

The patent examination process: acceptance

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**CHAMPIONS
OF INNOVATION.**

If a patent application meets all the requirements for a patent under the NZ Patents Act, it will be accepted. Typically, acceptance will follow the addressing of one or more examination reports to overcome initial objections to the application.

Once accepted, details of the application will be published online by the Intellectual Property Office (IPONZ).

Following publication, there is a three month opposition period in which interested parties may oppose the application. If no oppositions are made during this period, the patent is granted and a Letters Patent is issued. More information on the patent opposition process can be found at ["Patent Opposition FAQs"](#).

The exception to this rule is when deferred acceptance has been requested. Deferred acceptance effectively protracts the examination process for the full 15 month period allowed for completion of all matters.

The advantage of deferred acceptance is that the additional time allows an applicant to file a divisional application in order to pursue additional claims, or provides a period of time where amendment to the application can be made if needed.

If deferred acceptance is not requested acceptance takes place as soon as the application is in order. Once an application is accepted, no divisional applications can be filed.

If no objections have been raised against the application, then a one month period is provided for the Applicant to file any divisional applications.

The advantages of divisional applications are discussed further on the information sheet ["Divisional patent applications: what are they and why should you use them"](#).

Disclaimer

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