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To Whom It May Concern:

Announcement
Changes in the Israeli Patent Law of 5727/1967
And Practice

We would like to advise you that on July 25th, 2012 the Israeli Patent Office announced a far-reaching Amendment to the Israeli Patent Law of 5727/1976. Said Amendment took effect on July 12th, 2012.

We would like to report to you the main issues of the Changes as follows:

1. **FILING PATENT APPLICATIONS**

All Israeli Applications must now be filed both in hardcopy and in softcopy.

Namely, when filing an Application, we also have to file a CD-Rom/DVD containing:

- the Specification, the Claims and the Drawings, if any, each in a separate .pdf Document
- the Sequence Listing, if any, in a .txt Document in accordance with the ST.25 standard.

Please note that non-compliance with the above demand of filing a CD-Rom/DVD, as specified above, will be considered a Deficiency in the filing of the Application.

2. **FIRST PUBLICATION OF PENDING APPLICATIONS**

Pending Applications which have already been filed will now be published and open for public inspection on the website of the Israeli Patent Office.

Please note that Applications which were finally rejected or actively abandoned before the date of Publication will not be published.

The dates on which the Publications take place are as follows:

- National Applications, i.e. basic Israeli Applications and Israeli Applications claiming priority according to Paris Convention, will be published within 18 months from the First Filing Date (the Priority date).
- PCT National Phase Applications will be published within 45 days from the date of National Phase entry.
- As regards earlier Applications, i.e. Applications for which the 18 months or 45 days periods indicated above have already elapsed, said Applications will be published in chronological order from the oldest to the newest. In this regard please note that Divisional Applications will be published alongside their Parent Applications.

Please note that the Israeli Patent Office indicated that they will send Notifications to the Addresses for Service of the Applicants regarding said Publication approximately one week before the appearance of said Publication in order to give the Applicant time to abandon the Application and prevent its publication, if desired. In this regard we highly recommend not to wait for these Notifications as the term is very short, and should the Applicant not be interested in the Application and its publication, we should be instructed immediately and in this way the deadline will not be missed.

3. **FORWARDING PRIOR ART BY THIRD PARTIES**

Any third party which is not the Applicant of the Application can submit a list of Prior Art publications and copies thereof within two months from the reply of the Applicant to the Official Request of the Israeli Patent Office to comply with Duty of Disclosure.

As indicated previously, the file will be open to public inspection and any third party may keep a survey after the Official Request regarding compliance with Duty of Disclosure.

Please note that the term for filing the third-party Disclosures is not extendable.

4. **ACCELERATED EXAMINATION**

This issue will come into force only on January 12th, 2013. However already at this stage we would like to advise you that any third party may file a Request for Accelerated Examination.

5. **DAMAGES**

The Amendment entitles the Courts to award Damages in Patent Infringement Cases retroactively from the date of the first Publication.

We also wish to advise about some important changes which were introduced in the local patent practice in December 2012, e.g.:

6. **POSSIBILITY TO REQUEST A SEARCH REPORT**

The Applicant now may order a Search Report in the form of the International Search Report (ISR) by filing a Request accompanied by payment of a prescribed fee.

7. **PUBLICATION ON ACCEPTANCE CANNOT BE DELAYED**

Beginning from January 1, 2013 it will no longer be possible to suspend publication of acceptance of a Patent Application.

As indicated, the above points are only summaries of the main issues of the Changes in the Israeli Patent Law and practice.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require further assistance and/or clarification.

Yours very truly,

DR. YITZHAK HESS & PARTNERS