

Q: Is the search report for national applications done by the national patent office or by the EPO?

A: For national applications, the search is conducted by the national office.

Q: @ Moldova: What is 1. the difference between utility models and short-term patents? 2. the difference between granted (B codes) and issued (C codes)?

A: The differences between the utility models and short term patents is, that the short term patents require an inventive step - that is an simple technical or practical advantage. B stands for granting and C for issued patents.

Q: @ Georgia, does this mean that grant of the patent comes within 18 months from filing?

A: According to Article 40 of the Georgian Patent Act, the Georgian Patent Office (Sakpatenti) first takes the decision on granting a patent and then publishes the application in the Official Bulletin. So only the approved applications for grant are being published. In an available legal text, there is no mentioning of the standard 18 months period for the publication of an application,calculated from the filing date or priority date and thus we cannot conclude that the decision to grant will take place before the said 18 months. The main distinguishing feature of this patent system is that only the applications approved for grant will be published.

Source:

http://www.sakpatenti.gov.ge/media/page_files/patent_law_2017_ly62qmS.pdf

Q: How are the maintenance fees for designs at the Georgian patent office paid?

A: Renewal fees for designs are payable to Sakpatenti every five years from the filing date. According to Article 28 of the Law of Georgia on Designs, there is a 6 months grace period available on the top of the basic time limit.

Source:

http://www.sakpatenti.gov.ge/media/page_files/LAW_OF_GEORGIA_ON_DESIGN_2018_2.pdf