

“The Industrial Property Rights System in Japan”
Chapter 2. The Patent System and Utility Model System

Novelty

Inventions must be new. Patent rights are not granted to technologies that people are already familiar with. Inventions that are "publicly known" and "publicly used", as stipulated in Article 29 Clause 1, are considered to lack “novelty”.

Regarding an invention that has already been published in a thesis, for example, an exception to the “lack of novelty” restriction can be made if it was published under specific conditions and the designated application procedures are carried out within six months from the publication date.