

**Reduction of Official Fees  
for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs), Venture Companies, etc.  
for Japanese Patent Applications**

Official fees (examination fee and annuities) payable to the Japan Patent Office for patent applications can be reduced if the applicant meets the following requirements.

**<Examination Fees>**

The examination fees can be reduced:

- to one third (1/3) if the applicant is (A) or (B) below, or
- to a half (1/2) if the applicant is (C) or (D) below

when requesting examination.

- (A) a company <sup>\*1</sup> which was founded within the last ten years and has a capital of not more than JPY 300 million
- (B) a company <sup>\*1</sup> which has not more than 20 employees <sup>\*2</sup>
- (C) a company <sup>\*1</sup> which has a capital of not more than JPY 50 million <sup>\*3</sup> (See table below.)
- (D) a company <sup>\*1</sup> which has not more than 50 employees <sup>\*3</sup> (See table below.)

\*1 The applicant needs to be an independent company (not controlled or managed by any other company). A subsidiary company of a big company is not eligible.

\*2 “not more than five employees” is applied if the applicant’s main business is categorized into a commerce industry (retailing or wholesale) or a service industry.

\*3 The maximum capital amount and the maximum number of employees vary depending on the applicant’s main business. For details, see the table below.

	<b>Applicant’s Main Business</b>	Max Capital (JPY)	Max Employees
(i)	manufacturing, construction or transportation industry, or other industry (excluding industries (ii) through (vii))	300 million	300
(ii)	wholesale industry	100 million	100
(iii)	services industry (excluding industries (vi) and (vii))	50 million	100
(iv)	retail industry	50 million	50
(v)	rubber manufacturing industry (excluding automobile or aircraft tire and tube manufacturing industry, and belt manufacturing industry)	300 million	900
(vi)	software industry and information processing service industry	300 million	300
(vii)	hotel industry	50 million	200

**<Annuities >**

Annuities for 1st to 10th year can be also reduced for patent applications where a request for examination was filed on or after April 1, 2019, if the applicant/patentee is either one of (A)-(D) above when paying the annuity.

*(Above information is only for an application filed by a **company**. See next page for an application filed by an individual.)*

**Reduction of Official Fees  
for Individual Applicants running a business (Sole Proprietors)  
for Japanese Patent Applications**

Official fees (examination fee and annuities) payable to the Japan Patent Office for patent applications can be reduced if the applicant meets the following requirements.

**<Examination Fees>**

The examination fees can be reduced:

- to one third ( $\frac{1}{3}$ ) if the applicant is (A) or (B) below, or
- to a half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) if the applicant is (C) below

when requesting examination.

- (A) an individual running a business for not more than ten years
- (B) an individual running a business who has not more than 20 employees <sup>\*1</sup>
- (C) an individual running a business who has not more than 50 employees <sup>\*2</sup> (See table below.)

\*1 “not more than five employees” is applied if the applicant’s main business is categorized into a commerce industry (retailing or wholesale) or a service industry.

\*2 The maximum number of employees varies depending on the applicant’s main business. For details, see the table below.

	<b>Applicant’s Main Business</b>	<b>Max Employees</b>
(i)	manufacturing, construction or transportation industry, or other industry (excluding industries (ii) through (vii))	300
(ii)	wholesale industry	100
(iii)	services industry (excluding industries (vi) and (vii))	100
(iv)	retail industry	50
(v)	rubber manufacturing industry (excluding automobile or aircraft tire and tube manufacturing industry, and belt manufacturing industry)	900
(vi)	software industry and information processing service industry	300
(vii)	hotel industry	200

**<Annuities >**

Annuities for 1st to 10th year can be also reduced for patent applications where a request for examination was filed on or after April 1, 2019, if the applicant/patentee is either one of (A)-(C) above when paying the annuity.

*(Above information is only for an application filed by **an individual**. See previous page for an application filed by a company.)*