IP roadmap
Your path to patent grant

1. Introduction
Your completed application must be submitted within 15 months of the filing date and must include:
- A formal petition
- Claims to the invention
- An abstract of the invention

2. Verification
CIPO verifies your application to make sure it meets all filing requirements. If your application is incomplete, CIPO will let you know what is missing.

3. Filing date issued
If the application meets the filing requirements, and you have paid the correct fee, CIPO will issue you a filing date and a filing certificate.

4. Classification
CIPO uses the International Patent Classification (IPC) system to sort your application within the appropriate technical field.

5. Publication
CIPO makes your application available to the public 18 months after your filing date.

6. Pay maintenance fee
You will need to pay annual maintenance fees, starting from the 2nd anniversary of filing. These keep a patent or patent application in good standing.

7. Request examination
Examination is the process CIPO uses to determine whether you should be granted a patent for your invention. Examinations are only done upon request.

8. Examiner's report
If there are any defects in your application, the examiner will identify them in their report.

9. Response
You will have a chance to respond to the examiner's report by making changes or presenting arguments. There may be a few examination reports or an examiner may phone you to address minor defects.

10. Rejection and final action
If your application is rejected, CIPO will refer your application to the Patent Commissioner of Patents.

11. Allowance
CIPO will mail the patent grant to you within 8 weeks of receiving your final fee.*

12. Grant of patent
When CIPO receives your final fee, it prepares your grant and mails it to you. CIPO will mail the grant and mails it to you. The patent gives you the right to exclude others from making, using or selling your invention.

* A small entity is an individual, a company with 50 or fewer employees, or a university.

Expectation: Service standards met 90% of the time.

Contact CIPO at 1-877-768-7767 for further information.

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