

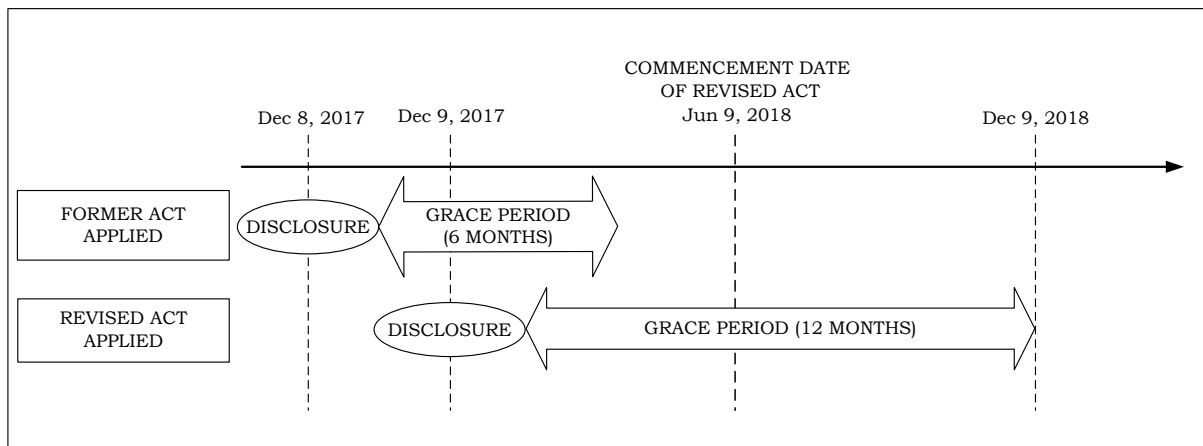
## Re: Revision of the Grace Period in Japan

### 1. Outline

On May 23, 2018, the Patent Act and the Design Act were revised, whereby the novelty grace period for patent applications, utility model registration applications, and design registration applications was extended from six months to one year. The revised provisions were enforced on June 9, 2018.

### 2. Important Points regarding Application of Revised Exceptions to Loss of Novelty

The revised provisions will be applied to patent applications, utility model registration applications, and design registration applications filed on or after the commencement date of June 9, 2018. As illustrated below, however, the revised provisions will not be applied to inventions and so on disclosed up to December 8, 2017. In other words, the revised provisions will be applied to applications that were filed on or after the commencement date in relation to inventions and so on disclosed on or after December 9, 2017.



### 3. Comparison with Foreign Countries

Provisions for exceptions to lack of novelty in key countries are as follows.

#### [JAPAN]

Grace period	:	1 year
Start date	:	Filing date
Subject disclosures	:	Disclosures against the will of the applicant etc. Disclosures by the applicant etc. (all types of disclosures) (Exception) Disclosures in publications derived from patent applications etc.

#### [USA]

Grace period	:	1 year
Start date	:	Effective filing date (filing date or priority date)
Subject disclosures	:	No restrictions

#### [EUROPE]

Grace period	:	6 months
Start date	:	Filing date
Subject disclosures	:	An evident abuse in relation to the applicant etc. Disclosures by the applicant etc. at international exhibitions

#### [CHINA]

Grace period	:	6 months
Start date	:	Filing date or priority date
Subject disclosures	:	Disclosures against the will of the applicant etc. Disclosures by the applicant etc. at international exhibitions Presentations by the applicant etc. at prescribed academic conferences

#### [S. KOREA]

Grace period	:	1 year
Start date	:	Filing date
Subject disclosures	:	Disclosures against the will of the applicant etc. Disclosures by the applicant etc. (all types of disclosures)

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