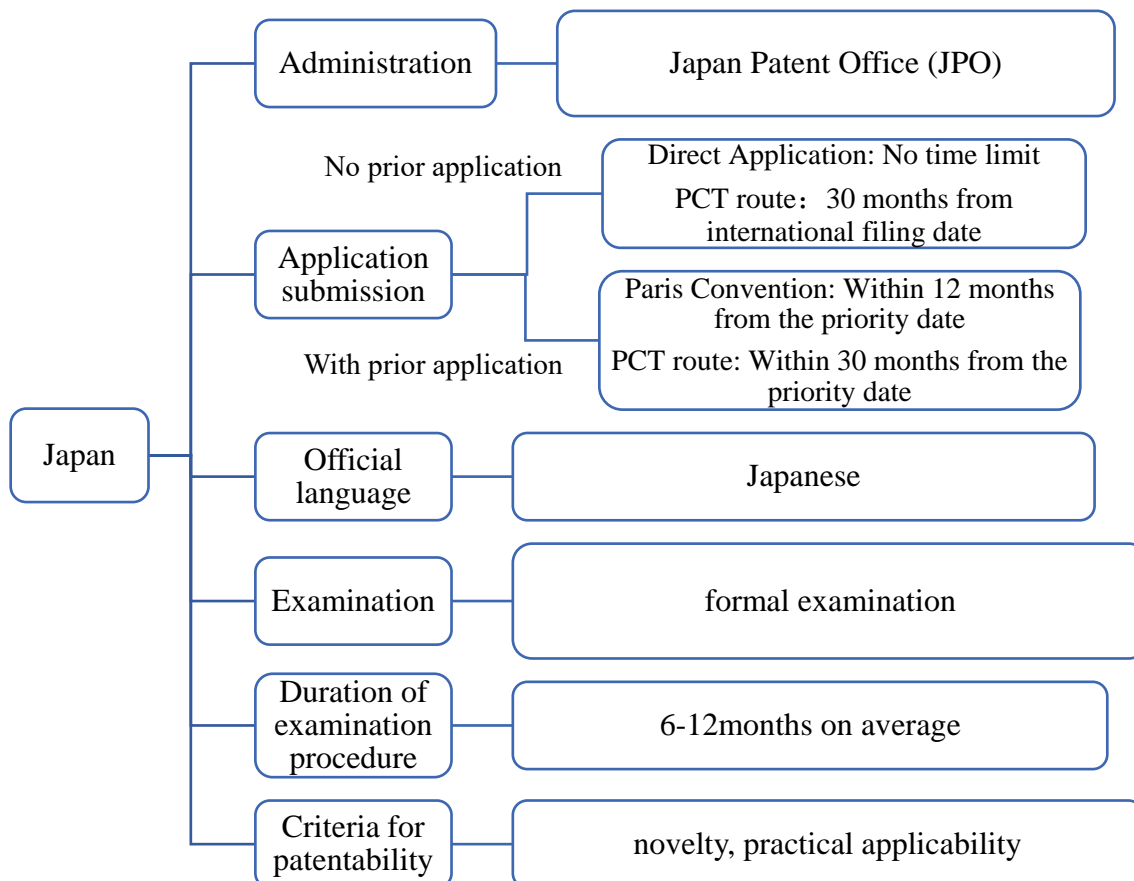


Guidance on Patent Application for Utility Model in Japan

I. Overview



II. Application Documents Requested

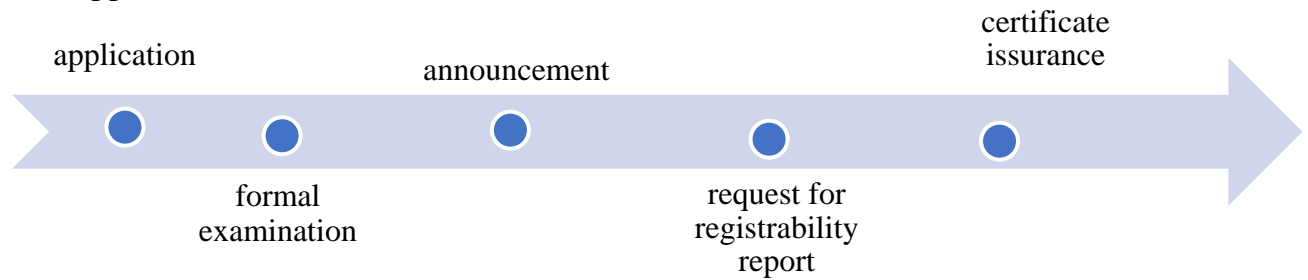
Document set on application

- a request to grant a patent in Japan;
- a description of the invention;
- applicant's and inventor's details.

a certified copy of the **Priority Document**



III. Application Process



IV. Validity Term

- The validity term of a utility model in Japan is 10 years from the filing date.
- The annuities for the first three years should be paid simultaneously with the grant fee. The maintenance fees for the fourth and subsequent years must be paid annually before the anniversary of the original grant date.

V. Note

Request for Registrability Report:

- A registrability report, prepared by an examiner on the basis of a search of prior art documents, enables an objective judgment to be made about the validity of registered utility model right. It can be requested by any person at any time after the filing of the application.
- A holder of utility model rights or an exclusive licensee may not exercise their utility model rights or exclusive license against an infringer, etc. until after having warned the infringer, etc. by presenting the report of utility model technical opinion for that registered utility model.





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