

# France Patent Official Fees Reduction Rules

Version : 2022-07-18

## 1. Definitions / Requirements

The amount of certain fees payable to the INPI shall be reduced for:

- **natural persons;**
- **small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)**, i.e., companies with fewer than 1,000 employees and in which no more than 25% of the capital is held by another entity that does not meet the same condition; or
- **non-profit organizations in the educational or research sector.**

For the last two categories, the request for a reduction must be submitted in writing to the Chief Executive Officer of the INPI within one month of the filing of the patent application, on pain of inadmissibility. The application must be accompanied by a declaration that the applicant falls into one or other of these categories.

### ※ Note:

A false declaration may be subject to an administrative fine of up to 10 times the fees due. Before filing a fee reduction request, it is advisable to consider the cost resulting from non-compliance. Should it require that a French partner counsel help determine whether any applicant is entitled to the benefits, please also take the cost of case study into consideration. According to our French partner counsel, the average expected reduction in official fees for the filing of a simple patent application when one claims small-entity status versus regular fees is about €400.

## 2. Fee Reduction

- (1). Patent and Utility Model application fees (including filing fees, search fees, and grant fees) and annuities for the 2nd to the 7th years are subject to reductions. (2). The current discount for the 2nd to the 5th annuities is 50%; that for the 6th and 7th annuities is 25%.
- (2). **No reductions of fees apply for** (a). **European patents validated in France**, or (b). annuities for the 8th and subsequent years.
- (3). Declarations signed by all applicants must be filed within one month from the filing date, so as to benefit from the fee reductions. Once the one-month period expires, it is no longer possible to change the small/large entity status.

### **Remarks :**

- (1) The information above was collected on [April 10, 2020](#). In the event of any patent law changes in the said country, the new amendments shall prevail.
- (2) We are not responsible for verifying the client's fee reduction qualification status and will follow the client's instructions to process the patent renewals payment. In case of any changes of client's fee reduction qualification status, please inform us for processing in order to comply with the payment regulations of the patent laws of various countries.
- (3) We do not assume any legal liability in case of the case abandoned, payment failed or any other rights losses or damages caused due to the above mentioned client's instructions or incorrect data.