



FAQs On Patents In Nigeria

What is a patent?

A patent is the exclusive right granted to an inventor to prevent all others from using, making and selling his or her invention for a specified period of time.

When will an invention be eligible for a patent in Nigeria?

An invention will be considered for a patent if:

- a. It is new,
- b. It involves an inventive step that is not obvious to anyone with knowledge and experience in the subject,
- c. It is capable of industrial application, and
- d. It is not immoral or against public policy.

How are patents registered in Nigeria?

An application for the registration of a patent is made to the Trademarks, Patents and Designs Registry with the requisite documentation.

Do I need to patent an invention that has been patented in my country of origin but not in Nigeria?

Yes, you also need to protect your inventions in Nigeria. However, some countries may benefit from a foreign priority application.

How long is a patent valid for in Nigeria?

A patent lasts for 20 years commencing from filing of the application. However, a patent can lapse before this time period is over if the prescribed annual fees are not duly paid.

Should I tell anyone about my invention before I apply to protect it?

Generally, it is advisable to keep your idea or invention strictly confidential and not reveal it to anyone before you file an application to protect it.