

## **Revised JPO Patent Rules on Extensions of the Response Period To Apply from April 2007**

The Japan Patent Office announced that revised rules regarding extensions of the period for responding to notices of rejection issued during examination or appeal and to JPO communications issued during appeal will come into effect on April 1, 2007. The revised rules will apply to all extensions requested on or after April 1, 2007 for patent applications.

Although applicants with addresses outside Japan were heretofore able to obtain a single three-month extension of response periods without stating a reason, under the revised rules:

1. Applicants must state a reason for the request, and extensions will only be allowed for two reasons:

- The applicant requires time to conduct experiments; or
- The applicant requires time to translate documents in order to prepare a response.

2. Only a single one-month extension will be allowed for experimentation, but up to three one-month extensions will be allowed for translations.

3. Applicants may combine reasons when requesting extensions, but in no event may the maximum extension exceed three months.

4. Applicants may only request one month extensions, but may file multiple requests consecutively, *or concurrently*.

5. The 2,100 yen official fee *per extension* will remain unchanged, with the result that official fees of 6,300 yen would be required to extend the deadline for three months (obtain three one-month extensions).

Attorney charges will, of course, continue to be set by each firm or patent attorney. Please consult your local Japanese patent attorney if you have any questions regarding application of the revised rules.