

# Registered Utility Models

The registered utility model can be designated as the “little patent”. Its essential differences to the patent are as follows:

- a) No procedures or technical processes can be protected with the registered utility model
- b) The duration of the registered utility model totals a maximum of 10 years from registration
- c) The Patent Office does not conduct an inspection regarding the ability for a registered utility model to be protected. Nevertheless, the possibility exists to conduct an investigation by the Patent Office on the approximate current state of technology. This investigation is voluntary for the registering party; it is intended to put him/her in the position to better appreciate the probable legal status and therefore the acceptability of his/her registered utility model.
- d) Since an inspection on the qualification for protection is not conducted, registered utility model registrations are entered relatively quickly, generally two to three months after registration. The protective features also become effective immediately upon such entry.