

### 3-3 Examination

Japan adopts the examination system and all applications are placed under substantive examination after checking formalities. In the substantive examination, an examination is conducted to check for the presence or non-presence of the following requirements. The Japan Patent Office rejects applications for registration which do not meet the following requirements.

1. Industrially Applicable Design (main paragraph of Article 3(1))
2. Novelty (Article 3(1)(i) to (iii))
3. Creativity (Article 3(2))
4. Identical or Similar to Part of Design in Earlier Application (Article 3-2)
5. Unregisterable Designs (Article 5)
6. One Application per Design (Article 7)
7. Prior Application (Article 9)

Notifications of reasons for refusal will be issued if and when examiners find that the applications do not meet said requirements. In response, applicants can submit arguments, make amendments, file a divisional application, and so on within a specified response period.