



Patents Act 1977

1977 CHAPTER 37

PART III

MISCELLANEOUS AND GENERAL

Supplemental

128 Priorities between patents and applications under 1949 Act and this Act.

- (1) The following provisions of this section shall have effect for the purpose of resolving questions of priority arising between patents and applications for patents under the 1949 Act and patents and applications for patents under this Act.
- (2) A complete specification under the 1949 Act shall be treated for the purposes of sections 2(3) and 5(2) above—
 - (a) if published under that Act, as a published application for a patent under this Act;
 - (b) if it has a date of filing under that Act, as an application for a patent under this Act which has a date of filing under this Act;and in the said section 2(3), as it applies by virtue of this subsection in relation to any such specification, the words “both as filed and” shall be omitted.
- (3) In section 8(1), (2) and (4) of the 1949 Act (search for anticipation by prior claim) the references to any claim of a complete specification, other than the applicant’s, published and filed as mentioned in section 8(1) shall include references to any claim contained in an application made and published under this Act or in the specification of a patent granted under this Act, being a claim in respect of an invention having a priority date earlier than the date of filing the complete specification under the 1949 Act.
- (4) In section 32(1)(a) of the 1949 Act (which specifies, as one of the grounds of revoking a patent, that the invention was claimed in a valid claim of earlier priority date contained in the complete specification of another patent), the reference to such a claim

Changes to legislation: Patents Act 1977, Section 128 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 20 January 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

shall include a reference to a claim contained in the specification of a patent granted under this Act (a new claim) which satisfies the following conditions:—

- (a) the new claim must be in respect of an invention having an earlier priority date than that of the relevant claim of the complete specification of the patent sought to be revoked; and
 - (b) the patent containing the new claim must be wholly valid or be valid in those respects which have a bearing on that relevant claim.
- (5) For the purposes of this section and the provisions of the 1949 Act mentioned in this section the date of filing an application for a patent under that Act and the priority date of a claim of a complete specification under that Act shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of that Act, and the priority date of an invention which is the subject of a patent or application for a patent under this Act shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 56(4)(a)(iiia) and word added by [S.I. 2006/1056 Sch. para. 2\(b\)](#) (This amendment comes into force on the day on which 2005 asp 13, s. 20 comes into force, see art. 1(2)(b))
- s. 63(3)(a) words in s. 63(3) renumbered as s. 63(3)(a) by [2004 c. 16 s. 2\(4\)](#) (Amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S. 2(4) was repealed (29.4.2006) by S.I. 2006/1028, art. 2(4), Sch. 4)
- s. 63(3)(b) and word inserted by [2004 c. 16 s. 2\(4\)](#) (Amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S. 2(4) was repealed (29.4.2006) by S.I. 2006/1028, art. 2(4), Sch. 4)