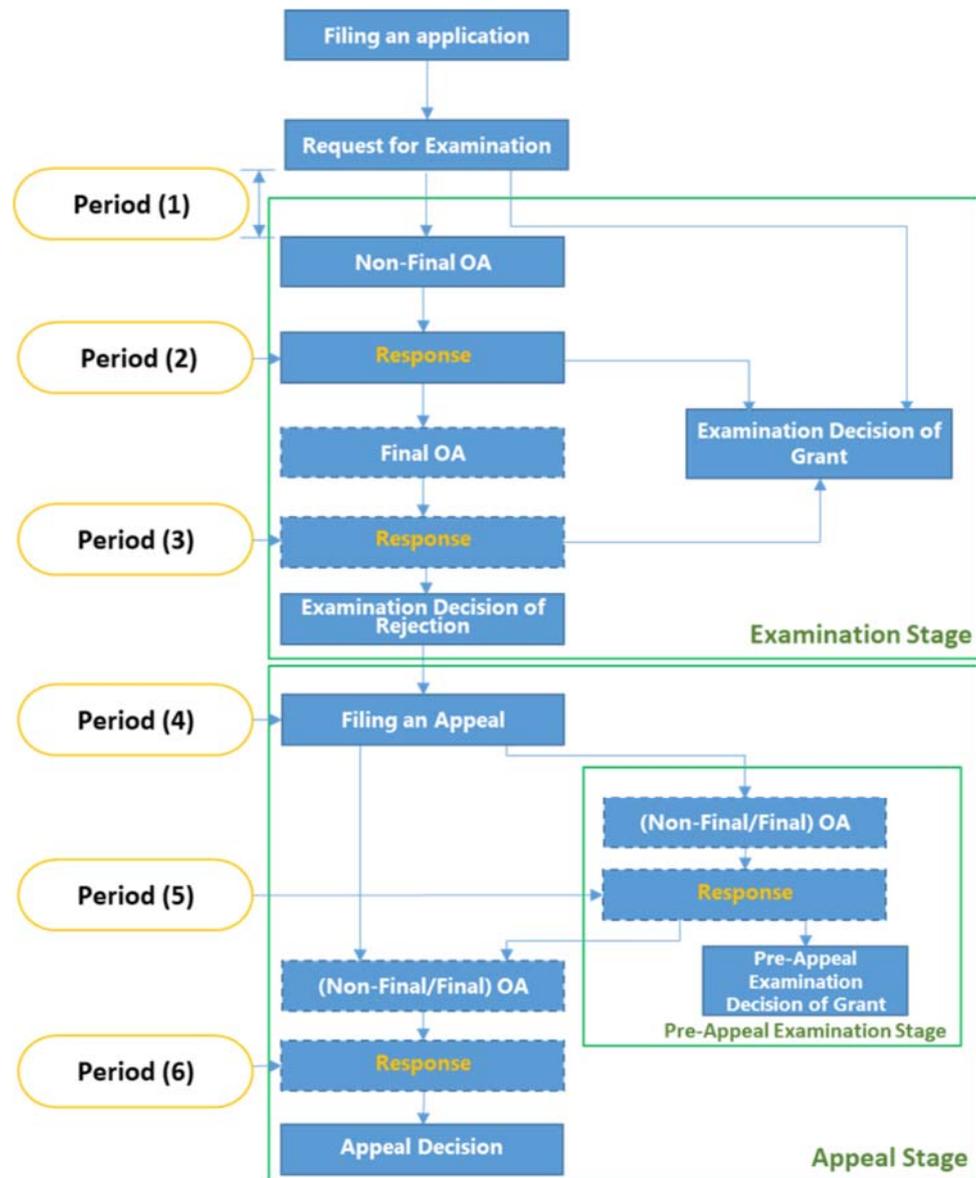


Amendment of claims and/or specifications is acceptable while an application is examined at the JPO. However, after the OAs or decision of patent has been issued, the allowable scope of amendment and allowable terms of filing an Amendment are restricted.

Applicants are able to take the following steps when they receive the OAs or Decision of Rejection from the JPO:

- Remark or Appeal Brief: to state opinions of applicants and to object to the Reasons for Rejection (No change in the scope of claims)
- Amendment: to amend a scope of claims in order to overcome the reasons for rejection



❖ TERMS OF AMENDMENTS

1. From filling an application for patent grant
2. Within the designated period of responding to the Non-Final OA
3. Within the designated period of responding to the Final OA
4. Simultaneously with filing an appeal against Decision of Rejection
5. Within the designated period of responding to the OAs in Pre-Appeal Examination stage
6. Within the designated period of responding to the Final OA in Appeal stage

Please note that some procedures shown with a dashed line in the above chart are not always needed.

❖ SUBSTANCE OF AMENDMENTS

Amendment of specifications and drawings

Amendments have to be made within the scope of the original specification, claims and drawings (adding new matters are not allowed). It is common to all terms (Terms 1 to 6).

Amendment of scope of claims

– Prohibition of Addition of New Matter

Amendments have to be made within the scope of the original specification, claims and drawings (adding new matters is not allowed). It is common to all terms (Terms 1 to 6).

– Prohibition of Shift-Amendments

In order to satisfy requirements of unity of invention, all claims are needed to contain common STFs (Special Technical Features) over prior arts. It is common to Terms 2 to 6.

– Limitation of Amendments

In Terms 3 and 4, and the period of responding to the Final OAs in Terms 5 and 6, an amendment of scope of claims is limited to the following purposes:

- * removal of claims
- * narrow the scope of claims
- * correction of errors
- * clarification of an ambiguous description in specification which is pointed out in the OAs

Please note that these limitations are not applicable for the response to the 1st OA during Terms 5 and 6.

❖ LIMITATION OF AMENDMENTS FOR EACH TERM

	Period (1)	Period (2)	Period (3)	Period (4)	Period (5)	Period (6)
Prohibition of Addition of New matter	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Prohibition of Shift-Amendments	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Additional Limitation of Amendments (limitation of amendment for Final OA etc.)	-	-	✓	✓	✓ (only for Final OA)	✓ (only for Final OA)