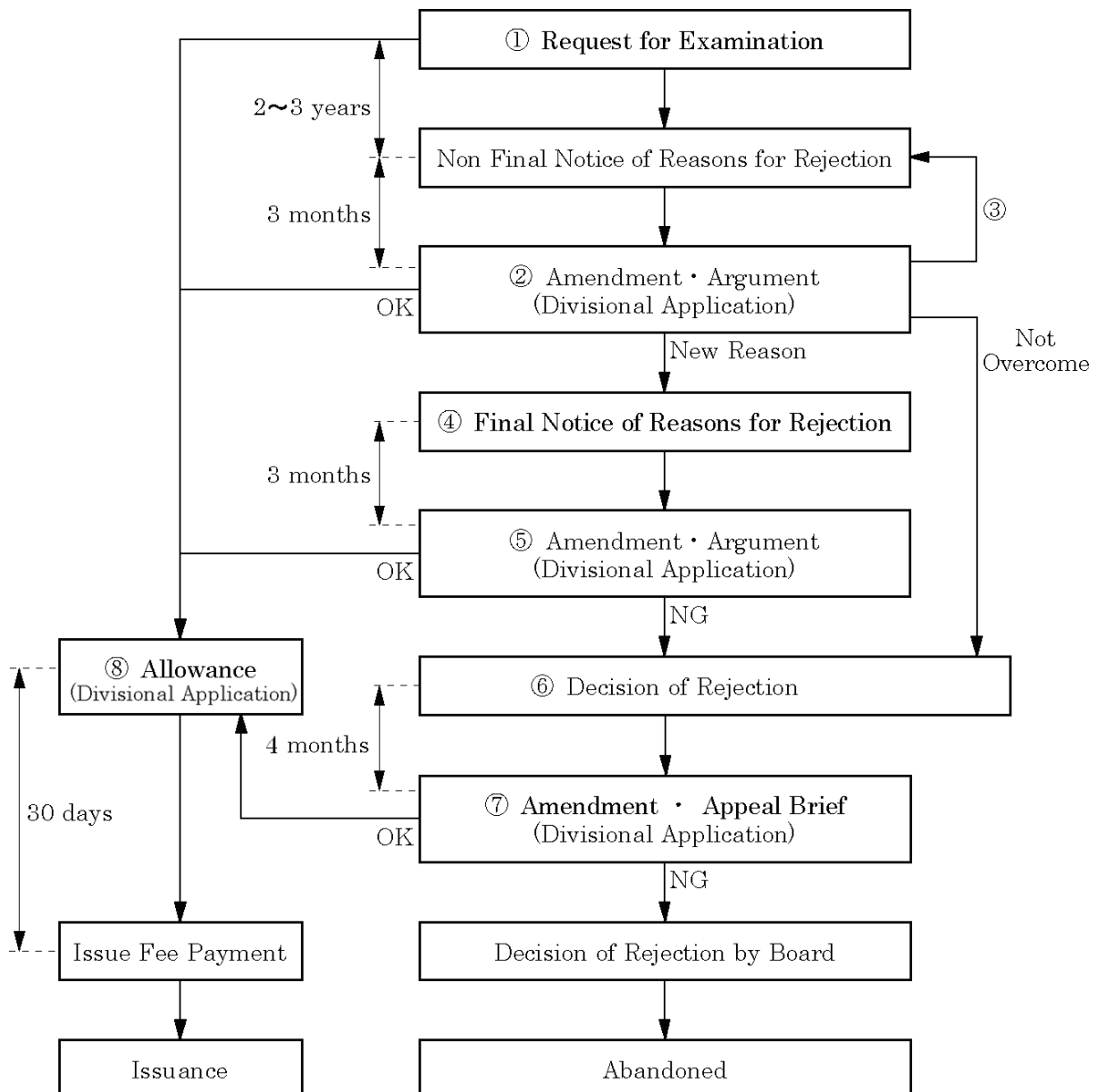


Patent Procedures After the Request for the Examination

May 3, 2010
Aki Ryuka



Request for the Examination (①)

must be filed within 3 years from the Japanese filing date.

Non Final Notice (③)

is re-issued, if a newly found reason for rejection could have been applied to the original claims.

Final Notice (④)

is issued if the amendment caused a new reason for rejection.

Decision of Rejection (⑥)

is issued if the reason for rejection shown in any notice was not overcome.

Divisional Applications

can be filed:

- (1) before the first office action,
- (2) within periods for responses to the office actions. (②⑤⑦)
- (3) if the application was filed on or after April 1, 2007,
within 30 days from an allowance that was made before an appeal. (⑧)

Amendments

Amendment to add a new matter and amendment to change a special technical feature of the invention are prohibited throughout patent application prosecution.

After the Final Notice (⑤⑦), the amendment must be:

- 1) deleting claims,
- 2) limiting the existing claim elements,
- 3) correcting errors, or

4) clarifying the language pointed out in the Notice.

When filing an appeal (⑦), the amendment must be filed together.