



Field	Requirements – Validity period	Examination
Patent Technology Product, Process, Use of a product	Novelty, Inventive step, Industrial application Validity < 20 y (+ 5 years possible)	Grant 2-5 years Publication after 18 months
Petty patent, utility model, Innovation patent Technology Product (mainly)	Lower requirements than for patents No harmonisation of rules between countries Validity 6-12 years	Registration directly No examination
Design registration Visual appearance, not functionality	Novelty, Individual character - classes Validity < 25y – grace period : 12 m.	Grant after examination. Unregistered designs under certain conditions.
Trademark registration Name, logo, sound and odour	Distinguishable over other marks - classes Validity < no limit if trademark is used and fees paid	Registration or Shown to be known within the field
Copyright Artistic works Computer programs	Originality (low requirement) Prevents against copying and adaptations Validity < Life + 70y	Automatic © 2005, Acme AS
Trade secrets, Know-how Anything that will give a company a competitive advantage by not being generally known	Positive measures to keep secret must be applied. Valid as long as secret. Note confusion on know-how vs trade secret	Protected by secrecy agreements
Domain names Related to trademarks	Validity unlimited, fee payment	Registered by special authority
Scientific Publications Publication	Novelty bar to later patent applications Content of patent applications can be published in Scientific Publications	Peer review
Geographical indications Agricultural	Special legislation and marking	Political process

Also: plant varieties rights, Integrated Circuit Topologies, Databases, Indigenous Peoples' Rights and others