



SOUTH AFRICAN DESIGNS

Typical Prosecution Time Periods And A Note On Delays

Frequently, we receive enquiries from our clients regarding the status of their design applications.

Every reasonable measure is taken to finalise each application as quickly as possible **however:** a number of (potential) delays may arise, and that these are beyond our control, unfortunately.

Typical Time Periods

Typically, in an ordinary design application, the following time estimates can be expected:

Milestone	Timeline (from date of filing application)
Obtaining filing receipt & application no.	1 – 3 days
Formalities Examination	3 – 12 months
Direction To Advertise	6 – 24 months
Issuing Certificate Of Grant	12 months – 4 years
Awaiting Assignment Certificates	2 – 24 months from filing application

NO Absolute Deadline

The Designs Office is not obliged to complete any task within any time-period. **It is not possible to demand urgent action: the Designs Office will NOT respond to this.**

Delays At Acceptance & Publication

After a successful examination, a design application proceeds to publication in the Patent Journal. In recent years, we have found that significant delays tend to occur during this stage. In some cases further delays as long as 12 – 24 months have been experienced. It is important to remember: the Designs Office is not a private company. It is a government office and, unfortunately, **it is not possible to accelerate applications in South Africa.**

The issuing of assignment certificates has also been delayed dramatically in recent years.

Time Periods May Vary & Our Assurance To You

We also wish to stress: not every application will be delayed, or be delayed for such a lengthy period.

We follow-up on all of our cases constantly, at no charge to our clients, and we will certainly report updates to you as soon as they arise. We can also assure you that there is no need to follow-up with us on these delays: we have automatic diary systems in place that enable us to do so automatically for you.



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