

PATENTS

PUBLISHED 20th FEBRUARY 2024



What is a Patent?

A patent is a title granted to protect an invention, which is your idea as a creator. This means that you have the exclusive intellectual right over the invention. A patent can be used to stop others from replicating or selling your invention.

What would make an invention patentable?

a. It must be **new**- Does not form part of the **state of art** (anything that has been disclosed to the public whether locally or internationally, in tangible form, orally in use or any other way, prior to the filing or priority date of the application claiming the invention).

b. It must involve an **inventive step**- The product or process which you wish to patent should not be a solution that

would be obvious to an ordinary person in that industry. There should be a level of innovation.

c. Must be **capable of industrial application**- it can be used in trade, or in any kind of industry including handicraft, agriculture, fishery and other services.

What would not be regarded as an invention?

- A discovery of plants, and animals, found in nature.;
- A scientific theory or mathematical method;
- A literary, dramatic, musical or artistic work or other aesthetic creation;
- A scheme, or method for doing business, performing a mental act or playing a game;
- A computer program.

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