

## Renewal Fees

Patent Offices in most countries, including Australia, raise revenue by charging periodic fees to keep patents, registered trade marks and registered designs in force.

### Patents

- **Australia**

For standard patents, the term is 20 years from the date of filing of the complete specification. Fees are charged annually by the Australian Patent Office and fall due from the fifth anniversary of the filing date in Australia. For a PCT application this is the same as the international filing date. Fees range from a few hundred dollars initially, and increase on a progressive scale. For petty patents, an extension of term fee is payable within 11 months of grant. For innovation patents, fees fall due from the second anniversary of the filing date in Australia. Griffith Hack will handle payment on your behalf.

- **Overseas**

Fees are usually charged annually, and fall due on the anniversary of the application date. In some countries fees are payable for the application as well as for the granted patent. Fees are typically a hundred dollars, and increase on a progressive scale so that more revenue is raised from those kept in force longer. The notable exception is the United States, where fees are charged at longer intervals from the date of grant.

### Registered Trade Marks

- **Australia**

Initial registration is for 10 years, with subsequent fees at 10 year intervals.

For trade marks registered up to 1 January 1996, the first renewal fee becomes payable 7 years after the application date. Subsequent fees are due every ten years thereafter. Trade marks registered from 1 January 1996 have an initial term of 10 years from the application date, and are renewable every ten years thereafter.

- **Overseas**

In most countries, the first renewal fee becomes payable ten years after the filing date, with subsequent renewal fees at ten year intervals.

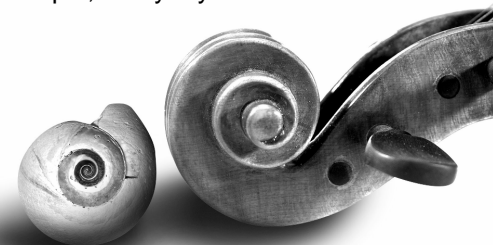
### Registered Designs

- **Australia**

An extension of term fee is payable one year after grant. Griffith Hack will handle payment on your behalf. Subsequent renewal fees are payable at 6 and 11 years from the application date in Australia.

- **Overseas**

Fees are generally charged at longer intervals than for patent fees, for example, every 5 years.



## Payment of Renewal Fees

Generally fees must be paid by a deadline or you will incur penalty fees. Moreover, in many countries the rights will lapse if fees are not paid within six months of the deadline for patents and registered designs, and within twelve months for registered trade marks.

Once the rights lapse it can be very difficult, if not impossible, to reinstate them. Most countries' Patent Offices do not send reminders, so you need to adopt rigorous record keeping to keep track of the appropriate deadlines.

Griffith Hack automatically refers information on all applications to our associated firm, Computer Patent Annuities Limited Partnership (CPA), unless you instruct us otherwise. For renewal purposes, CPA then deals directly with you.

## About Computer Patent Annuities

CPA is a partnership of more than 100 attorneys, including three resident partners who, with a large support staff, manage its computer-based operations in Jersey, Channel Islands.

CPA's sole function is to attend to renewal matters for clients throughout the world. It sends reminders and quotations to clients, takes instructions from them, and attends to the payment of their renewal fees.

As a matter of course, CPA provides quarterly reminders, itemises all matters due for renewal during the following quarter, and quotes on the costs. CPA requires you to issue instructions promptly, as penalty fees may be incurred. Late instructions may be subject to supplementary charges. Additional charges may also arise due to government fee increases.

CPA can invoice in numerous currencies, including Australian dollars. Ordinary Australian dollar cheques may be sent to CPA.

CPA will accept "standing instructions" so that your renewal fees are automatically paid without instruction. In this case CPA sends a schedule with costings and you must give immediate instructions if items are not to be renewed. CPA will only operate a standing instruction if its account is settled within thirty days, and will not effect automatic renewals when an account is in arrears. Please notify CPA directly if you wish to use a "standing instruction" or any other special arrangements.

In general, once an application has proceeded to grant you must deal directly with CPA to keep it in force or allow it to lapse. However, while applications are pending you must instruct Griffith Hack if you wish an application to lapse, and we will notify CPA .

**For more information please visit our website  
[www.griffithhack.com.au](http://www.griffithhack.com.au)**

