

Office Fee Reductions for Micro and Small Entities

August 6, 2021

Aki Ryuka

Japan Patent Attorney

Attorney at Law, California, USA

The official examination fee and annuities for the first 10 years can be reduced.

No proof is required if the examination was requested after March 31, 2019.

Categories and Requirements			Reduced to
New Entity (individual or corporation)			1 / 3
A. The applicant initiated the business within the last 10 years . (If the applicant is a corporation, it was incorporated within the last 10 years.) B. The capital is not more than JPY 300 million, C. No corporation with a capital of over JPY 300 million owns more than 1/2 of the shares, <u>AND</u> D. The total share by other corporations with capital over 300 million is not more than 2/3. (B to D apply to the corporate applicant.)			
Micro Entity			
A. The applicant employees* are not more than 20 (5 in the commerce or service industry), B. No single Large (not Micro or Small entity) Corporation owns more than 1/2 of the total share, C. Total shares owned by the Large Corporations are not more than 2/3, <u>AND</u> D. The patent application examination was requested on or after April 1, 2014. (B and C apply to the corporate applicant.)			
Small Entity			1 / 2
A. (a) The applicant’s employees* are not more than below <u>OR</u> (b) If the applicant is a corporation, the capital is not more than below, <u>AND</u> B. Same as B to D of “Micro Entity”			
Business Categories	Employees*	Capital (JPY)	
(a) Wholesale	100	100 Million	
(b) Software or information handling service	300	300 Million	
(c) Hotels	200	50 Million	
(d) Services other than (b) and (c)	100		
(e) Retail	50		
(f) Manufacturing rubber products, exclusive of tires of automobiles or aircraft, rubber tubes, and industrial belts	900	300 Million	
(g) Other than (a) to (f)	300		
University and the Researchers Employed by the University			
NPO (Non-Profit Organization)			
A. The applicant is a corporation whose employees* are not more than below, B. Same as B and C of “Micro Entity,” <u>AND</u> C. NPO formation document (article of incorporation, bylaws, etc.) shows the following. (a) The purpose of the entity is non-profit, (b) The entity aims to make non-limited and multiple contributions, <u>AND</u> (c) The entity carries out one of the following activities: Health care, medical care; education; local vitalization; academics, culture, arts, or sports; environment; natural disasters: regional safety; human rights and peace-making; international cooperation; activities involving female-male collaboration; child wellbeing; information technology for social development; scientific and technological development; economy			

vitalization; employment skills enhancement or employment opportunities expansion; consumer protection; activities that support or contribute to the activities above.		
Business Categories	Employees	
(a) Any businesses other than (b) or (c)	300	
(b) Retail	50	
(c) Wholesale or service provider	100	

Small Income Tax Individual	1 / 2
Annual income was less than JPY 2.5 million, or the total business income, including real estate income, was less than JPY 2.9 million last year	

* Employees: The president and board members are not counted. Part-time employees based on days, seasonal employees (shorter than 4 months), and temporary employees (shorter than 2 months) are also not counted.