



SOUTH AFRICA: Patent and Design Multi-Year Renewals

Is it possible to renew your Patent or Design case for multiple years in South Africa?

YES – proprietors now have the option to pay renewal fees in advance, including for multiple years up to the entire patent term/design term, if desired, rather than renewing annually.

South Africa is one of the few countries that allows renewal fees to be paid more than six months ahead of the due date. As a result, patentees have the opportunity to pay all renewal fees for the full duration of the patent in one advance payment.

When can this be exercised?

Multi-year renewals can be performed at any time, even on the same day as filing the patent/design applications. This offers a significant advantage and a significant costs saving opportunity.

Discounts of up to 50% of professional fees can be obtained by using this opportunity. The ultimate fee will depend on the number of years that you wish to renew each Patent case or Design case.

Practical advantage

Many applicants now like to file a patent/design application and simultaneously file a multiple year renewal on the same day. In this way, a patent/design case is filed and also renewed-to-term all in a single step, and at a massive reduction in fees. In addition, the need for docketing falls away entirely.

