel from the insolvent company), and the patentee refused to grant the new company a similar licence. The new company therefore applied for a compulsory licence, which was opposed by the patentee.

No evidence was provided by the patentee before the UKIPO on whether the existing demand in the UK was being met in the UK or by importation from another member state of the EU, and the Patents Court refused to admit new evidence on appeal.

Further, the Patents Court found that the market for the patented invention greatly exceeded the proprietor's expected sales and there would be good ground for granting a compulsory licence even if the proprietor was manufacturing in the UK. The ground set out in what was then Section 48(3)(a) Patents Act (and now Section 48B(1)(a), i.e. the patented invention not being worked to fullest practicable extent in UK, was therefore established.

³⁶ Patents Rules 2007, r77(9)

³⁷ Patents Act, Section 52(6)

³⁸ BL O/170/04

³⁹ (1934) 51 RPC 75

⁴⁰ [1992] R.P.C. 1

⁴¹ [1970] F.S.R. 225

F Hoffmann La Roche & Co AG's Patent concerned whether a compulsory licence should be granted over a patent concerning quinazoline, an intermediate used in the manufacture of the drug chlordiazepoxide⁴². The applicants wished to import quinazoline for manufacture of chlordiazepoxide in the UK. The UKIPO, and Patents Court on appeal, found that a licence to import quinazoline should be granted on the basis that the licensed intermediate should be used solely for the manufacture of the drug⁴³.

GB

⁴² A compulsory licence had already been granted in respect of the drug chlordiazepoxide. This was granted under old legislation i.e. Patents Act 1949, Section 41(1). Whether such a licence would have been granted under the current legislation is doubtful.

⁴³ Again, this was decided under the old legislation, although the principle would likely apply under the current legislation.

Greece

Legal basis

Arts. 13 and 14 of Law 1733/87 on technology transfer, inventions and technological information, as amended.

The Biotech Directive (including its Art. 12) was implemented by Presidential Decree 321/2001 that refers back to Law 1733/87.

The provisions of EU Regulation 816/2006 are directly applicable.

Grounds for applying for a licence

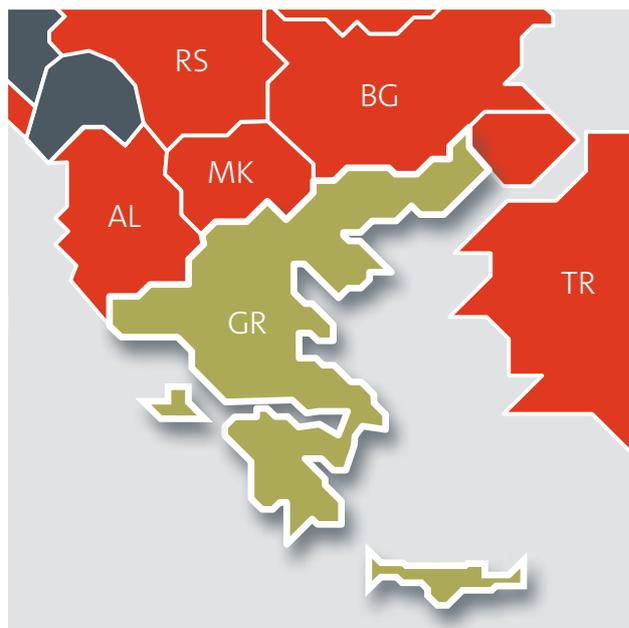
Compulsory licences may be granted on the following grounds:

A third party may request a compulsory licence from the court provided that all of the below conditions apply:

- (i) Three years from grant or four years from filing of a patent have passed;
- (ii) The patentee has not worked the invention or has not worked the invention in a way to cover local demand;
- (iii) The third party is capable of working the invention;
- (iv) The patentee has been notified, a month before initiating legal proceedings, of the third party's intention to request a compulsory licence.

Importation from EU and WTO countries qualifies as working of the invention for the purpose of this ground for applying for a compulsory licence (see Presidential Decree 54/1992 and law 2359/95).

A compulsory licence may also be granted by the State when an invention has not been worked or has not been worked in a way to cover local demand¹, and an imperative need for purposes of national health or national defence exists. The Minister of Development may grant a compulsory licence to any state authority to work the invention in Greece.



General procedure

The competent authority is the First Instance Court or the Ministry of Development.

Compulsory licence granted to third parties by the Court

The party requesting a compulsory licence must notify the patentee of his intention to request a compulsory licence at least one month before making the request to the court. Upon request to the court, a request for the provision of a written opinion from the patent office must be made on whether the conditions for granting the licence are met. The applicant serves the patentee with copies of (a) the licence request and (b) the patent office's opinion before the court hearing.

The written opinion of the patent office is not binding on the court in reaching a decision on the compulsory licence.

GR

¹ Importation from EU and WTO countries qualifies as working of the invention also for the purpose of a compulsory licence granted by the state (see Presidential Decree 54/1992 and law 2359/95).

Compulsory licence granted by the State

The patentee and any other party capable of providing useful information on the granting of a compulsory licence (such as the patent office) are invited by the Ministry of Development to provide their views on the granting of a compulsory licence. The compulsory licence is granted by decision of the Ministry of Development to any State authority.

The First Instance Court and the Minister of Development have discretion as to the terms of the compulsory licence after obtaining the patent office's opinion.

If there is a dispute on the terms of the licence and the amount due, the First Instance Single Member Court will decide following the procedure applied for preliminary injunctions.

It is not possible to obtain a compulsory licence by way of preliminary relief.

If the compulsory licence is not complied with, any party can file a request to the court to grant an order for the other party to comply and/or request financial compensation.

Appeal/review

The decision can be appealed before the Court of Appeal, whose decision can be further appealed before the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court only examines the legal correctness (not the facts) of the decision issued by the second instance court.

In the case of a compulsory licence granted by the State, the decision may be appealed before the Supreme Administrative Court. If the patent owner challenges the amount of licence fees (royalties) granted, the patentee may launch an action before the First Instance Single Member Court following the procedure applied for Preliminary Injunctions.

Statistics and jurisprudence

There have been no cases concerning compulsory licences.

Croatia

Legal basis

Patent Act (Official Gazette (OG) No. 173/03, 87/05, 76/07, 30/09, 128/10, 49/11, 76/13, 46/18) (hereinafter PA).

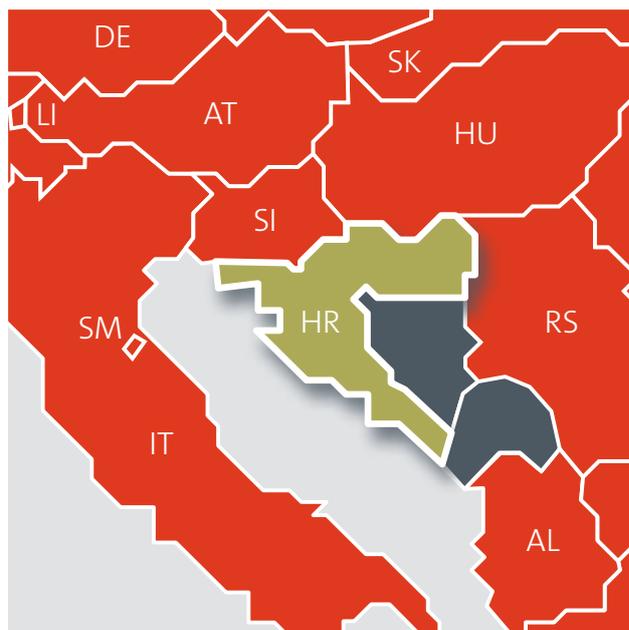
The PA has implemented the Biotech Directive.

Art. 1y PA establishes a competent body and the tasks thereof pursuant to the implementation of (among others) the EU Regulation 816/2006 as well.

Grounds for applying for a licence

A compulsory licence may be granted in the following cases: (i) insufficient exploitation of a patent; (ii) national emergencies; (iii) the need for protection from unfair market competition; (iv) exploitation of another patent or protected plant variety; and (v) cross-licensing.

- (i) A compulsory licence may be granted to any person filing a request (legal action) for the grant of a compulsory licence if the patent owner has not exploited the invention protected by a patent in the territory of the Republic of Croatia on reasonable terms or has not made effective and serious preparations for its exploitation (Art. 68(1) PA). A request for the grant of a compulsory licence may be filed after the expiration of a period of four years from the filing date of a patent application, or after the expiration of three years from the date the patent was granted (Art. 68(2) PA). A compulsory licence may not be granted if the patent owner provides legitimate reasons to justify non-exploitation or insufficiency of exploitation of the protected invention (Art. 68(3) PA). Importation of a patented product into the Croatian market qualifies as use/exploitation of that invention.
- (ii) The court may grant a compulsory licence if the exploitation of the patented invention is necessary in situations of extreme urgency (national security, public interest protection in the field of health, food supply, environmental protection and improvement, specific commercial interest), or when it is necessary to remedy a practice determined by a judicial or administrative process to be anti-competitive (Art. 68(6) PA).
- (iii) In the case of semiconductor technology, a compulsory licence may be granted only in specific cases (Art. 68(7) PA).
- (iv) A compulsory licence may be granted in relation to a first patent to the patent owner or to the owner of a plant variety right who cannot use his patent (second patent) or his plant variety right without infringing the first patent, provided that the invention claimed in the second patent or a protected plant variety involves an important technical advance of considerable economic significance in relation to the invention claimed in the first patent or to the protected plant variety.
- (v) The competent court may take any measure it regards useful to verify facts. In the case of a compulsory licence as provided herein, the owner of the first patent shall be entitled to a cross-licence on reasonable terms to use the invention protected by the second patent or protected plant variety (Art. 68(4) and (5) PA). A compulsory licence granted according to the above-mentioned rule, shall be non-transferable except with a transfer of the second patent or the protected plant variety (Art. 69(5) PA).



General procedure

The Zagreb Commercial Court is the competent judicial authority to grant compulsory licences at first instance.

According to Art. 67a PA, the procedure is litigious. The Act on Civil Proceedings applies and therefore the procedure is not regulated by the PA.

The procedure is initiated by requesting a compulsory licence through the filing of a legal action against the patent owner or SPC holder. The plaintiff must indicate all the facts and present all the evidence, as well as the grounds on which the plaintiff is requesting the compulsory licence. The same rule applies for the defendant's response.

The Court shall issue a judgment either granting a compulsory licence or rejecting the plaintiff's claim.

A compulsory licence shall be non-exclusive, and its scope and duration shall be limited to the purpose for which it was authorised. Thus, the court has discretion to decide the terms of the compulsory licence and will determine the scope primarily with respect to the purpose for which the licence is requested as well as with respect to other factors (such as duration of patent protection, market competition, and the like (Art. 69(1) PA).

With the exception of national emergencies, a compulsory licence may only be granted if the person filing the request has made efforts to obtain authorisation from the patent owner on reasonable commercial terms and conditions and if such efforts have not been successful within a reasonable period of time. There are further exceptions to this (Art. 68(6) PA). The right holder shall be informed of the grant of the compulsory licence as soon as reasonably possible (Art. 68(8) PA).

The court will grant a compulsory licence predominantly for the purposes of supplying the domestic market and, if necessary, to correct a practice determined by judicial or administrative process to be anti-competitive (Art. 69(3) PA), the latter specifically in the case of semiconductor technology.

In addition, that compulsory licence shall be transferred only with the production plant or the part thereof respectively, in which the invention it is granted for has been exploited (Art. 69(2) PA).

The patent owner has the right to remuneration, taking into account the economic value of the authorisation and need to correct anti-competitive practice (Art. 69(5) PA).

The Court shall, upon reasoned request by an interested person, cancel a compulsory licence, subject to adequate protection of the legitimate interests of the persons so authorised, if and when the circumstances which led to its authorisation cease to exist and are unlikely to recur (Art. 69(4) PA).

Pursuant to Art. 69a PA, the Zagreb Commercial Court also has jurisdiction to grant compulsory licences of patents relating to the manufacture of pharmaceutical products for export to countries with public health problems pursuant to EU Regulation 816/2006.

Appeal/review

The decisions of the court issued in the procedures for the grant of a compulsory licence may be appealed in accordance with the rules laid down in the Act on Civil Proceedings.

The High Commercial Court has jurisdiction on appeal.

Statistics and jurisprudence

None to date.

Hungary

Legal basis

The Hungarian Patent Act, i.e. Act XXXIII of 1995 on the Protection of Inventions by Patents – consolidated text of 1 March 2015 (hereinafter PA).

Art. 12 Biotech Directive has been implemented partly by the general rules of compulsory licence in Art. 32 PA and the special implementation rule in Art. 114/B PA.

Grounds for applying for a licence

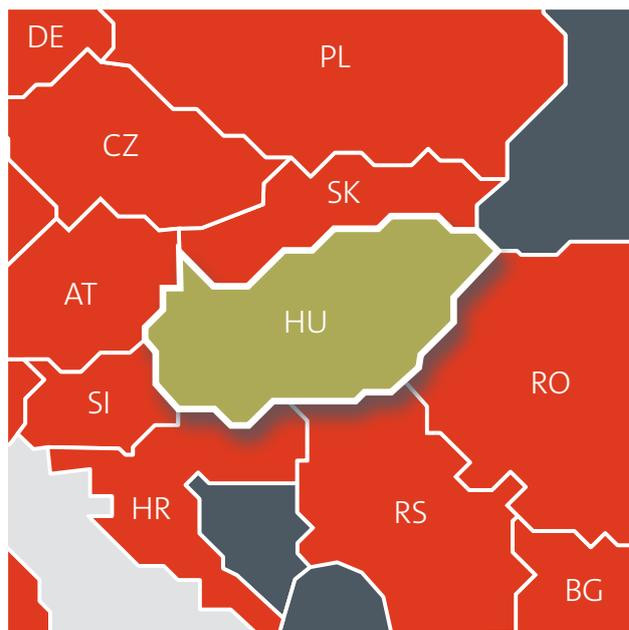
In Hungary, compulsory licences are available on the three grounds:

- non-genuine use of the patent (Art. 31 and 33 PA): Art. 31 of the Patent Act specifies that: “If within four years from the date of filing of the patent application or within three years from the grant of the patent, whichever period expires last, the patentee has not exploited the invention in the territory of the country to satisfy the domestic demand or if he has not undertaken serious preparations or has not granted a licence for such purpose, a compulsory licence shall be granted to the applicant for the licence, unless the patentee justifies the lack of exploitation.”¹
- dependency of patents (Art. 32 and 33 PA; also extended to plant varieties Art. 114/B PA);
- for the treatment of public health problems (EU Regulation 816/2006, Art. 33/A and 83/A-H PA).

General procedure

The Metropolitan Court of Budapest (*Fővárosi Törvényszék*) has exclusive jurisdiction at first instance level in compulsory licence matters based on dependency of patents and failure to commence exploitation (non-genuine use of the patent).

The Hungarian Intellectual Property Office (HIPO) is competent to grant compulsory licences based on Art. 33/A PA (for the treatment of public health problems).



Compulsory licence based on dependency and non-genuine use

In the petition filed with the court, the plaintiff who seeks a compulsory licence for a patent shall indicate the type of compulsory licence it seeks, i.e. either due to non-genuine use or dependency (with specific reference to Art. 31 or 32 PA), and file all necessary evidence to prove that the requirements for a compulsory licence as set out in Arts. 31-33 PA have been complied with.

Furthermore, the plaintiff shall prove that (i) the holder of the patent (the defendant) was not willing to voluntarily license the exploitation of the invention within a reasonable time even though all requirements were satisfied, and that (ii) the plaintiff is capable of exploiting the invention to the extent required.

If a compulsory licence is granted, the patentee shall be entitled to an appropriate licence fee. The fee shall reflect the economic value of the compulsory licence and must be consistent with the amount that would have to be paid by the holder of the compulsory licence with regard to the licensing requirements prevailing in the field to which the invention pertains.

HU

¹ Article 19 PA determines the acts of exploitation as follows: making, using, putting on the market or offering for sale a product which is the subject matter of the invention, or stocking or importing the product for such purposes; although there is no judicial practice, under Hungarian law importation shall also qualify as use of the patented invention in accordance with TRIPS.

A compulsory licence may be granted only if exploitation is predominantly aimed at domestic supply and if it confers non-exclusive right(s) for exploitation. The extent, scope and time limit of a compulsory licence shall be established by the court at its discretion, taking into account the purpose of the exploitation that was made possible through the compulsory licence. A compulsory licence may be granted with or without restrictions.

Compulsory licences shall be registered in the patent register. The holder of the compulsory licence shall be entitled to the same treatment as the patentee with regard to the renewal of patent protection and the enforcement of the rights arising from the protection.

Unless surrendered or withdrawn, a compulsory licence shall remain in effect until the end of the period established by the court or until the expiry of patent protection.

The question of whether a compulsory licence may be sought by the plaintiff by means of provisional injunction has not yet been dealt with in the Hungarian patent litigation practice.

However, given the principle that a preliminary injunction can be requested in all civil litigation, including the lawsuit for granting a compulsory licence based on dependency and lack of genuine use, seeking provisional relief seems to be theoretically possible (other types of compulsory licence belong to the competence of the HIPO and thus are not civil lawsuits). Special provisions of the PA regarding preliminary injunctions (presumptions, factors to be considered) relate only to infringement disputes, and therefore a provisional injunction sought in the context of a compulsory licence would be governed by the general provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure (Act CXXX of 2016, hereinafter CCP). Seeking a preliminary injunction in the context of a claim for a compulsory licence due to dependency and lack of genuine use may be possible under the general rules (Arts. 103 and 108 CCP); however, there is no court practice relating to the preconditions and its scope.

Compulsory licences related to public health

In the case of compulsory licences granted for the treatment of public health problems, the procedure set out in Regulation 816/2006 applies (implemented in Art. 83/A-H PA). The decision on the grant of a compulsory licence under this category falls within the competence of the HIPO.

The Hungarian Intellectual Property Office shall:

- notify the European Commission of the grant of a compulsory licence;
- disclose the information specified in Art. 12 EU Regulation 816/2006; and
- send a copy of the resolution to the customs authority and the government body for pharmaceuticals.

The HIPO shall display the information prescribed under Art. 12 EU Regulation 816/2006 on its official website, including information relating to the characteristics intended to distinguish the pharmaceutical products proposed to be manufactured under the compulsory licence from the products manufactured by the holder of the patent or by others under his authorisation.

The HIPO shall regularly inform the customs authority and the government body for pharmaceuticals concerning the information displayed on the website of the WTO concerning compulsory licences granted in other member states, and on any changes therein.

The Regulation does not allow discretion in the procedure in cases of compulsory licences granted for the treatment of public health problems.

Appeal/review

Compulsory licence based on dependency and non-genuine use

The decision of the Metropolitan Court may be appealed before the Metropolitan Court of Appeal, and the decision of the Metropolitan Court of Appeal is subject to judicial review before the Curia (Hungarian Supreme Court).

Compulsory licences related to public health

The decision of the HIPO may be subject to judicial review before the Metropolitan Court. The decision of the Metropolitan Court may be appealed before the Metropolitan Court of Appeal, and the decision of the Metropolitan Court of Appeal is subject to judicial review before the Curia (Hungarian Supreme Court).

Statistics and jurisprudence

Compulsory licences have had very limited practice in Hungary. No compulsory licence has been granted since the Patent Act of 1995 took effect.

Prior to that, there was only one case concerning a compulsory licence, relating to dependency of patents. The defendant was the patentee of an earlier product patent concerning an active ingredient (a pharmaceutical compound reducing blood pressure).

The plaintiff was the owner of a later process patent, which according to claim 1, claimed the process for the preparation of an active ingredient was exactly the same as the one protected by the defendant's earlier patent.

The plaintiff had fulfilled the requirements set out by law: he first made an offer for a cross-licence to the defendant who did not respond. This was understood as the defendant not willing to grant voluntary authorisation for the use of his invention, and the plaintiff launched a court action.

The condition for obtaining a compulsory licence based on the dependency of patents is that the invention of the dependent patent shall constitute significant technical progress of considerable economic interest compared with the invention claimed in the earlier patent.

The specificity of the present case is that a process patent was compared with a product patent.

The plaintiff argued that, pursuant to Art. 32 PA, inventions should be compared without making any distinction or restriction in relation to products and processes. In the plaintiff's interpretation, it is possible to compare his patented invention as a process with the process that was the most advanced at the filing date of plaintiff's patent, and to evaluate the important technical advance of economic interest in this respect.

The court of first instance rejected to grant a compulsory licence and established that the plaintiff had failed to provide an appropriate basis of comparison, since it is not enough to prove that the dependent patent represents an important technical advance of considerable economic significance; it should also be demonstrated that this progress exists in respect of the earlier patent. However, criteria exist against which the subject matters of the patents may be characterised, but these criteria do not apply both in respect of a process patent and a product patent. In addition, the wording of the law refers to the comparison of inventions but in the case of both the earlier and the defendant patent, the Patent Act requires a comparison of

inventions according to the patent. Since in the present case the product prepared by the process according to claim 1 of the plaintiff's patent completely corresponds to the defendant's patent, the comparison is meaningless.

At second instance, the Metropolitan Appeal Court annulled the decision of the Metropolitan Court and ordered the first instance court to reopen the case. The Metropolitan Appeal Court established that in terms of "significant technical progress" a comparison between the product and process patents was also possible. The second instance court argued that the fact that the Patent Act contains a uniform definition and content of patent protection results in that a product (in the given case a pharmaceutical active ingredient) and a process resulting in the same product shall be compared to each other from the perspective of the requirement of significant technical progress.

The decision of the Metropolitan Appeal Court was not challenged by the Curia (Supreme Court) because the basic patent's term had expired. A new (final) decision was not reached by the lower court, so eventually there was no final decision on granting the compulsory licence or not.

Ireland

Legal basis

Compulsory licences can be granted in accordance with Sections 70 to 75 of the Patents Act 1992 (as amended) (hereinafter PA).

Provision for compulsory licences is also made in Irish secondary legislation as follows:

- S.I. No. 247/2000: European Communities (Legal Protection of Biotechnological Inventions) Regulations 2000 (which implemented the Biotech Directive); and
- S.I. No. 408/2008: European Communities (Compulsory Licensing of Patents Relating to the Manufacture of Pharmaceutical Products for Export to Countries With Public Health Problems) Regulations 2008 (which was implemented to give further effect to EU Regulation 816/2006).

In respect of SI No. 247/2000, Regulation 11(4) states that the provisions of the PA shall apply, with any necessary modifications, to applications for licences under the Regulations.

In respect of SI No. 408/2008, these Regulations specify the form for which an application for a compulsory licence under EU Regulation 816/2006 should be made to the Controller of Patents, Trade Marks and Designs in Ireland.

Grounds for applying for a licence

The Controller (or the arbitrator – as the case may be) will consider whether the grounds for the granting of a compulsory licence have been met.

The grounds on which an application can be made are as follows:

- that a demand in the State for the subject matter of the patent is not being met or is not being met on reasonable terms; or
- that a demand in the State for a product which is protected by the patent is being met by importation other than from a member of the WTO; or
- that the establishment or development of commercial or industrial activities in the State is unfairly prejudiced.



Furthermore, if an invention protected by a patent (“the second patent”) cannot be exploited in the State without infringing rights deriving from another patent (“the first patent”), the proprietor of the second patent may apply to the Controller for a licence under the first patent to the extent necessary for the exploitation of the invention concerned, provided that such invention involves an important technical advance of considerable economic significance in relation to the invention claimed in the first patent.

General procedure

Applications are made to the Controller of Patents, Trade Marks and Designs. The application is made to the Controller in the first instance. The Controller may decide to refer the proceedings to an arbitrator if the parties agree or if he is of the view that the proceedings require a prolonged examination of documents or any scientific or local investigation which cannot, in his opinion, conveniently be made before him.

The legislation does not specify what sort of arbitrator must be appointed, and as such it is someone who is selected by the Controller or the parties, but it would usually be someone very familiar with the type of patent in question and with sufficient knowledge in the field to be able to make an informed decision. There is no prescribed process for the appointment of the arbitrator in the legislation.

If the proceedings are not referred to an arbitrator, the Controller will make whatever decision he sees fit. If they are referred to an arbitrator, the arbitrator will make whatever decision he sees fit (unless he has only been asked to decide a question of fact, in which case he will report back to the Controller, who will then decide whether a licence should be granted).

A compulsory licence cannot be applied for until after three years from the date of publication of grant of the patent, after which any person may apply for a licence under the patent and/or for an entry to be made on the Register to the effect that licences are available as of right.

An application to the Controller can be made by any person, provided that the applicant first sought to obtain a licence from the proprietor of the patent but was unable to obtain one on reasonable terms and within a reasonable time.

The Controller may, when so requested by the applicant, dispense with the requirement for the above evidence in the event of a national emergency or other circumstances of extreme urgency, or in the case of an application for a licence for public non-commercial use, provided that the proprietor of the relevant patent has been informed as soon as reasonably practicable of the intention of the applicant to apply to the Controller for a licence under the patent.

If the Controller is not satisfied that a prima facie case has been made out for making the order, he shall notify the applicant accordingly and the applicant will then have one month to request a hearing on the matter. If no such hearing is requested, the application will be refused. If the applicant requests a hearing within the time allowed, the Controller, after giving the applicant an opportunity of being heard, will determine whether the application may proceed to advertisement or whether it shall be refused.

The proprietor of the relevant patent (or any other person who wishes to oppose the application) will then be given an opportunity to oppose the application within three months of the application being advertised in the Journal by the Controller.

Where an application is opposed by the proprietor of the patent, the Controller may also order the whole proceedings (or any question or issue of fact arising therein) to be referred to an arbitrator if he is of the view that the proceedings require a prolonged examination of documents or any scientific or local investigation which cannot, in his opinion, conveniently be made before him. All or part of the proceedings can also be referred to an arbitrator if both parties consent.

Where an issue of fact is referred to an arbitrator, the arbitrator shall report his findings to the Controller, who will then make a decision.

The Irish courts have not, to date, granted a compulsory licence by way of preliminary relief.

Where the Controller makes an order for the grant of a compulsory licence, the licence will be granted upon such terms as the Controller thinks fit. Similarly, if the proceedings are referred to an arbitrator, the arbitrator will grant a licence upon such terms as he/she thinks fit, although it is not open to the arbitrator to grant a licence which it would not have been possible for the Controller to grant.

The terms of the licence must be non-exclusive and must be predominantly for the supply of the market in the State. The licence may not be assigned without the prior consent of the Controller and with that part of the enterprise or goodwill which uses the patented invention.

The scope and duration of the licence must also be limited to the purpose for which it is granted.

If the licence granted is in respect of a patent that relates to semiconductor technology, the licence must be for public non-commercial use only.

Furthermore, a licence will be granted only subject to the payment to the proprietor of the patent of adequate remuneration in the circumstances of the case, taking into account the economic value of the licence.

If an invention protected by a patent ("the second patent") cannot be exploited in the State without infringing rights deriving from another patent ("the first patent"), the proprietor of the second patent may apply to the Controller for a licence under the first patent to the extent necessary for the exploitation of the invention concerned; no licence can be granted unless the proprietor of the second patent is able and willing to grant the proprietor of the first patent and the licensee of that proprietor a cross-licence, on reasonable terms, to use the invention claimed in the second patent.

Appeal/review

Where the whole proceedings have been referred to an arbitrator, an appeal to the High Court shall lie from that decision.

A decision of the Controller can also be appealed to the High Court. The decision of the High Court can be further appealed to the Court of Appeal on a point of law. If the

matter is of general public importance or the interests of justice require it, an appeal shall lie to the Supreme Court.

Every appeal to the High Court from an order or decision of the Controller must be made by special summons. The summons shall be served upon the Controller and upon all other persons (if any) interested.

The summons shall state whether the appeal is from the whole or part only, and if so what part, of the order, decision or award, and shall also state concisely the grounds of the appeal. No grounds other than those so stated shall, except with the leave of the Court, be allowed to be taken by the appellant at the hearing.

The summons must be issued within one calendar month from the date of the order or decision of the Controller, or the award of the arbitrator (as the case may be) appealed against, or within such further time as the Controller may have allowed for the purpose.

Every such appeal to the Court shall be by way of rehearing and shall be heard on the materials stated by the Controller to have been used by him in arriving at his decision. Every appeal shall be heard on the same evidence as that used at the hearing before the Controller. No further evidence shall be given, nor further material be brought forward for the consideration of the Court on the hearing of any appeal without special leave of the Court granted on an application made at or before the hearing.

Statistics and jurisprudence

No statistics are available on the number of applications for compulsory licences in Ireland. Applications for compulsory licences are not particularly common.

There are very few Irish cases which consider the circumstances in which compulsory licences should be granted.

In the case of *Hunter v Fox* [1966] 1 IR 520, the Irish Supreme Court held that even though there was a void restrictive clause in an agreement, this did not necessarily mean that demand was not being met on reasonable terms. However, this case was decided under legislation that has now been repealed. Such a restrictive clause would now fall foul of Section 83 of the Patents Act 1992 (as amended).

Decisions of the UK courts are likely to be considered of persuasive effect by the Irish courts and so it may be instructive to consider these, although again it must be

borne in mind that these cases have often been decided under now repealed legislation.

In *Brownie Wireless Co Ltd's Application* (1929) 46 RPC 457, the UK courts held that what is meant by "reasonable terms" involves a review "of all the surrounding circumstances including the nature of the invention, the terms of existing licences, if any, the expenditure and liabilities of the patentee in respect of the patent, the requirements of the purchasing public and so on".

In *Research Corporation's (Carboplatin) Patent* [1990] RPC 663, the plaintiff sought a compulsory licence in the UK for a drug used in the treatment of certain cancers. It already formulated and sold the drug in Australia, where there was no patent protection. Bristol-Myers had an exclusive licence under the patent in the UK for a term of 10 years from the first sales in the U.K.

The UK Comptroller granted the plaintiff a sub-licence from the UK licensee. The Plaintiff appealed this decision. The appeal was dismissed for a number of different reasons. However, the case is instructive for its consideration of what is meant by "failure to meet demand". The Court held that "demand", unless wholly inelastic, must mean demand at a given price. If the price being charged by the patentee or the licensee was reasonable and the demand at that price was being fully met, it was irrelevant to argue that the demand would be greater at a lower price.

In *Penn Engineering and Manufacturing Corpn's Patent* [1973] RPC 233, the decision of the Comptroller to grant a compulsory licence on the basis that demand for the patented article in the United Kingdom was being met solely by importation was upheld on appeal. This case is also interesting because the export of the patented article was also permitted under the terms of the compulsory licence.

In *Monsanto's CCP Patent* [1990] FSR 93 it was held that the onus was on an applicant for a compulsory licence to show that the licence offered by the patentee was not on reasonable terms. The mere allegation was not in itself conclusive evidence that commercial or industrial activity was being unfairly prejudiced. This reasoning may still arguably apply by analogy in the case of unfair prejudice to the establishment or development of commercial or industrial activities in the State under Section 70 of the Patents Act 1990.

IE

Iceland

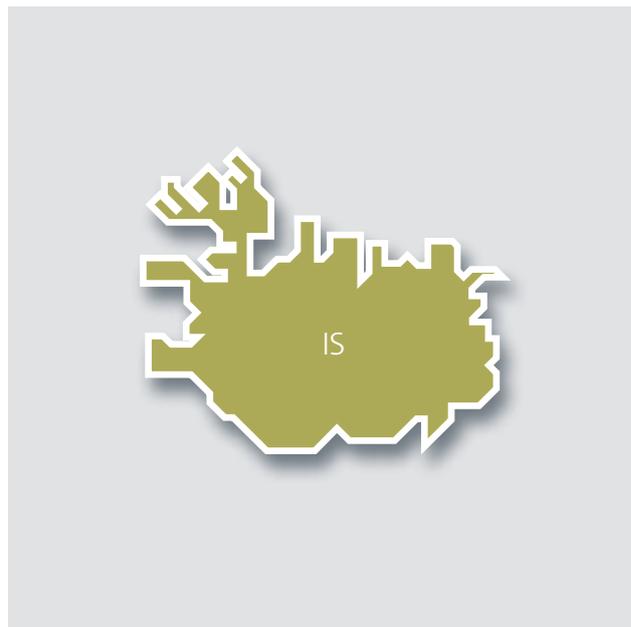
Legal basis

The rules on compulsory licences in Iceland can be found in Part VI of the Patents Act No. 17/1991 as amended (hereinafter PA).

Grounds for applying for a licence

A compulsory licence may be granted in the following scenarios:

- (1) An invention patented in Iceland has not been worked to a reasonable extent; there are no shown legitimate reasons for the failure to work the invention; and three years have elapsed from the grant of the patent and four years have elapsed from the filing of the patent application.
- (2) A subsequent patent cannot be exploited without a licence from a prior patent held by another person and the subsequent patent is considered to represent an important technical advance that has considerable economic significance.
- (3) A holder of a plant variety who can neither acquire a breeder's right to that variety nor exploit that variety without a licence from a prior patent holder can obtain a compulsory licence given that the relevant plant variety involves a technically important advance and leads to considerable financial benefit in comparison to the invention in the patent.
- (4) In the case of important public interest.
- (5) For a party to continue to commercially exploit the invention if that party was exploiting at the time when a patent application was made available to the public, given that very special circumstances make it desirable and that the party had no knowledge and could not reasonably have obtained any knowledge of the pending application. This can also be applied to a person who was not already exploiting but had made substantial preparations for commercial exploitation.
- (6) There is a special authorisation to grant a compulsory licence for medicine intended for export to developing countries and countries struggling with a severe public health problem in accordance with the decision of the WTO's General Council of 30 August 2003 on the TRIPS Agreement and public health.



General procedure

The Reykjavik District Court is competent to grant a compulsory licence.

In general, a compulsory licence will never be granted unless the party seeking such a licence has unsuccessfully attempted to obtain a licence on reasonable terms from the relevant patent holder and may be presumed to be capable of exploiting the invention in a reasonable and acceptable way and in accordance with the terms of the licence. The requirement of a prior attempt to obtain a licence may however be waived in the event of a national emergency or other circumstances of extreme urgency.

IS

According to the laws, further rules on procedure can be enacted through regulations. This has not been done except in the case of a compulsory licence for medicine intended for export to developing countries and countries struggling with a severe public health problem in accordance with the decision of the WTO's General Council of 30 August 2003 on the TRIPS Agreement and public health.

Procedural rules are therefore very limited. However, it is clear that the competent authority is the Reykjavik District Court and that the terms of the licence shall be decided by that court given that the substantial requirements for obtaining a compulsory licence are fulfilled.

According to the provisions on compulsory licences, the Reykjavik District Court has the power to decide whether a compulsory licence shall be granted and the extent of such a licence. Furthermore, the court shall decide the licence fee and other general terms of the licence.

There are however further rules on compulsory licences in the case of medicine intended for export to developing countries. Those are not general rules but may be seen as an example of how this may be carried out by the court.

According to those rules, an application shall be submitted to the Reykjavik District Court duly executed by the applicant containing details such as those concerning the applicant, the relevant patent, the name of the relevant medicine and suggested quantities of production. Furthermore, the application must be accompanied by documents proving that the applicant has attempted to obtain a licence from the patent holder without success. The Reykjavik District Court shall inform the patent holder of the application as soon as possible and invite the patent holder to submit his observations with the application, and may consult the Icelandic Patent Office concerning the matter before reaching a decision on granting the compulsory licence.

In the absence of further rules on procedure, the existing rules on procedure in the case of medicine intended for export to developing countries will most likely be at least a reference point in possible applications for compulsory licences. Besides those rules, nothing has been written in Iceland on the matter.

Appeal/review

There are no specific provisions in the laws concerning a possible appeal. In the bill and the comments made to the provision wherein the Reykjavik District Court is given the competence to grant a compulsory licence, it is clearly stated that the conclusions of the court concerning compulsory licences may be appealed to the Supreme Court. Based on that, it is very likely that the laws will be construed in that manner to allow for an appeal to a higher court. In that regard, it is worth noting that since 1 January 2018, Iceland has a new appeals court, *Landsréttur*, which may be considered the correct appeals court in these cases.

Statistics and jurisprudence

None to date.

Italy

Legal basis

Intellectual Property Code (Codice della proprietà industriale 2005, hereinafter IP Code or IPC).

The Biotech Directive (including its Art. 12) has been implemented into the IP Code.

EU Regulation 816/2006 is directly applicable.

Grounds for applying for a licence

There are two possibilities to obtain a compulsory licence, all regulated by the IP Code:

- due to lack of exploitation (Art. 70 IPC);
- due to dependent patent (Art. 71 IPC, and Art. 81 octies IPC regarding biotech and plant varieties pursuant to the implementation of the Biotech Directive).

General procedure

The Italian Patent and Trademark Office (*Ufficio Italiano Brevetti e Marchi*, hereinafter UIBM) is competent to grant a compulsory licence. An IP civil court may issue an order equivalent to a compulsory licence but there is no precedent for this. Such an order may be also applied via a preliminary measure in order to skip the length of the UIBM procedure.

By way of example, recently in 2017 the Antitrust Authority issued a FRAND licence in the copyright sector by order within an administrative proceeding.

According to Art. 199 IP Code:

- (a) Whoever wishes to obtain a compulsory licence must submit a grounded request to the UIBM, indicating the amount and method of payment of the compensation offered.
- (b) The UIBM shall promptly give notice of the request, by way of a registered mail letter, return receipt requested, to the owner of the patent and to those who purchased rights to the patent based on legal documents that have been registered or noted.
- (c) Within sixty (60) days of the date of receipt of the registered mail letter, the owner of the patent and all



those who have rights based on the registered or noted legal documents may oppose the granting of the request or state that they do not accept the amount and method of payment of the compensation. Grounds must be stated for any oppositions.

- (d) In the case of oppositions, within forty-five (45) days of the expiration date of the term for the submission of the same, the UIBM shall convene the opponent, the owner of the patent and all those who have rights based on registered or noted legal documents, for an attempt at conciliation. The notice of call is sent to the parties by registered mail letter, return receipt requested, or by other methods, including by computer, provided that those methods guarantee sufficient certainty of receipt of the communication.
- (e) In the notice of call, the UIBM must communicate and transmit a copy of the oppositions filed to the opponent.
- (f) The opponent (patent owner) may submit written counter-arguments to the UIBM by the fifth day prior to the date that the meeting is to be held.
- (g) In the forty-five (45) days subsequent to the date of the meeting for the attempt at conciliation, the Ministry of Productive Activities either grants the licence or rejects the request.
- (h) The term for the conclusion of the proceeding is one hundred eighty (180) days, starting from the date the application is filed.

A compulsory licence shall not be granted if it is found that the requesting party has infringed the patent, unless the party can demonstrate its good faith.

In order to decide whether to grant the compulsory licence, the UIBM shall evaluate the specific issues and evidence relating to the two grounds upon which compulsory licences may be based.

Compulsory licences on the grounds of lack of effective exploitation

The procedure begins with a request submitted by any interested person. UIBM will consider:

- Evidence that the applicant has contacted the owner of the patent first and has been unable to obtain a contractual licence from him at fair conditions;
- Evidence of lack of effective exploitation by the owner:
 - once three years have passed from the date of issue of a patent or four years from the date of filing of an application, whichever comes last;
 - directly or through one or more licensees,
 - producing in the territory of the country or importing objects produced in a member state of the EU or the European Economic Area or a member state of the WTO;
 - has not implemented the patented invention or has implemented it to an extent that is gravely disproportionate to the country's needs; or
 - has been suspended or reduced in such a manner as to be gravely disproportionate to the country's needs, for more than three years.

Where there is evidence of possible causes outside the patent owner's control or that of his successor in title, a compulsory licence cannot be granted. Such (exempting) causes shall not include the lack of financial means, and if the same product is circulated abroad, the lack of demand in the internal market for the product patented or obtained with a patented procedure. The grant of compulsory licence does not release the owner of the patent or his successor in title from the obligation to implement the invention.

The licence shall be revoked if the invention has not been implemented within two years of the date of granting of the first compulsory licence or if it has been implemented to an extent that is gravely disproportionate to the country's needs.

Compulsory licences for dependent patents

The procedure begins with a request submitted by any interested person. UIBM shall consider the following:

- Evidence that the applicant has contacted the owner of the first patent and has been unable to obtain a contractual licence from him at fair conditions.
- Evidence that the invention protected by the second patent cannot be used without harm to the rights relating to the first patent granted based on a previous application.
- Evidence that with respect to the object of the first patent, the second patent represents an important technical advance of considerable economic importance.

If the compulsory licence is granted, the owner of the first patent shall have the right to be granted a compulsory licence at reasonable conditions on the second patent, in a "grant back" option, on a non-exclusive basis.

According to Art. 72(7) IPC, the UIBM has discretion as to the terms of the compulsory licence:

"In the order granting the licence, the following shall be determined: the scope and duration, the methods of implementation, the terms and other conditions on which the granting of the licence is based in relation to its purpose, and the amount and method of payment of the compensation. In the event of opposition, the amount and method of payment of the compensation are determined in accordance with Art. 80."

Appeal/review

The decision is taken by the UIBM, which is a branch of the Ministry of Productive Activities. Hence, it can be appealed as an administrative procedure before the Lazio Regional Administrative Court (T.A.R. Lazio).

Statistics and jurisprudence

None to date.

Liechtenstein

Legal basis

Due to the Swiss-Liechtenstein Patent Cooperation Treaty of 1978, Swiss patent law is directly applicable in the Principality of Liechtenstein. Compulsory licences are based on Arts. 36 to 40e of the Swiss Federal Act on Patents for Inventions (hereinafter Swiss Patent Code).

Art. 31bis TRIPS came into force in Liechtenstein on 23 January 2018¹. Importation also qualifies as exploitation of the invention for the purpose of Art. 37 Patents Act.

Grounds for applying for a licence

Since the establishment of the Swiss Federal Patent Court, all patent issues are referred to this court applying the new federal provisions on civil procedure. According to Art. 1(1) and 26(1)(a) of the Swiss Code on the Federal Patent Court, the court has exclusive jurisdiction over cases of compulsory licences.

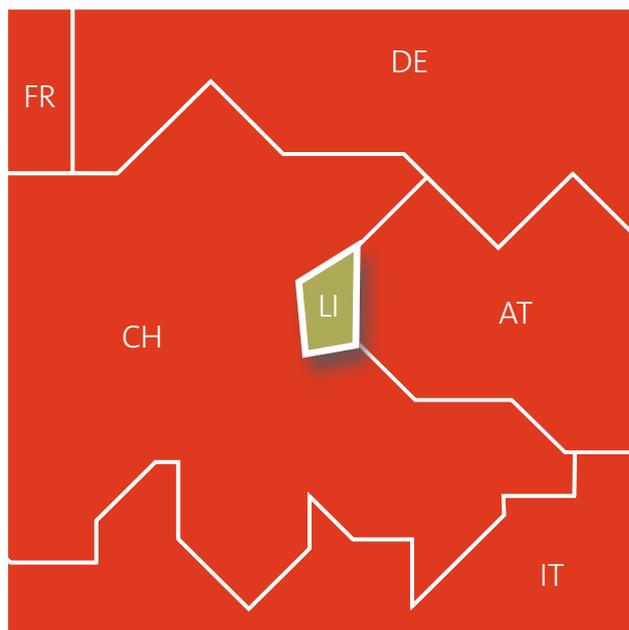
Please refer to the Switzerland section.

General procedure

The jurisdiction of the Swiss Federal Patent Court does not exclude that of the Court of Appeal of Liechtenstein, which is designated as the national court of first instance in patent cases. Therefore, it would not be excluded to file an action for grant of compulsory licence with the Liechtenstein Court of Appeal. There is no relevant case law to date.

The procedure would be regulated by the various provisions of Arts. 36 to 40e of the Swiss Patent Code and the applicable Liechtenstein Laws of Civil Procedure. For an overview over the Liechtenstein legal system and the procedural details, please see Batliner Gasser, "Litigation and Arbitration in Liechtenstein", second edition, Manz Publishers, Vienna, 2013.

Regularly, a claim starts at the Princely Court in Vaduz. The next instance is the Court of Appeal, followed by the Supreme Court. With regard to the way to assert a legal right given by the patent code there is an exception in so far as the Liechtenstein Laws of Civil Procedure contains two specialities:



- (1) A claim has to be made directly to the Court of Appeal². The Court of Appeal applies Swiss substantive law and Liechtenstein procedural law. The instance following is not the Liechtenstein Supreme Court, but the Swiss Federal Patent Court³, which applies Swiss procedural law as well as Swiss substantive law.
- (2) Since 1 January 2012, the Federal Patent Court has been in charge of adjudicating civil law disputes concerning patents as the court of first instance. So there is a certain legal uncertainty because actually there are two ways to claim against a potential infringement within the Swiss – Liechtenstein area (which has to be seen as one area with regards to patents).

According to Art. 40e(5) and (6) of the Swiss Patent Code, the judge decides on the terms of the licence, particularly the licence fee⁴. The substantive law (Swiss Patent Code) describes the discretion; the Liechtenstein Court of Appeal would apply this discretion.

Appeal/review

See above.

Statistics and jurisprudence

None to date.

1 <https://www.gesetze.li/chrono/2017060000>
2 See: <https://www.gesetze.li/konso/1980033000>, Art. 1
3 See: <https://www.bundespatentgericht.ch>
4 See the country pages on Switzerland

Lithuania

Legal basis

Patent Law of the Republic of Lithuania of 18 January 1994, No. I-372; new edition of the Patent Law of the Republic of Lithuania in force since 3 February 2012 (hereinafter PL). The PL also implements Art. 12 Biotech Directive.

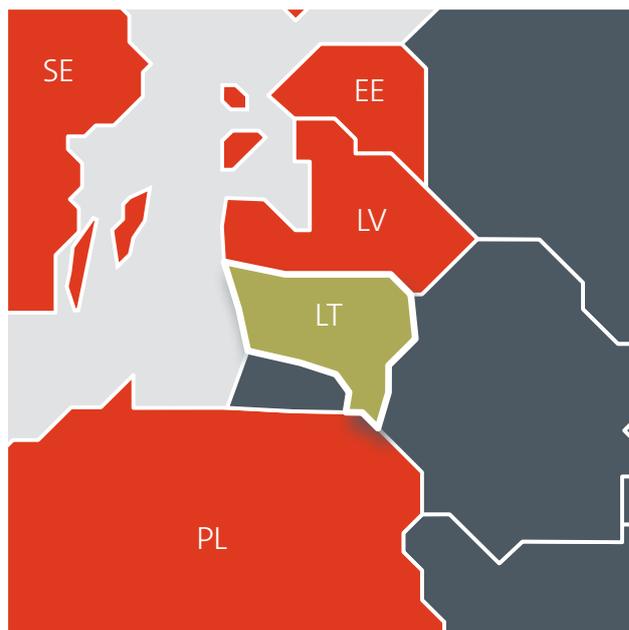
Grounds for applying for a licence

There are three different legal grounds on which a compulsory licence may be applied for and granted in the Republic of Lithuania:

- (i) When a patented invention is related to a protected plant variety or vice versa, namely:
 - (a) Where a plant breeder cannot acquire or exploit a plant variety right without infringing the exclusive rights protected by a prior patent.
 - (b) Where the owner of a patent concerning a biotechnological invention cannot exploit it without infringing a prior plant variety right.
- (ii) In cases indicated in the EU Regulation 816/2006.
- (iii) With authorisation of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, if a patented invention is related to public needs (if the patent proprietor does not provide reasonable terms to license the product and it is required for general public welfare), national security and public health protection, development of economically important sectors, or if a competent court determines that a method of the exploitation of a patented invention by its owner or licensee is anti-competitive.

General procedure

The procedures and competent authorities differ depending on which grounds the compulsory licence is granted. In all cases, compulsory licences may only be remunerable, non-exclusive and non-transferrable. The competent court or authority, while deciding on granting of the compulsory licence, may further elaborate on these conditions, but does not have discretion to essentially change them, e.g. to grant a non-remunerable, exclusive and/or transferrable compulsory licence. Art. 35(1) PL foresees that importation of



a patented product qualifies as use/exploitation of that invention.

For plant varieties

The compulsory licence may be granted by a decision of the Vilnius Regional Court. However, if the legal ground indicated in (i)(b) involves a Community plant variety (i.e. a plant variety protected on a pan-European scale), such compulsory licence may be granted by the Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO) under the Council Regulation (EC) No. 2100/94 of 27 July 1994 on Community plant variety rights.

The applicant shall make a claim to the Vilnius Regional Court against the owner of the claimed patented invention or protected plant variety for the grant of a compulsory licence. The applicant (claimant) must prove the existence of the legal ground indicated in (i) above, as well as two additional cumulative conditions:

- (1) that the applicant has unsuccessfully applied to the owner of the patented biotechnological invention or the holder of the plant variety right to obtain a contractual licence; and
- (2) that the plant variety or the patented biotechnological invention constitutes significant technical progress of considerable economic interest compared with the claimed patented invention or the protected plant variety. The court shall examine the claim, and issue a decision on either: (a) granting the compulsory licence,

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if the legal ground exists and the indicated additional conditions are met, or, if otherwise, (b) the rejection of the applicant's claim. Such compulsory licence may only be remunerable, non-exclusive, non-transferrable, and the owner of the claimed patented biotechnological invention or the protected plant variety shall be entitled to a cross-licence to use the second patented invention or plant variety (i.e. authorisation to each owner to use both patented inventions).

For pharmaceutical products

A compulsory licence may be granted by a decision of the State Medicines Control Agency under the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Lithuania.

In this case, the applicant shall address the State Medicines Control Agency under the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Lithuania with a standard application form provided in the Rules on Implementation of the Regulation. The application must include: (i) the notice to the WTO under Art. 8(1) of the Regulation; and (ii) documentation confirming the "Prior negotiation" condition under Art. 9 EU Regulation 816/2006. The State Medicines Control Agency shall initially examine the application together with its documentation, and address the owner of the claimed patented invention relating to the manufacture of pharmaceutical products, informing him about his right to submit explanations and additional information with regard to application (if any), as well as to the State Patent Bureau of the Republic of Lithuania for corresponding additional clarifications. The State Medicines Control Agency may also address the applicant for submission of additional information on whether the conditions indicated in Arts. 8 to 10 EU Regulation 816/2006 are met. Upon execution of the above-indicated procedural steps, the State Medicines Control Agency shall issue a positive or negative decision, together with, *inter alia*, the motives of such decision. Such compulsory licence may only be remunerable, non-exclusive and non-transferrable.

The compulsory licence may be revoked or amended in cases set forth in Art. 5(c) and/or 16 EU Regulation 816/2006.

For the public interest

Compulsory licences on these grounds may be granted by a resolution of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania.

The applicant shall address the Government of the Republic of Lithuania with a request to permit the exploitation of a patented invention, together with documentation

confirming that the person seeking authorisation has requested but not received authorisation from the owner of a patent to use the patented invention. The Government of the Republic of Lithuania shall examine the request, together with consideration of whether the legal ground indicated (for public interest) exists, and, in the case of a positive decision, adopt a resolution authorising the use of the claimed patented invention, i.e. on granting of a compulsory licence.

In cases when authorisation to use a patented invention may be issued to the owner of a patent that improves a previously patented invention (second invention), and that may infringe the exclusive rights of the owner of the first patent, the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, before adoption of such resolution, shall also take into consideration whether the claimed invention in the second patent shall involve an important technical advance of considerable economic significance in relation to the invention claimed in the first patent.

Such compulsory licence may only be remunerable, non-exclusive and non-transferrable, and the owner of the first patent shall be entitled to a cross-licence to use the invention claimed in the second patent (i.e. authorisation to each owner to use both patented inventions).

Furthermore, with regard to compulsory licences granted under the legal ground (i) above, the court that has granted the licence may, at the request of the owner of the claimed patented invention or protected plant variety, revoke the compulsory licence or change its conditions, if the legal basis constituting the granting of the licence has changed or disappeared.

The same may be applied *mutatis mutandis* to compulsory licences granted on public interest grounds ((iii) above). Such a compulsory licence may also be revoked when it is being used for a different purpose than the one for which the compulsory licence was granted in the first place.

Appeal/review

All final decisions of a competent court or authority described in the above may be appealed to a Court of Appeal of Lithuania.

Statistics and jurisprudence

None to date.

Luxembourg

Legal basis

Luxembourg Law of 20 July 1992 on Patents, as amended (Arts. 47 quinquies and 59 to 66) (hereinafter PL). This law also implements Art. 12 Biotech Directive.

Grounds for applying for a licence

The applicant (i.e. any public or private legal person) must file a written claim before the court, establishing:

- that it has previously made an effort to conclude an agreement on reasonable commercial terms with the patentee, with no success;
- its ability to effectively and seriously exploit the invention; and
- that the invention has not been sufficiently used.

Importation of a patented product is also considered as use of the invention. Where a compulsory licence aims at enabling a second patent to be exploited (dependant patents), the applicant must also demonstrate that the invention claimed in the second patent involves an important technical advance of considerable economic significance in relation to the invention claimed in the first patent.

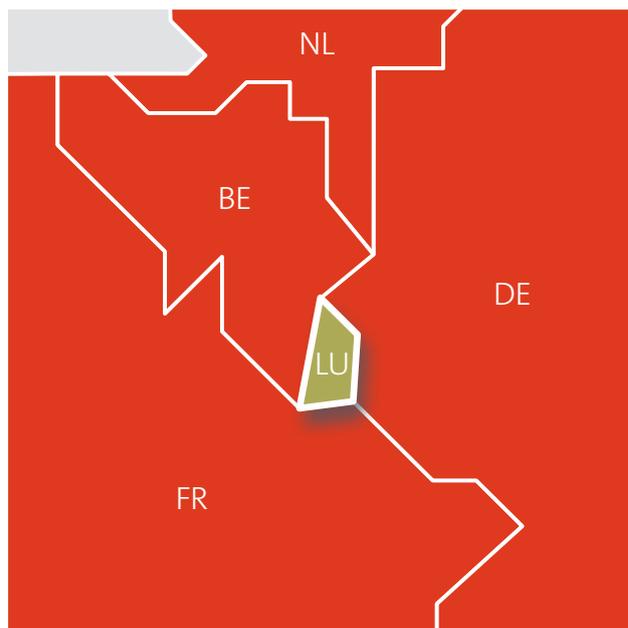
Compulsory licences should be distinguished from ex officio licences. Such licences are delivered by the government, where the invention has been declared by decree of public interest.

General procedure

Compulsory licence claims are of the competence of Luxembourg district courts (*Tribunaux d'arrondissement*).

The District Court may grant the applicant a compulsory non-exclusive licence if it proves that neither the owner of the patent nor its successors in title:

- has begun to use or has made real and effective preparations for using the invention that is the subject matter of the patent on the territory of the Grand Duchy or of any other member state of the Agreement Establishing the WTO; or



- has used the invention that is the subject matter of the patent in a manner sufficient to satisfy the needs of the Luxembourg market.

A compulsory licence may also be granted where it is demonstrated that such use has been abandoned for more than three years.

The claim may be filed after the expiry of the later of the following periods: three years from the grant of a patent or four years from the filing date of the patent application.

No compulsory licence may be granted if the non-exploitation of the patent is due to legitimate reasons.

Where the compulsory licence is necessary to permit the exploitation of a patent (“the second patent”) which cannot be exploited without infringing another patent (“the first patent”) (i.e. dependant patents), such licence may be granted only if it is in the public interest, and after the opinion of the public prosecutor has been heard.

If the subject of the patent is an invention in the field of semiconductor technology, a compulsory licence may be granted only where such technology is required to remedy a practice that has been judicially or administratively determined to be anti-competitive.

The terms of a compulsory licence will be decided by the court on a case-by-case basis and will depend on the particular facts of the case, but will be subject to the following conditions set out by PL:

- the licence shall not be exclusive;
- the licence can be assigned only along with the part of the applicant's business that enjoys the use of the patented invention, and, in the specific case of dependant patents, along with the second patent;
- the licence must be predominantly for the supply of the market in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg;
- the compulsory licence is to include conditions entitling the patentee to adequate remuneration in the circumstances of the case;
- the licence must be limited in scope and duration to the purpose for which the licence was granted, which means that the licence is at risk of termination or modification if circumstances change;
- (for dependant patents) the patentee of the first patent must be entitled, upon request and on reasonable terms, to a cross-licence in respect of the second patent. Same rule applies to plant-variety rights and biotechnological inventions.

Appeal/review

Before the Luxembourg Court of Appeal.

Statistics and jurisprudence

There is no published case law or statistics on this issue.

Latvia

Legal basis

The legal basis for compulsory licencing is set out in Art. 54 of the Patent Law of 2007, amended most recently as of 1 January 2016 (hereinafter PL).

With respect to plant varieties, the basis is set out in Art. 32 of the Plant Varieties Protection Law. The Plant Varieties Protection Law notes that it is intended to implement the Biotech Directive.

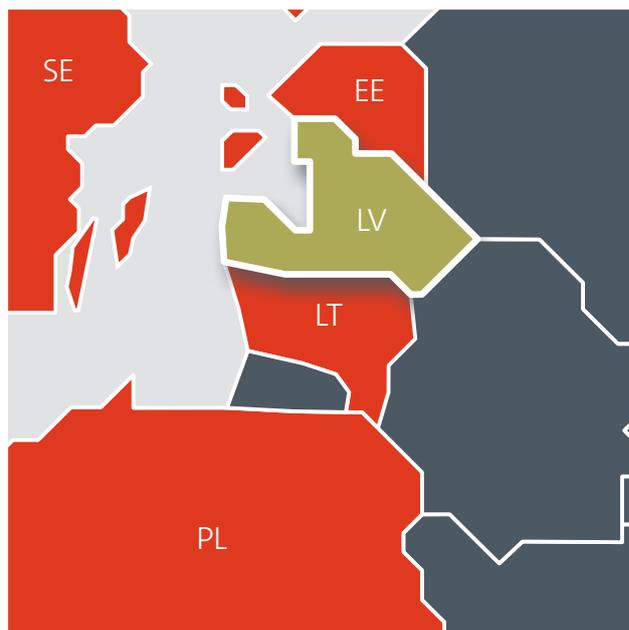
Grounds for applying for a licence

Pursuant to Art. 54(1) PL, any person may apply for a compulsory licence if a patented invention has not been used in Latvia or has been used to an insufficient degree within four years from the date of application or three years from the date on which the grant of a patent was published. Pursuant to Art. 16(1) PL, importation of a patented product qualifies as use of that invention. The licence will be refused if the patent proprietor proves to the court that there are reasonable grounds why the invention has not been used or has been used to an insufficient degree.

Art. 54(2) of the Patent Law stipulates the requirements with respect to biotechnological inventions. If a patent proprietor of a biotech invention is unable to exploit the invention without infringing prior rights to a plant variety, the patent proprietor may apply for a compulsory licence for the use of such plant variety and must pay the owner compensation as stipulated by the court. If such a compulsory licence is granted, the owner of a plant variety has the right to qualify for a counter-licence with reasonable conditions for the use of the protected invention. See also Arts. 28, 32 and 32(1), Plant Varieties Protection Law.

Art. 54(3) PL lays down further conditions that must be satisfied to receive a compulsory licence under Art. 54(1) and (2), namely:

- (1) The patented invention or an invention acquired by means of a patented method is of vital importance for the welfare, defence or economic interests of the people of Latvia;
- (2) An invention that has significant economic value may not be implemented without the use of another patented invention.



Moreover, Art. 54(4) PL states that a court may grant a compulsory licence if the applicant has tried, but failed, to obtain such a licence from the patentee within a reasonable time and under acceptable commercial conditions.

General procedure

Although ordinarily the Riga City Vidzeme District Court has exclusive jurisdiction in industrial property cases, including patent-related cases (Art. 65 PL), a party requesting the grant of a compulsory licence shall petition the Administrative Court following the general rules on territorial jurisdiction (Art. 54(1) PL).

If there is a state of national emergency, the Cabinet of Ministers may grant a compulsory licence (Art. 54(5) PL).

In the case of plant varieties, the compulsory licence is granted by the State Plant Protection Service (*Valsts augu aizsardzības dienests*), based upon a decision of the court.

According to Art. 54(6) PL, when examining the circumstances of the case for the granting of a compulsory licence pursuant to Art. 54(3)(1) PL, the court shall take into account the following:

- The use and term of the patent shall be limited considering the purpose for which the compulsory licence has been granted;

- A compulsory licence is comparable to a simple licence;
- A compulsory licence may not be assigned to any third party, unless it is assigned along with an undertaking (or some part thereof) that is directly related to the use of the patent;
- A compulsory licence shall be granted for use in the internal market of Latvia.

Under Art. 54(7) PL, the court must consider additional considerations when granting a compulsory licence pursuant to Art. 54(2) PL. These are:

- The proprietor of the earlier patent may request a counter-licence on reasonable conditions for the use of the later invention;
- The licence to the earlier patent shall not be assigned unless it is assigned together with the later patent.

Pursuant to Art. 54(8) PL a court may rule on termination of a compulsory licence if the conditions as stipulated in Art. 54(1) or 54(3)(1) PL cease to exist and are unlikely to recur.

Finally, the holder of a compulsory licence is obliged to compensate the patent proprietor with an amount determined by the court considering the economic value of the licence, the extent of use of the invention and other circumstances.

The Administrative Court granting the compulsory licence has the discretion to consider the degree to which the scope and term of the patent should be limited by a compulsory licence (Art. 54(6)(1) PL). Under general principles of administrative procedure, such a decision may be initiated by the court at the motion of one of the parties. It is to be assumed that the patentee would be invited to the proceedings as a third party.

Appeal/review

Since the decision to grant a compulsory licence is taken by an administrative court of first instance, it may be appealed to the Administrative Court of Appeal. The rulings of the latter, in turn, may be appealed to the Supreme Court of Latvia.

Statistics and jurisprudence

According to the information provided by the Latvian Patent Office (www.lrpv.gov.lv/en), no compulsory licences have been granted or registered in Latvia.

Monaco

Legal basis

Law No. 606 of 20 June 1955.

Grounds for applying for a licence

The judicial authority must investigate the case and ascertain that the patent has not been used or licensed in any way during a period of three years.

The abuse of monopoly may also justify the grant of a compulsory licence.

General procedure

The competent authority to grant a compulsory licence is the Court of First Instance (*tribunal de première instance*).

The requesting party appoints a bailiff to file a claim on his behalf before the Court to the right holder and the National Intellectual Property Office. The claim must contain the evidence that in the context of an amicable request, the right holder refused to grant a licence to the requesting party.

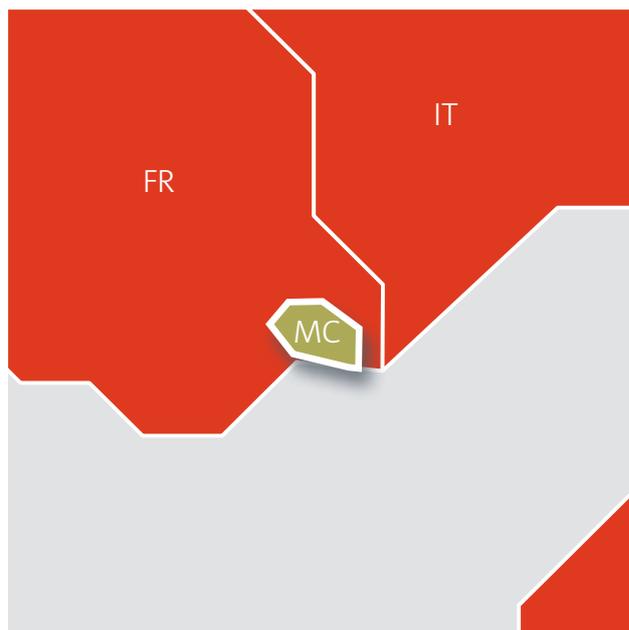
The public prosecutor is also part of the procedure.

The representative of the intellectual property office may also join the debates or, if it deems it appropriate, inform the judicial authority of his position.

The judicial authority lays down the conditions of the compulsory licence, including its term and the amount of the licence fee. According to Arts. 35 and 36 of the Law No. 606, upon request of a Party (right holder or licence holder), the judicial authority may review the compulsory licensing conditions after adversarial proceedings during which the parties may discuss the conditions of the compulsory licensing.

The Court of First Instance and, on appeal, the Court of Appeal have discretion as to the terms of the compulsory licence.

The procedure for requesting a review of the licence conditions is the same as the procedure requesting a compulsory licence (see above).



Appeal/review

The decision may be appealed before the Court of Appeal.

Statistics and jurisprudence

There are no official statistics on the application of compulsory licences in Monaco, nor any published jurisprudence.

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹

Legal basis

Arts. 97 to 115 of the Law on Industrial Property No. 21/09 of 2009 (hereinafter PL).

Grounds for applying for a licence

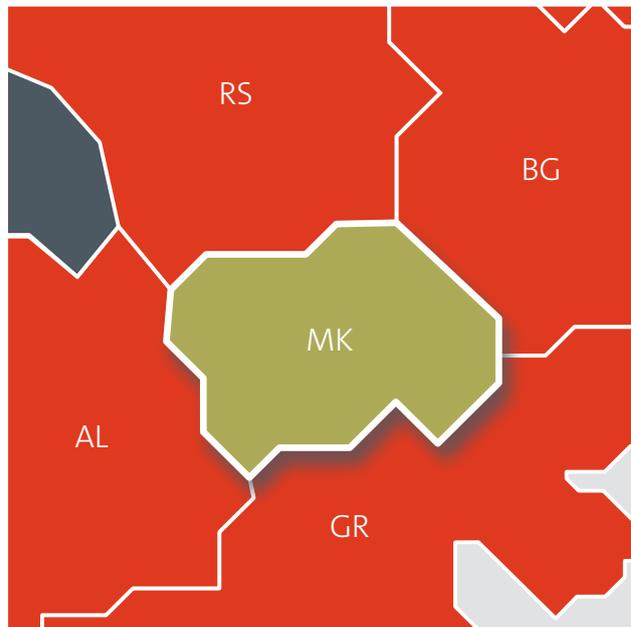
- (1) non-working of a patent, insufficient exploitation (importation of a patented product also qualifies as exploitation of the invention);
- (2) public interest in the area of public health (pharmaceutical industry), food, protection and promotion of the environment;
- (3) national emergency;
- (4) necessary to implement judicial and administrative procedure related to protection of competition.

General procedure

The primary court (court of first instance) is responsible for disputes concerning industrial property rights, and also decides on the granting of compulsory licences.

In the course of making a decision upon the request for issuance of a compulsory licence, the court shall verify whether:

- (1) each importing country listed in the request that is a WTO member has sent a notification to the WTO pursuant to the decision, and each importing country listed in the request that is not a WTO member has made a notification to the Ministry of Economy in accordance with the provisions of this Article, in respect of each of the products listed in the request and irrespective of the possibilities that the least developed countries have under the decision;
- (2) the quantity of the product listed in the request does not exceed the one for which the importing country as a WTO member has notified the WTO or the Ministry of Economy; and



- (3) the total quantity of products approved to be produced in view of any importing country does not significantly exceed the quantity regarding which the respective country notified the WTO or the Ministry of Economy, taking into consideration the other compulsory licences issued.

The activities for the production of which the requesting entity is authorised, and which are necessary for the production, export, and distribution to the country, that is, countries listed in the request, shall be listed in the court's decision.

The court decision shall order the products to be clearly marked with specific labels or marks that are produced under a compulsory licence, so that they can be distinguished from those made by the holder of the right through special packaging and/or special colouring and shaping, provided that such distinction is possible and does not have a significant impact on the price.

In the decision, the court shall order the licensee, prior to the delivery to the importing country, to publish data on the web page regarding the quantity of the products which it supplies to the importing countries, obtained under the compulsory licence, as well as regarding the manner and type of marking those products, and to inform the Ministry of Economy and the Ministry of Health about the web page address.

¹ At the time of writing, the Parliament initiated the constitutional changes needed to implement the Prespa Agreement with Greece. However, the Agreement is also subject to the Greek Parliament's ratification in Athens.

The court may, based on the proposal for provision of evidence submitted by the holder of the right, impose a measure for conducting an inspection of the work books and the other documents for licence receipt, for the sole purpose of checking whether all obligations deriving from the decision on issuance of a compulsory licence are met, and in particular for the purpose of checking the final destination of the product, and the work books and the documents must include evidence of the export of the product, in the form of an export declaration certified by customs, as well as evidence of the import.

The court has discretion in determining the term of duration and scope of a compulsory licence.

The duration and the scope of the compulsory licence that are listed in the issuance decision of the court shall depend only on the duration of the reason due to which it has been issued. The court responsible for making a decision on disputes over the industrial property rights is competent to decide on this.

The lawsuit containing a request for issuance of a compulsory licence for the needs of public health shall be filed with the court pursuant to Art. 101 PL, provided that there is a patent or a supplementary protection certificate on the territory of the Republic of Macedonia covering export-related production and sale activities.

The plaintiff shall be obliged to attach the following to the lawsuit for issuance of a compulsory licence:

- (1) the requests for issuance of compulsory licences in other states for the same product, also containing data on the quantities for the importing countries;
- (2) the requesting entity for issuance of a compulsory licence, and if a representative has been appointed, data on its representative;
- (3) the name of the pharmaceutical product that is not subject to protection and that the requesting entity intends to produce under a compulsory licence;
- (4) the amount of the pharmaceutical product that the requesting entity intends to produce under the compulsory licence;
- (5) the data on the importing country;
- (6) evidence of prior negotiations with the holder of the right; and

- (7) the evidence of the request containing the quantity of the required product by the authorised representative of the importing country or the non-governmental organisation which operates with an authorisation from one or several importing countries or UN bodies or another international health organisation operating with an authorisation from one or several importing countries.

Appeal/review

The decision of the first court can be appealed to the court of second instance, i.e. a court of appeal.

Statistics and jurisprudence

None available.

Malta

Legal basis

The legal basis for compulsory licences in Malta is Art. 39 of the Patents and Designs Act (Cap. 417 of the Laws of Malta) (hereinafter “the Act”).

Art. 39(9) and (10) appear to have been drawn up in order for Malta to be in line with the provisions of Art. 12 Biotech Directive.

EU Regulation 816/2006 is directly applicable in Malta.

Grounds for applying for a licence

There are five situations on which to base a compulsory licence:

- (a) a sworn application filed by any person who proves his ability to work the patented invention in Malta, after the expiration of a period of four years from the date of filing the application for the patent or three years from the grant of the patent, whichever is later;
- (b) a sworn application filed by the owner of a patent (the second patent) which cannot be exploited without infringing an earlier patent (the first patent);
- (c) [when the relevant form of plant variety protection comes into force] an application filed by a breeder who cannot acquire plant variety protection or exploit a plant variety without infringing a prior patent, for a compulsory licence for non-exclusive use of the invention protected by the patent;
- (d) [when the relevant form of plant variety protection comes into force] an application filed by the holder of a patent concerning a biotechnological invention who cannot exploit it without infringing a prior plant variety right, for a compulsory licence for non-exclusive use of the plant variety protected by that right; and
- (e) an authorisation by the Minister responsible for the protection of industrial property (“the Minister”) where the national security or public safety so requires, even without the agreement of the proprietor of the patent or the patent application, in favour of a government agency or a person designated in the said notice to use an invention to which a patent or an application for a patent relates.



General procedure

The First Hall of the Civil Court (as a court of first instance), or (in a case against a person residing or having their ordinary abode on the island of Gozo or Comino) the Court of Magistrates (Gozo) in its superior jurisdiction, is the judicial authority which is competent to grant a compulsory licence.

In each case, the law utilises the terms “equitable remuneration” for situation (a) above and “appropriate” for situations (b) to (e), therefore the competent authority has discretion as to the terms of the compulsory licence.

Procedure in situation (a):

In the sworn application, the applicant/plaintiff requests the Court to direct the Comptroller of Industrial Property (“the Comptroller”) to grant a non-exclusive, non-voluntary licence if the patented invention is not worked or is insufficiently worked in Malta.

The grant of the non-voluntary licence shall be subject to the payment of such equitable remuneration to the proprietor of the patent as may be determined by the Court and may be permitted if, prior to the institution of such proceedings, the proposed user has made efforts to obtain authorisation from the right holder on reasonable commercial terms and conditions and if such efforts have not been successful within a reasonable period of time.

A non-voluntary licence shall not be granted if the Court is convinced that circumstances exist that justify the non-working or insufficient working of the patented invention in Malta.

In deciding whether to grant a non-voluntary licence, the Court shall give both the proprietor of the patent and the person requesting the non-voluntary licence an adequate opportunity to present arguments in terms of applicable provisions of procedural law.

Moreover, any non-voluntary licence of this type shall be revoked when the circumstances that led to its granting cease to exist, taking into account the legitimate interests of the proprietor of the patent and of the licensee. The continued existence of these circumstances shall be reviewed upon the request of the proprietor of the patent by sworn application before the Court.

The scope and duration of a non-voluntary licence of this type shall be limited to the purpose for which it was authorised and shall be:

- non-exclusive;
- non-assignable, except with that part of the enterprise or goodwill that enjoys such authorisation;
- terminated if and when the circumstances that led to it cease to exist; and
- predominantly for the supply of the domestic market.

The procedure in situation (b):

The procedure for this case is a lawsuit filed by the applicant through a sworn application before the relevant court of first instance. It will be eligible for grant if the invention claimed in the second patent shall involve an important technical advance of considerable economic significance in relation to the invention claimed in the first patent, in which case:

- the owner of the first patent shall be entitled to a cross-licence on reasonable terms to use the invention claimed in the second patent; and
- the use authorised in respect of the first patent shall be non-assignable except with the assignment of the second patent.

The procedure in situation (c):

The application to the relevant court of first instance will be eligible for grant if the applicant can demonstrate that:

- the licence is necessary for the exploitation of the plant variety to be protected;
- the applicant had applied unsuccessfully to the holder of the prior patent to obtain a contractual licence; and
- the plant variety constitutes significant technical progress of considerable economic interest compared with the invention claimed in the prior patent; in which case:
 - the licence would be subject to payment of an appropriate royalty; and
 - the holder of the patent would be entitled to a cross-licence on reasonable terms to use the protected variety.

The procedure in situation (d):

The law is unclear as to the competent authority; however, presumably it is also the First Hall of the Civil Court or the Court of Magistrates (Gozo) in its superior jurisdiction according to circumstances. The application, filed by the applicant, will be eligible for grant if the applicant can demonstrate that:

- (i) the applicant had applied unsuccessfully to the holder of the prior plant variety right to obtain a contractual licence; and
- (ii) the invention constitutes significant technical progress of considerable economic interest compared with the plant variety protected by the prior plant variety right; in which case

- the licence would be subject to payment of an appropriate royalty; and
- the holder of the patent would be entitled to a cross-licence on reasonable terms to use the protected invention.

The procedure in situation (e):

The competent authority in this case is the Minister responsible for the protection of industrial property. The law is unclear as to the proceedings; however, it would presumably be a written communication to the Minister.

The application will be eligible for grant if:

- (i) the invention shall involve an important technical advance of considerable economic significance;
- (ii) the licence is necessary for the exploitation of the patent;

- (iii) the applicant had applied unsuccessfully to the holder of the patent to obtain a contractual licence; and
- (iv) the patent constitutes significant technical progress of considerable economic interest; in which case:
 - the owner of the patent shall be entitled to a cross-licence on reasonable terms to use the invention;
 - the use authorised shall be non-assignable;
 - the licence would be subject to payment of an appropriate royalty.

Appeal/review

For situations (a) to (c), the law is silent on this issue; however, in terms of general laws of procedure an appeal from judgment of the relevant court of first instance is possible by filing an application with the Court of Appeal.

The Act is silent on appeals relating to situation (d) and does not indicate before which court or tribunal the application should be filed; however, in terms of general laws of procedure an appeal from a decree of a court of first instance or a tribunal is possible by application filed before the Court of Appeal.

For compulsory licences granted in the public interest (e) the decision may be appealed to the relevant court of first instance indicated herein and, even if the Act is silent on this issue, in terms of general laws of procedure a further appeal from judgment thereof is possible by application filed before the Court of Appeal.

Statistics and jurisprudence

There are no available statistics or jurisprudence.

The Netherlands

Legal basis

Patents Act of 15 December 1994 (Dutch Patent Act, hereinafter DPA), which also implements Art. 12 Biotech Directive (Art. 57(5) DPA).

The text in the DPA is not always entirely consistent with that of Art. 31 TRIPS. In case of a conflict, the text of the TRIPS Agreement will most likely prevail¹.

Grounds for applying for a licence

Under the Dutch Patent Act (DPA), there are five grounds on which a licence may be obtained against the wishes of the patentee. See Art. 57(1), 57(2), 57(4) and (5), 59, and 60 DPA^{2,3}:

- public interest;
- lack of sufficient application by the patentee (*non usus*);
- ownership of dependent patents (or dependent plant breeder's right in respect of the plant variety);
- national defence; and
- the Euratom treaty.

The focus below will be on the first three grounds.

General procedure

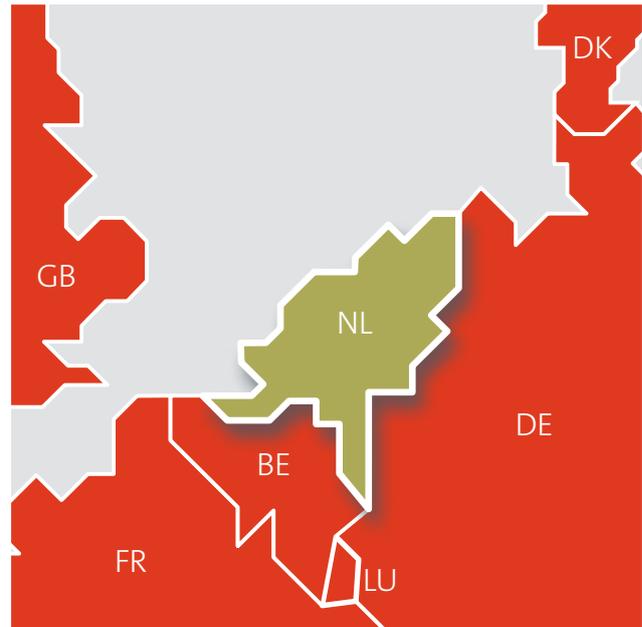
Under Article 57(1) DPA, a compulsory licence in the public interest may be granted by the Minister of Economic Affairs ("the Minister").

A compulsory licence based on *non usus* or on dependent patents may be granted by the District Court of The Hague.

The procedures for obtaining compulsory licences are laid down in Arts. 57 to 60 DPA.

Procedure to obtain a licence in the public interest

The procedure for obtaining a licence in the public interest is set out in Art. 57(1) DPA.



A request for a compulsory licence in the public interest must be filed in writing with the Minister.⁴ As the DPA does not provide for a time frame in which the decision must be made, the decision has to be made "within a reasonable period after receiving the application" which is at most eight weeks after receiving the application.⁵ This period can be extended by "a reasonable period", which is usually also eight weeks. Art. 57(1) DPA stipulates that before deciding upon the request the Minister shall ascertain, unless urgency dictates otherwise, whether the patentee is willing to grant a licence voluntarily and on reasonable terms. To this end, the Minister shall give the patentee the opportunity to express his views on the request for a compulsory licence. This does not seem fully in line with Art. 31(b) TRIPS, which says that parties must first negotiate in good faith. As the TRIPS Agreement prevails, the applicant should probably first try to obtain a voluntary licence from the patentee also with compulsory licences based on the public interest.

Art. 83(3) DPA gives the District Court of The Hague, a specialised patent court, the discretion to stay pending proceedings, e.g. an infringement procedure, if there are other proceedings pending which may influence the outcome of the procedure at hand. Arguably, a request for a compulsory licence qualifies as such. The courts have broad discretionary powers in this respect. They tend to assess the

¹ International treaties have direct force in the Netherlands if it concerns a stipulation which is sufficiently specific to have a general effect, also referred to as a self-executing provision. In case of a conflict between such a self-executing provision in an international treaty and the national law, the treaty prevails (see also decision Roche/Primus where the Supreme Court ruled that Article 45(1) of the TRIPS Agreement is one such self-executing provision).

² An informal – and not fully up-to-date – English translation of the entire DPA can be found at: https://english.rvo.nl/sites/default/files/2013/12/ROW95_ENG_niet_officiele_vertaling_0.pdf

³ In accordance with Article 57(a) DPA and Article 31(c) TRIPS, a compulsory patent licence in the field of semiconductor technology may be granted only for non-commercial use by the government or in order to combat an act that has been determined to be restrictive of competition after judicial or administrative proceedings.

⁴ Article 4:1 of the *Algemene Wet Bestuursrecht* (General Code of Administrative law; GCA)

⁵ Article 4:13 GCA

probable outcome of the other proceedings and put that in an equation with the respective interests of plaintiff and defendant.

Procedure to obtain a licence for *non usus* or applying a dependent patent

A compulsory licence based on *non usus* or on dependency can be granted by the District Court of The Hague (Art. 80(c) and (d) DPA) if the patentee refuses to grant a licence (Art. 58 DPA)⁶. It has to be requested by writ. Although not mentioned in the provision, it is probably also possible to file the request by way of counterclaim in infringement proceedings initiated by the patentee at the District Court of The Hague.

Effective after registration in the Dutch Patent Register

Art. 58(5) DPA provides that a decision of the Minister on a request for a compulsory licence in the public interest, or a (final, no longer appealable) District Court decision on a request for a compulsory licence for *non usus* or dependency, shall be registered in the Dutch patent register by the Dutch Patent Office. The licence shall enter into effect only once it is registered (with the exception of a licence for dependency, which may have retroactive effect as of the moment of registration in the Dutch patent register of the writ of summons claiming the licence).

Compulsory licence as preliminary relief?

Compulsory licences cannot be granted by the Preliminary Injunction (PI) Judge. It may be possible though that a PI Judge dismisses or suspends a PI in view of pending or announced compulsory licence proceedings depending on the likelihood of success, also in view of the balance of interests at stake (although the licence itself is only effective after the granting decision has become final and is registered – see above).

Rules common to all types of compulsory licences

Previous negotiations failed

Art. 31(b) TRIPS stipulates that a compulsory licence may only be granted if

“[...] the proposed user has made efforts to obtain authorisation from the right holder on reasonable commercial terms and conditions and that such efforts have not been successful within a reasonable period of time.”

TRIPS makes previous failed negotiations between the applicant and the patentee a prerequisite for a compulsory licence. A compulsory licence is a last resort. Only if, after a reasonable period of time, negotiations are still unsuccessful, there may be room for a compulsory licence.

The DPA does not contain the same requirement, but the TRIPS provisions should prevail in case of a conflict with the DPA. Therefore also in the Netherlands, a party applying for a compulsory licence under the DPA must be able to show that previous attempts to conclude a licence agreement all failed. He must show that he negotiated in good faith, e.g. he must be able to show that the licence fee he offered is reasonable.

Licence fees (Art. 58(6) DPA)

If a compulsory licence is granted, the licensee must pay a licence fee to the patentee. The DPA assumes that the patentee and the licensee may negotiate and agree on a licence fee after a compulsory licence has been granted. However, if no agreement can be reached, either party may request the District Court of The Hague to determine the fee. The Supreme Court determined in 1942 that the District Court has a large degree of freedom in determining the fee.⁷ Before granting a compulsory licence the court may impose the condition that the licensee puts up a security for licence fees due (Art. 57(1) and 58(4) DPA).

Particularities of the compulsory licence

According to Art. 58a(1) DPA, a compulsory licence based on the general interest, *non usus* or dependent patents is non-exclusive. Such a licence cannot be transferred unless the relevant part of the undertaking is also transferred (Art. 58a(2) DPA). Pursuant to Art. 58a(3), such a compulsory licence may be revoked when the circumstances that led to the grant are no longer present and it is unlikely that the situation will revert.

⁶ Before 1995, the now-defunct Dutch Patent Council (DPC) had jurisdiction. DPC case law can still be relevant, as the material provision has not changed. In these proceedings, the “regular” rules of civil procedure apply.

⁷ Supreme Court 17 December 1942, NJ 1943, 39. See also District Court The Hague 8 July 1987, BIE 1988, 28 (Bronchitis vaccines for poultry II) and District Court The Hague 20 March 2002, BIE 2002, 82 (Shrimp sorting sieve III).

A national right: no EU-exhaustion

If a compulsory licence is obtained, this licence will apply to the territory of the Netherlands. Products put on the market under a compulsory licence are not considered to be brought on the market with consent of the patentee⁸. Therefore the EU-doctrine of European Union-wide exhaustion, i.e. that products that are put on the market in one EU member state by or with the consent of the patentee can be freely moved to other EU member states, does not apply.

Requirements for a compulsory licence in the public interest

Under Art. 57(1) DPA, a compulsory licence may be granted by the Minister of Economic Affairs (“the Minister”)⁹ “if the public interest so dictates”. The terms of a compulsory licence in the public interest are determined by the Minister (Art. 57(1) DPA).

The concept of public interest must be interpreted broadly and is not limited to Economic Affairs only. In the decision in a case between La Buvette and Utina (in which the compulsory licence was denied), the Minister wrote:

“The law does not describe more precisely what public interest is; in general this includes the government’s policy objectives. Since the temporary monopoly a patent grants is itself within the scope of these policy objectives, one policy objective will have to be weighed against the other in order to determine whether or not there are sufficient grounds for the application of this exception. The term “dictates” signifies that priority should not be given lightly to policy objectives other than those on which the patent system is based.”¹⁰

This indicates that there must be a pressing policy or general public interest served before a compulsory licence based on the public interest can be granted. According to a decision from 1932, the interests of an individual company to better compete in the market was not enough.¹¹ Mere benefits for the applicant are therefore insufficient.

According to a later decision from 1972, a compulsory licence can only be granted in cases where the behaviour of the

patentee borders to misuse of his patent rights and its refusal to grant a licence have created a situation that is clearly contrary to public interest. The mere fact that the applicant could provide the products (in this case patented drugs) for a lower price was not sufficient to establish that the public interest dictates a compulsory licence. The applicant would have to show that the patentee charged exorbitantly high prices to the effect that it was abusing its patent rights.¹² Higher prices as such are also insufficient since the patentee will have to earn back R&D costs¹³.

Therefore for this provision to apply there must be a clear and pressing public interest which is not only served by the compulsory licence, but is actually demanded. Lower prices in general are insufficient.

Requirements for a compulsory licence for *non usus*

A compulsory licence may be granted in case of lack of sufficient application of the patent (*non usus*) (Art. 57(2) DPA).

If three years have elapsed since the grant of the patent,¹⁴ and neither the patentee nor any licensee operates an undertaking in which the patented invention is being manufactured or applied, in good faith and on sufficient scale, the patentee has an obligation to grant the licence needed for such manufacture or application unless he can show a valid reasons for the lack of application.

The provision states that the application must take place within the Kingdom of The Netherlands, but also mentions the possibility of designating other states via a statutory instrument.¹⁵ Art. 28 of the Implementing Regulation to the DPA¹⁶ designates the European Union and the other members of the European Economic Area, and all WTO member states provided that the production in those states ensures a sufficient supply in the Kingdom of The Netherlands. Therefore *non usus* may only be assumed if (1) the invention is not applied in the European Economic Area and (2) companies in other WTO member states are not able to provide sufficient quantities.

⁸ Judgment of 9 July 1985, Hoechst v Parmon C-19/84, ECLI:EU:C:1985:304. See also: http://www.ippt.eu/files/1985/IPPT19850709_ECJ_Parmon.pdf

⁹ Until 1977, this power resided with the now-defunct Dutch Patent Council (DPC). However, the material provisions have not changed since 1910.

¹⁰ Decision Minister 9 January 1980, BIE 1981, p. 185 e.v.

¹¹ Appeals Division Dutch Patent Council 17 February 1932, BIE 1932, p. 136

¹² Appeals Division Dutch Patent Council 19 July 1972, BIE 1972, nr. 72, p. 236

¹³ The government referred to this decision when it shifted the power to grant compulsory licences from the DPC to the Minister and was asked to elaborate on the meaning of “public interest”. See MvA, Kamerstukken II 1975/76, 13 209, nr. 8, p. 8-9. (R 967). The government also mentioned that in these cases the licensing fees that would have to be paid to the patentee pursuant to the compulsory licence would have to be taken into account when calculating the price difference.

¹⁴ For patents granted under the European Patent Convention, the time frame is three years since the date on which the grant has been published pursuant to Article 97(4) EPC.

¹⁵ In Dutch: *Algemene Maatregel van Bestuur* or AMvB

¹⁶ Uitvoeringsbesluit Rijksoctrooiwet 1995

The request for a compulsory licence based on *non usus* will be denied if the patentee can show a valid reason for the *non usus*. Valid reasons may be being unable to apply the patent¹⁷, the circumstance that supply in the Netherlands was guaranteed by production in another country (outside the EEA)¹⁸, or circumstances beyond the patentee's control such as the lack of necessary permits or *force majeure*.

Requirements for a compulsory licence for dependent patents (and dependent plant breeder's rights)

Art. 57(4) DPA states that a compulsory licence may also be obtained if the patented invention is necessary for the application of a later patented invention (a dependent patent). A similar provision for dependent plant breeder's rights is laid down in Art. 57(5) DPA.

A dependent patent will often entail an improvement or a new application of the earlier patent, but that is insufficient to constitute "an important technical advance of considerable economic significance". The requirement of a considerable advancement is perceived as a particularly high threshold.¹⁹

Under old Dutch case law the element that applying an earlier patent was "required" for applying a later patent was construed broadly; a compulsory licence was considered "required" if without that licence the younger patent could not be exploited in a technically and economically sensible manner.²⁰ It is not certain whether this is still good law under the current wording of Art. 57(4) DPA and the TRIPS Agreement.

In deciding on a request for a compulsory licence for *non usus* or dependency, the Court has full discretion to dictate the terms of the licence (Article 58(4) DPA).

Appeal/review

After a decision by the Minister about a compulsory licence in the public interest, both parties (applicant and patentee) may lodge an objection,²¹ which is a complaint sent to the Minister himself to re-evaluate his previous decision. The term to submit an objection is six weeks.²² After the decision on objection, an appeal can be lodged to the administrative chamber of the District Court of The Hague.²³ A final appeal may be lodged to the Council of State (*Raad van State*). Both the objection and the appeal have suspensive effect, unless the decision of the Minister provides otherwise on grounds of urgency.²⁴

Appeals against decisions about compulsory licences for *non usus* or applying a dependent patent by the District Court of The Hague may be appealed before the Hague Court of Appeal. Subsequent appeal is possible before the Dutch Supreme Court (the latter on points of law only).

Statistics and jurisprudence

Although the DPA contains detailed rules on compulsory licences, their practical relevance has been limited. The most recent cases date back to the mid-1990s and in most cases the request was denied. There is also limited literature available. This means that (1) *a priori* requesting a compulsory licence is challenging although (2) the doctrine of compulsory licences is not well established and there are only limited guidelines to assess the chances of succeeding with such a request. Much will probably depend on the facts and circumstances of the case.

Some of the most recent relevant cases (in addition to the cases already described above):

17 Special Divison Dutch Patent Council 5 September 1995, BIE 1996, nr. 43, p. 156: "the Special Division, along with Medrad, is of the opinion that the criterion for the presence of a valid reason for non-application should not be so strict that one could speak of being unable to exploit".

18 Special Divison Dutch Patent Council 5 September 1995, BIE 1996, nr. 43, p. 155. This part of the decision has now been incorporated in the Implementing Regulation to the DPA which designates all WTO member states as long as supply in the Netherlands is guaranteed.

19 Huydecoper en Van Nispen, Industriële eigendom; deel 1, Bescherming van technische innovatie, Kluwer: Deventer 2002, III.7.5.14 (p. 317)

20 Huydecoper en Van Nispen, Industriële eigendom; deel 1, Bescherming van technische innovatie, Kluwer: Deventer 2002, III.7.5.16 (p. 318)

21 Since these are both "interested parties" as meant in Article 1:2 GCA; there may also be other interested parties.

22 Article 6:7 GCA

23 Article 8:7 GCA

24 Article 57(1) DPA

President of the District Court The Hague (preliminary proceedings), ev3 c.s. / The Regents, 11 December 2003, KG 03/1257 – compulsory licence argument denied:

In these proceedings ev3 c.s. requested a stay of the execution of an injunction obtained by The Regents in merits proceedings, *inter alia* arguing that ev3 c.s. would be granted dependent patents in the future which would lead to ev3 c.s. having a right to a compulsory licence. The court ruled that in preliminary (execution) proceedings such as these, there is no room to assess these claims – which were disputed by The Regents.

President of the District Court The Hague (preliminary proceedings), Cordis / Medinol, 26 August 2003, KG 03/835 – compulsory licence argument denied:

In these proceedings, Cordis requested that the court would prohibit Medinol from executing the (provisional) injunctive relief it had obtained in different patent proceedings before the Court of Appeal The Hague. As one of the grounds for this request Cordis asserted it would obtain a compulsory licence for *non usus*. Medinol disputed this by asserting that it had timely made use of the patent in Ireland and that moreover it produced the patented stents on such scale in Israel that it could supply Europe and the Netherlands. In light of these counterarguments the court considered that it could not be deemed likely that Cordis would obtain a compulsory licence, and that in preliminary proceedings this point could not be further investigated.

President of the District Court The Hague (preliminary proceedings), Cook / Fujinon, 17 March 1995, KG 95/268 – compulsory licence argument denied:

Cook claimed a preliminary injunction against the stents of Fujinon. One of Fujinon's defences was that the Minister of Economic affairs would (in the future) grant a compulsory licence. The court considered this to be irrelevant for the question whether an injunction should be granted: i) the compulsory licence would not have retroactive effect, i.e. for past infringement a ruling would still be needed, and ii) if a compulsory licence were to be granted from that moment on there would be no infringement anymore and therefore Fujinon would not suffer from the injunction anymore either.

President of the District Court The Hague (preliminary proceedings), Chicago Metallic Continental / Maars c.s., 1 May 1991, KG 91/312 – compulsory licence argument denied:

Chicago claimed a preliminary injunction against Maars c.s. One of the defences was that Maars c.s. had a dependent patent, regarding which it would submit a request for a compulsory licence to the Dutch Patent Council. The court ruled that the possibility of submitting a request for a compulsory licence is not enough to avoid an injunction. In addition it considered that *prima facie* it appeared that Maars c.s.' patent was not dependent on the patent of Chicago, leading to the conclusion that it would be unlikely that a compulsory licence would be granted.

Norway

Legal basis

Sections 45 to 50a of the Patents Act (Act No. 9 of December 15, 1967) (as amended) (hereinafter PA).

Art. 31bis of TRIPS is implemented in the Patent Regulation Sections 97 to 99. The Patents Act and Regulation were amended before Art 31bis was inserted into TRIPS to accommodate the new rules.

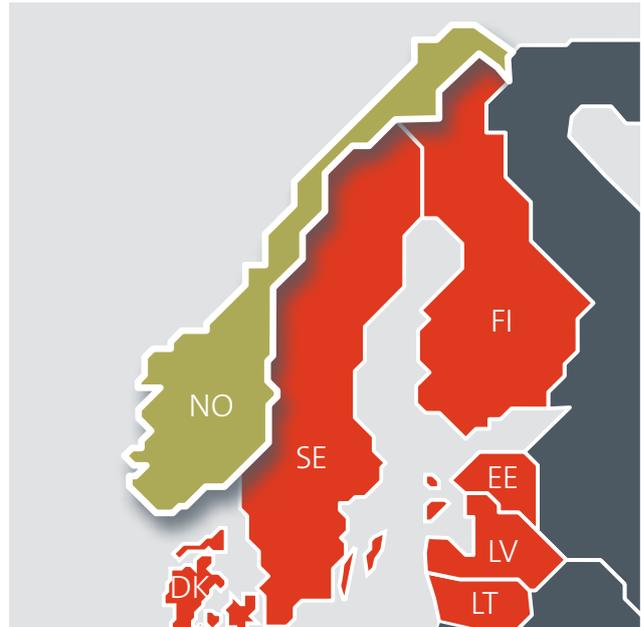
Norway, as an EEA member, has also implemented the Biotech Directive (including Art. 12).

Grounds for applying for a licence

There are different grounds for obtaining a compulsory licence, with different requirements to be considered by the competent authority.

Pursuant to Section 45 PA, a compulsory licence may be obtained on the grounds that three years have passed since the patent was granted and four years since the patent application was filed, without the invention being used “to a reasonable extent” in Norway. It is sufficient that the patent has been used by voluntary licensees. Use of the invention in WTO member states or EEA member states is equivalent to use in Norway as long as patent rights do not impede import to Norway. If the law’s requirement regarding non-use is met, anyone who wants to use the invention may obtain a compulsory licence as long as there are not “reasonable grounds” for its non-use. Importation alone does not in itself qualify as “use” or working of the invention for the purpose of Section 45 PA. Nevertheless, if the patent holder imports to Norway and thereby serves the Norwegian market, the patent holder may be deemed to have “reasonable grounds” for not using or working the invention in Norway, which would bar an application for a compulsory licence.

Pursuant to Section 46 PA, a patent holder of a patent for which the use is dependent on another patent may obtain a compulsory licence to use the other patent when the first patent constitutes an important technical advance of significant economic importance in relation to the other patent. The patent holder of the patent for which a compulsory licence is granted also has a right to obtain a compulsory licence “on reasonable terms” for the first patent.



Pursuant to Section 46a PA, a plant variety owner who may not obtain or use a plant breeder right without infringing an older patent, may, against a reasonable fee, obtain a compulsory licence to use the invention protected by the patent if the licence is necessary to use the plant variety. A compulsory licence is granted only if the plant variety owner demonstrates that the variety represents an important technical advance of significant economic importance in relation to the invention. Moreover, if the patent holder has been granted a compulsory licence to use the protected plant species, the variety owner has a right to a compulsory licence to the patent on reasonable terms.

Pursuant to Section 47 PA, a person who wants to use an invention that someone else holds a patent to, for commercial or operational activities, may obtain a compulsory licence when it is deemed necessary with regard to important public interests or if the patent rights are used in a way that may limit the competition significantly. The latter requirement is assumed to be met only when a dominant market position is being abused.

Pursuant to Section 48 PA, a person who used an invention for commercial or operational activities in Norway at the point in time that the patent application was made publicly available, and the patent application led to a patent, may be granted a compulsory licence to use when special reasons for such a licence are present, and the person did not know of the patent application and could not have obtained knowledge of it through reasonable means. The same applies for persons who, under the same circumstances, have made significant preparations to use the invention in

Norway for commercial or operational activities. The compulsory licence may also cover the time before the patent was granted.

Pursuant to Section 49 PA, a compulsory licence may be granted to a person who has attempted to obtain a licence on reasonable commercial terms by agreement without succeeding within a reasonable amount of time, and who may be deemed capable of exploiting the invention in a reasonable way that is in accordance with the licence.

A compulsory licence does not impede the patent holder from using the patent or granting licences. A compulsory licence may be transferred only together with the company that holds the compulsory licence.

For semiconductor technology, compulsory licences may be granted for public non-commercial use only, or because the patent rights are used in a way that may significantly limit competition.

General procedure

Both the Oslo District Court (as the court of first instance) and the Norwegian Competition Authority are competent to grant compulsory licences (Sections 50 and 50a PA).

The applicant may choose whether to apply for a compulsory licence from the Oslo District Court and/or from the Norwegian Competition Authority.

If the applicant chooses the Oslo District Court, he must send a notice to the Norwegian Intellectual Property Office and to the patent holder, informing them of the initiation of proceedings at the same time as the writ of summons is sent to the Oslo District Court (Section 64 PA). If the applicant does not do this even after the court has given the applicant a deadline for sending such notice, the case will be dismissed by the Oslo District Court.

In general, the procedure is the same as for any other cases before the Oslo District Court; there are no specific rules for processing a compulsory licence case other than what is stated explicitly in this document.

The Oslo District Court may order that the compulsory licence holder may begin using the licence prior to the court's judgment being final and binding, however such that if the compulsory licence is later cancelled or limited in scope, the licence holder is liable to the extent that damages for the use are reasonable. The court may order the licence holder to provide a guarantee for such liability (Section 50(3) PA).

The court may decide the scope of the licence, the fee and the other terms. The requirement of the law regarding the fee is that it should be suited to the circumstances of the specific case, so it is at the discretion of the court to determine what is reasonable in the specific case. There is little case law in Norway to shed light on the interpretation of the term.

If the applicant petitions the Norwegian Competition Authority, the application must include the reasons for a compulsory licence, including the considerations mentioned in Section 49 PA. These considerations are that the applicant has attempted to obtain a licence on reasonable commercial terms by agreement without succeeding within a reasonable amount of time, and that the applicant may be deemed capable of exploiting the invention in a reasonable way that is in accordance with the licence. The petition must include the scope of the licence, and what compensation and other terms the applicant considers reasonable. The Norwegian Competition Authority may call for an oral hearing if it considers it useful. The provision regarding the licence holder's opportunity to start using the licence prior to the decision being legal and binding (Section 50(3) PA) also applies to the procedure by the Norwegian Competition Authority, however so that the Norwegian Competition Authority may not cancel or amend a compulsory licence granted or reviewed by the Oslo District Court.

A compulsory licence should generally be granted with a view to supplying the domestic market.

As to the calculation of the fee, it is thought that the fee should be based on the hypothetical condition that the patent holder himself, or through others, would have used the invention in Norway to a reasonable extent. The assessment of how the patent holder would have acted must necessarily be specific and based on hypotheses. The fee should be equivalent to the revenue the patent holder is losing as a result of the compulsory licence holder's production.

It is not possible to obtain a compulsory licence by way of preliminary relief in Norway.

Appeal/review

A judgment by the Oslo District Court may be appealed to the Borgarting Court of Appeal. The only specific restriction resulting from Section 50(4) PA, last sentence, is that if the District Court grants the applicant a right to use the licence prior to the judgment being final and binding, and the judgment is appealed, the Court of Appeal may reverse the decision regarding the right to use the licence prior to the

judgment being final and binding, and may also change the District Court's decision regarding the applicant providing a guarantee for potential damages. In that case, the Court of Appeal's decision on these specific issues may be appealed only in connection with an appeal of the judgment regarding the merits of the case. In Norway, the Supreme Court selects which cases it will hear, so most cases are only appealed to the Court of Appeal.

A decision by the Norwegian Competition Authority may be appealed to the Competition Complaints Board, *Konkurransklagenemnda*, or be challenged in court. A lawsuit to challenge a grant of a compulsory licence is directed at the licence holder, not the Norwegian state. It is not possible to bring a lawsuit against a decision to reject a petition for a compulsory licence. In that scenario, the applicant should launch an action before the Oslo District Court in accordance with Section 50 PA.

Statistics and jurisprudence

The only case reported in the last 30 years was decided by the Norwegian Competition Authority and the Ministry of Modernisation and Administration (2010). The basis for the application for a compulsory licence was necessary out of regard for important public interests, which was denied at both instances.

Poland

Legal basis

The main legal basis for compulsory licences is Chapter 7 (Arts. 82 to 88) of the Act of 30 June 2000 on Industrial Property (hereinafter referred to as "IPL").

Art. 82(6) IPL implements Art. 12 Biotech Directive. The provision concerning compulsory licences applies accordingly if a grower cannot exercise the right to a protected plant variety or requests a cross licence from the proprietor of a patent.

EU Regulation 816/2006 is binding in its entirety and directly applicable in Poland. No additional provisions have been issued in Poland.

Grounds for applying for a licence

A compulsory licence may be granted in exceptional cases provided for in Art. 82 IPL where:

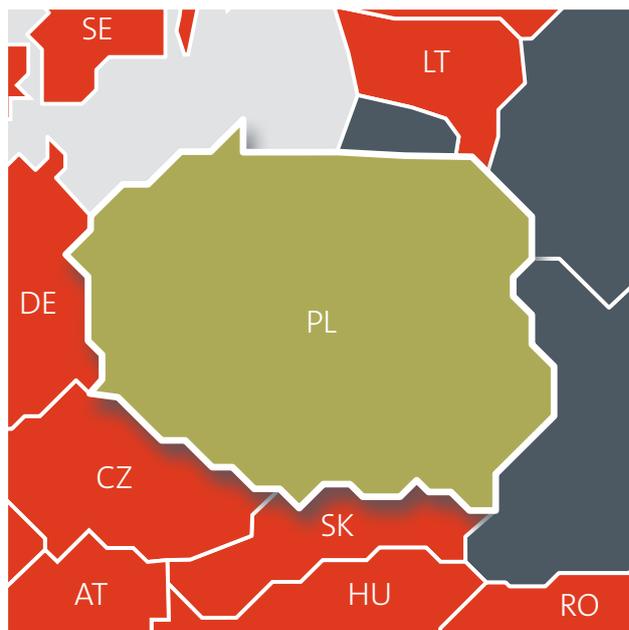
- it is necessary to prevent or eliminate the state of national emergency, in particular in the field of defence, public order, the protection of human life and health, as well as the protection of the natural environment; or
- it has been established that the patent has been abused; or
- it has been established that the patent holder enjoying the right of priority of an earlier application prevents, by refusing to conclude a licence contract, the meeting of home market demands through the exploitation of the patented invention (the dependent patent), whose exploitation would encroach upon the earlier patent; in such case, the holder of the earlier patent may demand that an authorisation be given to him for the exploitation of the invention that is the subject matter of the dependent patent (cross-licence).

The fourth ground on which it is possible to grant a compulsory licence was defined in EU Regulation 816/2006.

General procedure

The Patent Office of the Republic of Poland is the competent authority to grant a compulsory licence.

The Patent Office shall decide on granting a compulsory licence within *inter partes* proceedings.



PL

Proceedings for granting a compulsory licence are initiated on the basis of an application. The applicant shall prove that he had, in good faith, made efforts to obtain the licence from the patent holder (this requirement does not apply to a compulsory licence in order to prevent or eliminate a state of national emergency). The Patent Office decides at the hearing. The Office may issue the decision in a closed session, if deemed necessary in the light of public welfare and safety (i.e. only for a compulsory licence in order to prevent or eliminate a state of national emergency).

The compulsory licence shall, at the request of the interested party, be entered into the patent register.

It is not possible to obtain a compulsory licence by way of a preliminary relief.

The Patent Office has discretion as to the terms of the compulsory licence, in particular:

- the scope and duration of a compulsory licence;
- the detailed terms and conditions of its use;
- the amount of the royalty in proportion to the market value of the licence (as a rule the person exploiting the invention under a compulsory licence shall be obliged to pay a royalty to the patent holder);
- as well as the manner and time limits of payment of the royalty.

According to Polish legal doctrine, the Patent Office, when issuing the decision on granting a compulsory licence, shall take into account that the scope of the licence should reflect the purpose for which it was granted.

A compulsory licence is always a non-exclusive licence. The patent holder may still:

- use the invention; and
- grant a non-exclusive licence.

Appeal/review

Parties to the proceedings are entitled to lodge a complaint with the Voivodeship Administrative Court in Warsaw. A decision rendered by the Voivodeship Administrative Court can be appealed before the Supreme Administrative Court.

Statistics and jurisprudence

The Patent Office has not granted any compulsory licence in the past 18 years.

On the basis of the currently applicable legislation, no proceedings concerning compulsory licences have been recorded.

Portugal

Legal basis

Compulsory licences are established in the Industrial Property Code in Arts. 107 to 112 (hereinafter IP Code).

The IP Code also implements the Biotech Directive. EU Regulation 816/2006 is directly applicable.

Grounds for applying for a licence

The grounds for granting a compulsory licence are established in the law, and are:

- lack or insufficiency of exploitation of the patented invention;
- dependency between patents; and
- public interest.

A compulsory licence may be granted only in cases where the expected licensee made efforts to obtain a contractual licence from the patent owner in commercially acceptable conditions, and such efforts were not successful within a reasonable time frame.

Regarding the first ground for applying for a compulsory licence, the law establishes that the exploration of a patent must start within four years of the filing date or three years of the grant date, whichever is the longer period. For the purpose of this compulsory licensing provision, importation also qualifies as exploitation of the patented invention, as long as said importation is made from member states of the European Union or the WTO.

General procedure

The competent authority is the National Industrial Property Institute (INPI). For compulsory licences on the grounds of public interest, the government¹ is the competent authority.



PT

Filing before INPI

A request for a compulsory licence is filed by the applicant. The patent owner is notified to file its arguments within two months. The INPI will decide within a period of two months thereafter whether the licence should be granted.

If it decides to grant the compulsory licence, it notifies the parties to each appoint an expert to agree on the terms of the compulsory licence and the compensation to pay to the patent owner. The INPI shall also appoint an expert, and this expert panel will, with full discretion, decide on the terms of the compulsory licence as well the compensation to be paid to the patent owner.

Since the decision of the experts may be appealed, also the Court has full discretion to decide on the terms of the compulsory licence.

The law does not contemplate the possibility of obtaining a compulsory licence by way of a preliminary injunction.

¹ The law does not specify who is responsible within government. It may vary from government to government. Usually, the Ministry of Justice is responsible for IP matters.

Request to the government

There are no specific rules in the law governing the procedure for obtaining a compulsory licence on the grounds of public interest. There are no precedents either. The government is free in this regard. However, it may well be that the government will be guided by the rules governing the procedure before the INPI.

Appeal/review

The decision to grant or not grant a compulsory licence can be appealed to the Intellectual Property Court.

The expert panel's decision on the terms and compensation of the compulsory licence may also be appealed to the Intellectual Property Court.

Statistics and jurisprudence

Not available.

Romania

Legal basis

The legal basis for compulsory licences in Romania is set out in Arts. 43 to 47 of the Romanian Law No. 64/1991 on patents (hereinafter PL).

PL also implements Art. 12 Biotech Directive. In addition, Law No. 255/1998 regarding the protection of new plant varieties stipulates that the holder of a patent concerning a biotechnological invention may apply for a non-exclusive compulsory licence for the use of a protected variety.

EU Regulation 816/2006 is directly applicable; there are no domestic provisions regarding its application/implementation.

Grounds for applying for a licence

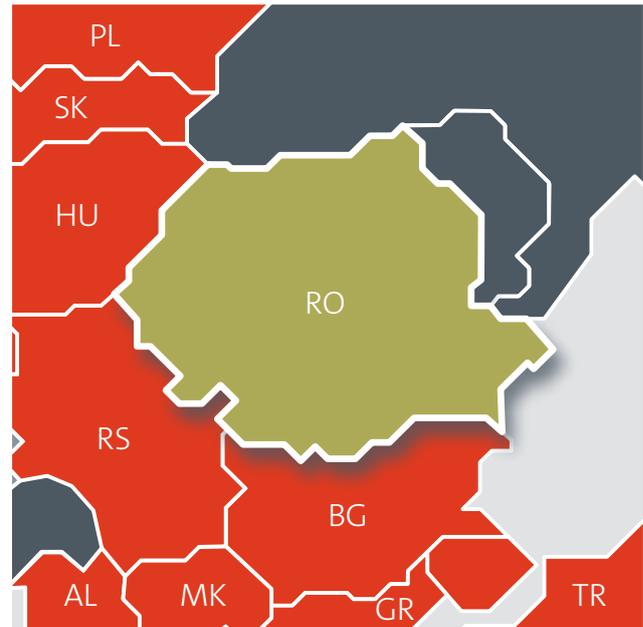
According to Art. 43(1) PL, at the request of any interested person, the Bucharest Tribunal may grant a compulsory licence upon the expiry of a period of four years from the filing date of the patent application or a period of three years after the grant of the patent, whichever term expires later.

However, the law states that a compulsory licence may be requested only if the invention has not been used or has not been sufficiently used on Romanian territory, and the patent owner cannot justify its inaction and no agreement has been reached with him regarding the terms and conditions of the invention (Art. 43(2) PL). The law does not state whether importation also qualifies as use of the patented invention and there is currently no case law in that respect. However, it is likely that the courts will consider importation as use of the invention as a result of Art. 27 TRIPS.

The Bucharest Tribunal shall authorise the compulsory licence if it considers, on the basis of the circumstances, that although the person concerned has made every effort, no agreement has been reached within a reasonable period of time (Art. 43(3) PL).

Art. 43(4) PL stipulates that a compulsory licence may be authorised by the Bucharest Tribunal:

- in national emergency situations;
- in other situations of extreme urgency;
- in situations of public use, for non-commercial purposes.



The granting of a compulsory licence for one of the abovementioned reasons does not require that the conditions mentioned in Art. 43(2) PL are met. However, the licensee will notify the patent applicant or patent holder of the court's authorisation in the shortest possible time.

In situations of public use for non-commercial purposes, the government or third parties authorised by it shall, when they know or have demonstrable reasons to know whether a valid patent is or will be used by the government or third parties, notify the holder of the patent about its use within a reasonable time.

In cases where a patent cannot be exploited without prejudice to the rights conferred by another patent whose regulatory national filing date is earlier, a compulsory licence for the exploitation of the subsequent patent may be authorised only if the following additional conditions are cumulatively met:

- (a) the invention claimed in the subsequent patent constitutes an important technological advance of substantial economic interest with respect to the invention claimed in the previous patent;
- (b) the holder of the earlier patent is entitled to a reciprocal licence under reasonable conditions for the use of the invention claimed in the subsequent patent;
- (c) authorised use in relation to the previous patent is not transmissible, except in cases where the subsequent patent is also transmitted.

The beneficiary of the compulsory licence may be the government or third parties authorised by it.

Art 43(3) PL stipulates that compulsory licences shall be authorised mainly for the supply of the domestic market and the extent and duration of compulsory licences shall be limited to the purposes for which they were authorised (Art. 43(4) PL).

In the case of inventions in the field of semiconductor technology, the licence will be granted only for non-commercial public purposes or to remedy a practice found to be anti-competitive in judicial or administrative proceedings.

If the holder of a plant variety patent cannot exploit it without prejudice to a previous patent, he may apply for a compulsory licence for the invention protected by this patent.

Where the holder of a patent relating to a biotechnological invention cannot exploit it without prejudice to a prior plant variety patent, it may require a compulsory licence for the exploitation of the patent-protected plant variety.

Where a compulsory licence is authorised to remedy an anti-competitive practice, the provisions of Art. 43(3) and (4), and Art. 44(3) PL are not applicable.

According to Art. 45 PL, the compulsory licence is not transferable except with the part of the enterprise or with the trading fund that benefits from such use.

General procedure

The Bucharest Tribunal is the competent authority to grant a compulsory licence.

The procedure for obtaining a compulsory licence is launched by the submission of an application to the Bucharest Tribunal. Since there are no special provisions stipulated in the PL, the procedure will be carried out in accordance with the ordinary rules of civil procedure. Therefore, the interested party shall submit an application to the Bucharest Tribunal, which will grant the licence after analysing the submitted application according to the criteria set out in the law.

There is neither case law nor special statutory provisions relating to the possibility of obtaining a compulsory licence within a preliminary injunction procedure.

According to Art. 44 PL, compulsory licences are non-exclusive and are granted by the Bucharest Tribunal under specified conditions in terms of their extent and duration, as well as the level of remuneration due to the right holder, determined in relation to the commercial value of the licences granted. The court has discretion as to the terms of the compulsory licence.

According to Art. 46(1) PL, at the reasoned request submitted by the interested party, the Bucharest Tribunal may withdraw the compulsory licence when the circumstances giving rise to it cease to exist, provided that the legitimate interests of the party who acquired it are protected in an appropriate manner. The compulsory licence shall not be withdrawn if the circumstances that were considered upon its granting are likely to occur again (although at that exact moment they had ceased to exist).

The final and irrevocable judgments concerning the grant or the withdrawal of the compulsory licence shall be communicated by the interested party to the State Office for Inventions and Trademarks (OSIM), which shall register it in the National Register of Patent Applications or in the National Register of Patents and shall publish these decisions in the Official Industrial Property Bulletin within one month of the communication.

Appeal/review

The decision may be appealed to the Bucharest Court of Appeal.

Statistics and jurisprudence

There are no cases concerning compulsory licences.

Serbia

Legal basis

The compulsory licence is regulated by Arts. 26 to 38 of the Law on Patents (Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia No. 99/2011) (hereinafter PL).

The legislation is intended to implement Art. 31bis TRIPS.

Grounds for applying for a licence

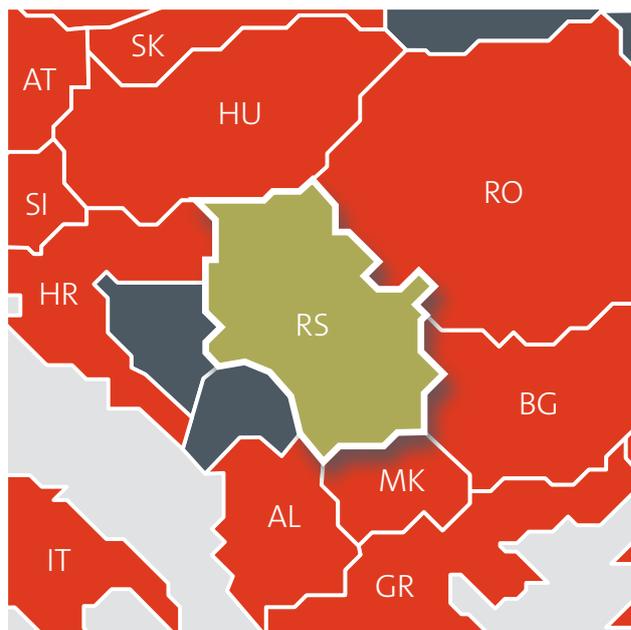
If the right holder refuses to licence the right of commercial use of a protected invention to other parties or sets unreasonable conditions for such licensing, at the request of an interested party after considering the merits of each individual case, the competent authority can grant a compulsory licence, in the following cases:

- (1) If the right holder himself or a party authorised by him does not use the protected invention or uses it insufficiently in the Republic of Serbia (importation of patented products qualifies as exploitation of the invention);
- (2) If the commercial use of an invention that has been subsequently protected in the name of another party is not possible without the use of the protected invention in whole or in part;
- (3) When it is necessary to remedy a practice determined in a judicial or administrative process to be anti-competitive.

General procedure

The government authority competent in the field in which the invention is to be employed may, at the request of an interested party after considering the merits of each individual case, grant a compulsory licence.

The interested party, which has previously contacted the patent holder for permission for commercial use of a protected invention, may file the request for the compulsory licence to the government authority competent in the field in which the invention is to be employed. The authority will review each particular request and will decide on the grant of the compulsory licence with the requirement that the legal conditions (see above) are met.



A compulsory licence may be terminated if and when the circumstances that led to its grant cease to exist and are unlikely to recur. On reasoned request, the government authority competent in the field in which the invention is to be employed shall re-examine the further existence of circumstances that were grounds for its grant.

The request for the grant of a compulsory licence cannot be filed before the expiration of a period of four years from the date of filing of the patent application or before the expiration of a period of three years from the grant of the patent or petty patent, whichever period expires last.

The compulsory licence is limited to the purpose for which is granted. It may be assigned only with the manufacturing plant that exploits the invention for which the licence has been granted; it shall not be exclusive and shall predominantly be granted for the supply of the domestic market.

The competence of the authority depends on the field in which the protected invention is exploited (i.e. agriculture, the pharmaceutical industry, electronics). Therefore, the authority for each field is competent to decide on issuance of the compulsory licence under the above conditions.

The duration and scope of licence are determined on the basis of the purpose for which the compulsory licence is issued and these authorities (ministries at first instance and the court in the appeal procedure) have full discretion to set the terms of the licence in each case.

Appeal/review

The appeal may be filed within 15 days of receipt of the decision.

For second instance decisions there is a legal remedy that calls for filing of the administrative dispute with the Administrative Court in Belgrade within 30 days after receipt of the appealed decision.

RS

Statistics and jurisprudence

None to date.

Sweden

Legal basis in Sweden

Sections 45-50 of the Swedish Patents Act No. 837 of 1967 as amended (hereinafter PA).

Art. 12 Biotech Directive is implemented through Section 46a PA.

As EU Regulation 816/2006 has direct effect in Sweden, it has not been explicitly implemented in Swedish legislation. Certain articles, such as Arts. 12 and 16(2) regarding the provision of information and Arts. 14 and 16(3) regarding the competent authority have led to some amendments of other Swedish legislative Acts, implementing those obligations.

Grounds for applying for a licence

Sections 45- to 50 PA provide a legal right to obtain a court-ordered compulsory licence to a patent in different scenarios.

The first scenario (Section 45 PA) concerns lack of exploitation of a patented invention in Sweden. The legal criteria for the grant of a compulsory licence in this scenario are that:

- (at least) three years have passed from the grant of the patent and four years from the date of filing of the patent application;
- the invention is not exploited to a reasonable degree in Sweden; and
- there is no acceptable reason as to why the invention is not being exploited.

As to item (ii), it is sufficient that products relevant to the invention are imported from member states in the EU or a state/region that has acceded to the agreement on the creation of the WTO.

A second scenario (Sections 46 and 46a PA) concerns the situation where a granted patent or plant variety right (A) is dependent on another patent (B) in the sense that the commercial exploitation of the patent/plant variety right A involves infringement of patent B. The holder of patent/plant variety right A can then obtain a licence to patent B provided that he/she shows that patent/plant variety right A constitutes an important technical advance of substantial economic interest in comparison to the invention covered by patent B. In this case, a licence is granted and the holder of



patent B is entitled to a corresponding licence to patent/plant variety right A.

The third scenario (Section 47 PA) concerns the situation where there is public interest of utmost importance requiring a compulsory licence to be granted to someone who intends to exploit the invention commercially.

A fourth scenario (Section 48 PA) concerns the situation where someone, after the filing but prior to the publication of a patent application, has started to exploit the invention on a commercial scale or has made substantial preparations for such exploitation. The right to a compulsory licence is conditional on the party seeking a licence not having been aware of the patent application and was not in a position to obtain information in this respect either. The right to a licence is triggered by the grant of the patent, but the licence can also cover the application stage.

The general rules on compulsory licences (Section 49 PA) further provide that:

- (i) a licence may be granted only to someone who has the capacity to exploit the invention in an acceptable manner;
- (ii) the party seeking a licence must prove that he/she without success has approached the patentee to obtain a voluntary licence on reasonable terms,
- (iii) a compulsory licence does not prevent the patentee from using or granting other licences to the patent, and that

- (iv) a compulsory licence can only be transferred together with the business in which it is used or intended to be used, and in respect of licences to holders of dependent patents/plant variety rights, the patent or plant variety right in question.

Compulsory licences can also be granted based on EU Regulation 816/2006, which has direct effect in Sweden. The Swedish Medical Product Agency is the competent authority in respect of Art. 14 of the Regulation.

General procedure

The Patent and Market Court is competent to grant a compulsory licence.

A request for a compulsory licence is filed as a civil law suit under the general rules of the Swedish Procedural Code, as complemented by the specific procedural provisions in the PA (mainly relating to the exclusive venue and composition of the court). The case is initiated when the party seeking a licence files an application for summons. The parties have the burden of advancing their case, e.g. by providing evidence, and the court may reach a decision solely within the framework of what the parties have claimed and admitted. There are no explicit provisions allowing for the grant of a compulsory licence as preliminary relief and, to the best of our knowledge, this has not been done in practice. It is conceivable that the court would consider arguments concerning the right to a compulsory licence in deciding whether to grant preliminary injunctive relief against a defendant. In one case, the defendant argued that the patentee's failure to produce sufficient amounts of medicinal products to ensure proper treatment for patients suffering from certain diseases constituted extraordinary grounds for not issuing a preliminary injunction (Stockholm District Court, Case No T 5784-10). However, the case was settled and the issue was never tried before the court.

The court has discretion as to the terms of the compulsory licence (Section 50 PA). Within the framework created by the parties' positions, the court has the authority and discretion to decide to what extent the invention may be used, the compensation to be paid and other terms of the licence agreement. The general limitations set out in Sections 45 and 49 PA limit the court's discretion. For example, compulsory licences based on lack of exploitation in Sweden cannot cover import, and compulsory licences based on previous use can cover only the use that the licensee has in fact undertaken. The scope of the licence granted shall not be wider than what is justified by the facts of the case. A

compulsory licence may not prevent the patentee from using the invention or from granting further licences; see comment on Section 49 PA above.

There are legal commentaries addressing the relevant provisions of the Patents Act, the most recent one being "*Patentlagen – en kommentar och en jämförelse med EPC och PCT*" (The Patents Act – a commentary and comparison with the EPC and PCT) by B. G. Nilson and C. Holtz from 2012, but these are rather limited and focused on the legal criteria as such and the legislative history of the different sections.

Appeal/review

An appeal to the Patent and Market Court of Appeal is subject to the grant of leave to appeal. A further appeal to the Supreme Court is then subject to a double requirement for leave to appeal (i.e. first from the Patent and Market Court of Appeal and subsequently from the Supreme Court).

Statistics and jurisprudence

We are not aware of any precedent cases concerning the grant of a compulsory licence under the current rules. There are a few such cases under the old Patents Act (prior to 1967), which are of little or no relevance but nevertheless briefly accounted for below.

NJA 1937 p. 90: regarding the possibility to avoid a compulsory licence by starting to exploit or expanding the exploitation of the patent in Sweden after the filing of an action for a compulsory licence (where the answer was negative). The case concerned patents with military application and a licence was granted.

NJA 1945 p. 110: regarding the existence of a valid reason for not exploiting the invention in Sweden where importing from Germany was not considered sufficient and a licence was granted.

NJA 1947 p. 692 II: regarding a case in which the patent was exploited (in Sweden or abroad). The patented products were manufactured in Sweden and the fact that raw material was imported was not considered relevant. No licence was granted.

Slovenia

Legal basis

Art. 125 Industrial Property Act (ZIL-1-UPB3) (as amended up to 6 December 2013) (hereinafter IPA).

EU Regulation 816/2006 is directly applicable and Slovenian legislation has implemented Art. 12 of the Biotech Directive.

Grounds for applying for a licence

According to Art. 125(1) IPA, compulsory licences may be granted:

a) where the public interest is concerned, in particular if national security, nutrition, health or the development of other vital sectors of the national economy so requires; or

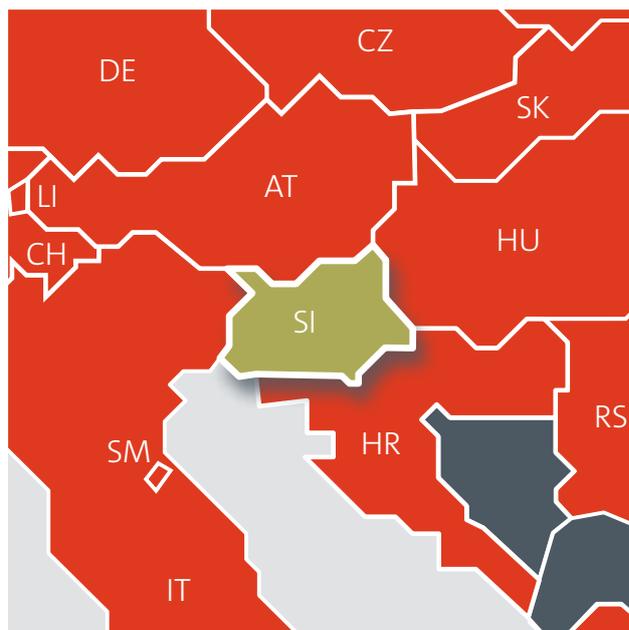
(b) where the court has determined that the owner of the patent or his licensee abuses patent rights, in particular where the manner of exploitation is contrary to the adopted regulations or constitutes a distortion of competition (Art. 125(1) IPA).

The Court shall deliberate on whether a compulsory licence could be granted after assessing the given circumstances and after the owner of the patent is heard in court (Art. 125(2) IPA).

General procedure

The District Court of Ljubljana (commercial department) has exclusive jurisdiction for first instance decisions (Art. 103(2) Courts Act, Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 19/94 as amended).

The applicant may file a request for the grant of a compulsory licence if sufficient proof is demonstrated that an attempt was made to conclude a licence agreement with a patent holder (under reasonable terms) and that such endeavour turned out to be unsuccessful within a reasonable period of time. No such proof is required if a state of war or similar state of emergency has been declared. In such cases, the patent holder must be informed at the earliest convenience (Art. 125(3) IPA).



SI

The court will grant compulsory licences in favour of the applicant (Government of Slovenia or any third party) if conditions under Art. 125(1) IPA are met and pursuant to the terms in Art. 126(1) and (2) IPA.

If a compulsory licence is granted, compensation shall be due to the patent owner, taking into account the circumstances of the case and economic value of the compulsory licence (Art. 127 IPA).

The court has the discretion to define the scope and expiration date of the compulsory licence in line with the purpose of the compulsory licence in question (Art. 126(1)(a) IPA).

The compulsory licence may not be exclusive; it should be transferrable and should predominantly ensure supply to the Slovenian market (Art. 126(1)(b) to (d) IPA).

The compulsory licence should not infringe other patents, except if the patent subject to the compulsory licence impedes technical development of significant value to the national economy. The compulsory licence should also be granted in favour of the infringed patent holder (cross-licence), and is conditional upon the non-transferability of rights under both patents (Art. 126(2) IPA).

The court may also decide on the duration of the compulsory licence if the circumstances in which the compulsory licence was granted are no longer met and if it such circumstances are unlikely to recur (Art. 126(2) IPA).

The District Court of Ljubljana has exclusive jurisdiction to deliberate in patent matters. Terms that do not fall within the court's discretion are statutory and can be altered only through legislative changes.

Appeal/review

The decision may be appealed to the Court of Appeal of Ljubljana (Art. 31 Non-Contentious Civil Procedure Act, Official Gazette of SRS, No. 30/86 as amended).

Statistics and jurisprudence

Not available.

Slovakia

Legal basis

The principal legal basis for compulsory licences is the Slovak Patent Act, No. 435/2001 Coll. on Patents, Supplementary Protection Certificates, as amended (hereinafter PA). Compulsory licences are governed by Section 27 PA.

The competence of the court is stipulated in Section 25 of Decree No. 160/2015 Coll. of the Slovak Code of Civil Procedure as amended.

The legislation is intended to implement both Art. 12 of the Biotech Directive and EU Regulation 816/2006.

Grounds for applying for a licence

The cumulative grounds for granting a compulsory licence are:

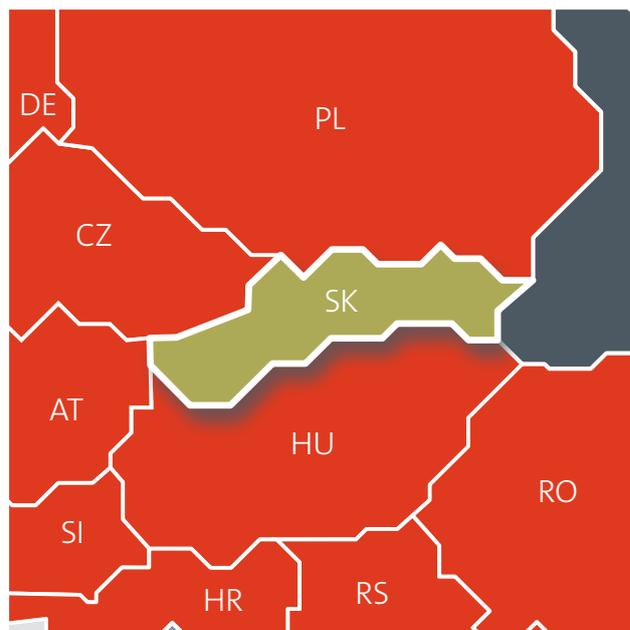
- (i) the expiration of a four-year period from the patent application filing date or three-year period from the date of grant, whereby the period that expires later shall apply;
- (ii) the patentee did not accept due offer for concluding a licence agreement within 3 months;
- (iii) the patentee does not use the invention or uses it insufficiently without due reason whereby the invention as product is not delivered to the market in sufficient quantity.

Irrespective of the conditions under points (i) and (ii), a compulsory licence may be granted in case of threat to an important public interest.

The specific grounds for granting a compulsory licence to a biotechnological invention are: a breeder cannot obtain or exploit a plant or animal variety right without infringing a prior patent; the breeding certificate holder applied unsuccessfully to the patentee to conclude a licence within a three-month period; and the plant or animal variety constitutes significant technical progress of considerable economic interest compared with the invention.

General procedure

The District Court Banská Bystrica (hereinafter “the Court”) has jurisdiction to grant a compulsory licence upon application by a third party. The Court conducts proceedings



SK

under the Slovak Code of Civil Procedure. The procedure on compulsory licence application can be initiated by a third-party applicant. The applicant must prove that the conditions for grant of a compulsory licence have been met.

The application for a compulsory licence is submitted in writing to the Court and the applicant must substantiate the grounds and demonstrate satisfaction of the above-mentioned criteria. The application is subject to an official fee of EUR 99.50. The Court will invite the patentee to respond to the compulsory licence application.

The Court examines the compulsory licence application to ensure compliance with the conditions set out in Section 27 PA (see above), taking into consideration the general principles of decision-making under the Slovak Code of Civil Procedure. These are general principles of fair and due court procedure such as just and effective protection of the rights and interests of the parties, legal certainty, legitimate expectations, consistency in application of case law, thorough and convincing substantiation of decisions, prevention of abuse of rights, and economy of proceedings as set out in Sections 1-18 of the Slovak Code of Civil Procedure.

The terms, scope and duration of the compulsory licence are determined with respect to the purpose for which it is granted and other circumstances of the case.

In its decision, the Court determines the terms, scope and duration of the compulsory licence. General legal principles, in particular protection of legitimate interests,

proportionality and public interest, are to be applied by the Court. A compulsory licence may be granted primarily for supplying the domestic market. The grant of a compulsory licence does not affect the right of the patentee for payment of licence fees. If the parties cannot agree, the amount of licence fees shall be determined by the Court. The compulsory licence shall be recorded in the patent register.

The assignment or transition of the right of the licensee for the compulsory licence is possible exclusively as part of the assignment or transition of the enterprise or part of the enterprise in which the invention used is the subject matter of the compulsory licence. The compulsory licence can be granted only as non-exclusive.

The recording of compulsory licences in the patent register is subject to an official fee of EUR 20.

Appeal/review

Decisions of the Court are subject to full judicial review with respect to all legal and factual aspects of the decision. The first instance decision of the Court, whether grant of the compulsory licence or rejection of an application, may be appealed within fifteen days to the Regional Court Banská Bystrica.

Statistics and jurisprudence

Compulsory licence procedures and relevant case law or academic opinions are rare in Slovakia. Based on information provided by the Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic, there is no record that a compulsory licence application was ever filed in Slovakia.

San Marino

Legal basis

Art. 36 of Law No. 79 of 25 May 2005 – Industrial Property Consolidation Act and subsequent amendments (hereinafter “the Law”).

Grounds for applying for a licence

Any person proving their capacity to work a patented invention can make a request for a compulsory licence if:

- after four years since the introduction of the application for a patent or three years since the patent has been granted, the patented invention has not been implemented (fully or to an adequate extent) in the Republic of San Marino;
- the implementation of the invention has been, for over three years, suspended or remarkably reduced with reference to San Marino needs;
- the invention protected by an Italian or San Marino patent cannot be used without prejudicing the rights connected to a San Marino patent granted according to a previous application.

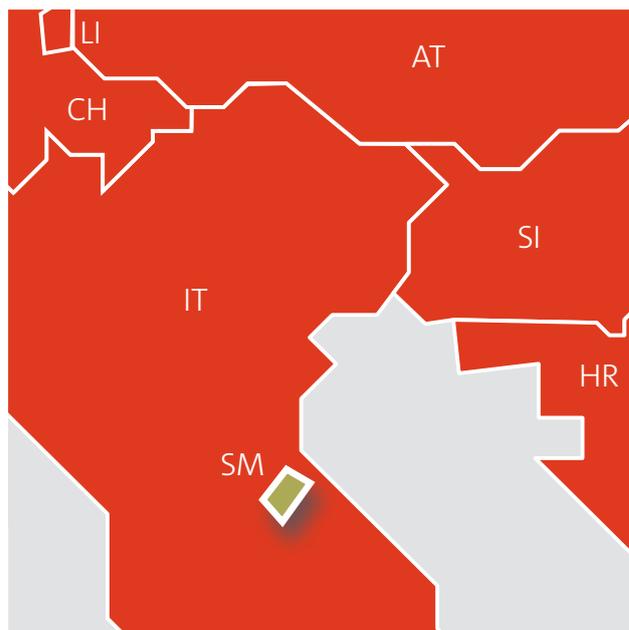
General procedure

The State Office for Patents and Trade Marks is competent to grant compulsory licences pursuant to the provisions of Art. 36 of the Law.

An applicant who wishes to obtain a compulsory licence shall make a motivated request to the Patents and Trade Marks State Office, proving his ability to develop the invention in the Republic of San Marino and indicating the extent and the methods of payment of the offered fee.

The Patents and Trade Marks State Office immediately notifies the patent owner and third parties who have acquired rights on the patent pursuant to registered deeds; they then have 60 days to oppose the application or to declare the non-acceptance of the extent and methods of payment of the offered fee.

The applicant is given another 60 days to submit his response to the opposition by the patent owner or the third parties described above.



SM

The licence shall be granted or rejected following a procedure carried out by the Patents and Trade Marks State Office. Discretion of the Office is limited to the evaluation of the circumstances as indicated above. The licence may be revoked by the same Office if the conditions established for the development of the invention are not met or if the licence holder has not paid the fee to the extent and with the modalities prescribed.

The decision to grant, change or revoke a compulsory licence shall be recorded in the patent register and made public through the Official Gazette.

Appeal/review

The decision of the Patents and Trade Marks State Office may be appealed before the administrative judge of first instance, pursuant to Art. 112 of the Law.

This article stipulates that every party to a procedure before the Patents and Trade Marks State Office of San Marino may appeal the decisions of the Office before the first instance administrative judge pursuant to Law 28 June 1989 No. 68 (ordinary administrative proceedings).

Statistics and jurisprudence

No jurisprudence available.

SM

Turkey

Legal basis

The legal basis for the compulsory licences is the Code of Industrial Property (CIP), Sections 129 to 137.

Grounds for applying for a licence

Compulsory licences may be obtained on the following grounds:

- non-use of patented invention;
- the dependence of patents;
- exportation of the pharmaceutical products due to public health problems in other countries;
- the patent holder is engaged in intrusive, destructive or restrictive activities while the patent is in use;
- development of a new plant variety (Section 129/1(d) CIP); or
- for matters of public health or national security.

General procedure

The authorities competent to grant compulsory licences can be organised into three groups:

- (1) A compulsory licence is granted by the competent court when the request is based on non-use of the patented invention, the dependence of patents, development of a new plant variety, and exportation of the pharmaceutical products due to public health problems in other countries.
- (2) If the compulsory licence request is based on the patent holder's being engaged in intrusive, destructive or restrictive activities while the patent is in use, the authority competent to issue compulsory licences is the Competition Institution (*Rekabet Kurumu*).
- (3) Compulsory licences for matters of public health or national security depend on the decision of the Presidency¹ (*Cumhurbaşkanlığı*).

The CIP regulates the procedure regarding the first group, i.e. the method of granting compulsory licences by court order, in Art. 129 et seq. A compulsory licence application is made



to the court with a petition, including clearly stated reasons and supporting documents, in particular evidence that the patentee has failed to obtain within a reasonable period of time despite, reasonable contractual licensing under reasonable commercial terms.

The court shall notify the patentee of the application and its attachments without delay. The patentee presents his opinion on the compulsory licence application to the court, together with the evidence, within one month from the date of notification. The court shall decide within one month whether to refuse the request or grant a compulsory licence. This period cannot be extended. If the proprietor of the patent does not object to the compulsory licence request, the court will decide on the compulsory licence without delay.

The court decision specifies the scope of the licence, the cost, the duration, the guarantee shown by the licensee, the time of commencement of use, and measures for the serious and effective use of the patent. As a rule, the appeal process does not stop the enforcement of the decision. However, if the evidence presented by the patentee for the suspension of compulsory licensing is deemed adequate by the court, the use of the invention is postponed until the decision is finalised.

There is no case law involving any interpretation and implementation of the law on whether the court has

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¹ With Article 209 of the Decree Law No 700, dated 2 July 2018, the phrase "Council of Ministers" in the related legal provision has been changed to "Presidency".

discretion as to the terms of the compulsory licence. However, according to the wording of the provision and the nature of the matter, if the patentee did not object when notified of the compulsory licence request, “the court will decide without delay to grant a compulsory licence” and has discretion only to correct obvious contradiction and material errors. If the patentee objected to the request for the compulsory licence, a trial for contested matters would be necessary.

It is stated in the CIP that the court must indicate the scope of the licence, the cost, the duration, the guarantee shown by the licensee, the time to start the use, and the measures that provide the serious and effective use of the patent. The demands and objections of the parties should be assessed and a realistic and fair compulsory licence shall be granted or refused by the court.

The competent courts in charge of compulsory licences are specialised courts called “Intellectual and Industrial Rights Civil Court” regulated by Section 156 CIP. The proceedings concerning the merits of the case in these courts are carried out according to the written procedure. The written procedure consists of three phases:

- (i) The first phase consists of the exchange of petitions. The defendant’s reply should be submitted to the court within two weeks of the date on which the defendant is notified of the petition. However, if more time is necessary for the reply, such period may be extended by the court by as much as one month upon request. The said conditions for the lawsuit and the reply also apply to further replications and rejoinders;
- (ii) The second stage in the written procedure is the preliminary examination phase; and
- (iii) The third step consists of the inquiry and oral hearing sessions.

Section 129 et seq. CIP has created a unique method of proceedings for compulsory licences that is significantly different from the written procedure prescribed in the Code of Civil Procedure.

A compulsory licence request is submitted to the court along with a petition and in particular with evidence demonstrating that the patentee has failed to obtain within a reasonable period of time despite reasonable contractual licensing under reasonable commercial terms.

The court shall notify the patentee of the request and its attachments without delay. The patentee presents his

opinion on the compulsory licence request to the court, together with the evidence, within one month of the date of notification.

The court shall decide within one month whether to refuse the request or grant a compulsory licence. This period cannot be extended. If the proprietor of the patent does not object to the compulsory licence request, the court will decide on the compulsory licence without delay.

As can be seen, a defined but longer period of one month has been granted for the response petition in the compulsory licence trial. In contrast to the written proceedings, the patentee (the defendant) cannot request an extension of this one-month term.

The court will make a decision to grant a compulsory licence without delay if the patentee has not challenged the compulsory licence request. Even if the proprietor of the patent objected to the request for compulsory licences, the court will make its decision within one month. It is not possible to postpone the decision of the court to exceed this period.

It is also not clear in the provision whether it is possible for the court to hold an oral session. But taking into account that the legislator happens to be stricter in terms of duration and number of petitions, the aforementioned question requires a negative answer. Provided that it remains within a period of one month, there would appear to be no obstacle to the oral hearing of the parties if the court considers it necessary.

The CIP entered into force on 10 January 2017. For this reason, there are very few academic studies related to the new regulation. One of these works was done by Judge Güneş (see Güneş İlhami: “*Sınai Mülkiyet Kanunu’da Zorunlu Lisans / Compulsory Licence In Industrial Property Law*”, 26 April World Intellectual Property Day Special Issue, Ankara Bar Association, Intellectual Property and Competition Law journal, Nisan 2017, Ankara; p. 47-56). In his article on compulsory licences, Güneş pointed out the reasons for not using the patent. Accordingly, the court can consider only objective technical or economic reasons as “justifiable grounds” for not using the patent. It is imperative that these be outside the control and will of the patent holder in order to allow for a justifiable excuse. For example, if administrative or formal authorisation is required to produce a patented product, this administrative process or long periods of testing and examinations may be considered “justifiable grounds”. However, it is necessary that the patent owner or his representative does not contribute to the delay due to these transactions.

Appeal/review

The parties may appeal the decision of the competent court before the Court of Appeal (the District Court) within two weeks of the notification of the written decision.

Statistics and jurisprudence

None to date.

TR

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