

8th August, 1997

Circular No. 6 of 1997

**Patents (General)(Amendment) Rules 1997
[made under section 149 of the Patents Ordinance (52 of 1997)]**

The new Patents Ordinance and Patents (General) Rules were brought into force on 27th June, 1997. It has been necessary to make a few changes to the new Patents (General) Rules. The Patents (General) (Amendment) Rules 1997 were gazetted on 25th July 1997, and came into force on that date.

There are a few cosmetic changes to sections 37(2)(b), 38(2)(b) and 9 Patents (General) Rules which concern re-numbering and drafting style.

There is an important change to section 68(4) of the Patents (General) Rules. Section 68(4) is amended by repealing everything after "search report" in paragraph (b) and substituting -

"under section 113(1)(d) of the Ordinance, the applicant may request an extension of time for filing the search report to a date not later than 1 month prior to the expiry of the deferred date of grant of the patent."

The effect of the change is that the time limit for filing search report as regards short-term patent is up to a date not later than 1 month prior to the expiry of the deferred date of grant of the patent. This time limit does not apply to the translation of a search report. An applicant may apply for extension of time for the filing of the translation of a search report under section 56(9) of the Patents (General) Rules.


(R J Perera)

for Director of Intellectual Property