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Briefly discuss the following intellectual property protection methods

1. Patent

It is an intellectual property (IP) right for a technical invention. It allows you the inventor to prevent others from using your invention for commercial or business purposes for close to 20 years. After which you can decide who will be allowed to produce, sell or import your invention in those country, where your patent document is valid.

There are three different kinds of patents;

Utility Patents: The most common type of patent, these are granted to new machines, chemicals, and processes.

Design Patents: Granted to protect the unique appearance or design of manufactured objects, such as the surface ornamentation or overall design of the object.

Plant Patents: Granted for the invention and asexual reproduction of new and distinct plant varieties, including hybrids (asexual reproduction means the plant is reproduced by means other than from seeds, such as by grafting or rooting of cuttings).

1. Copyright

It is another form of intellectual property. It is defined as a right granted to the author or originator of certain literary or artistic production. The author is invested for a limited period with the sole privilege of multiplying copies of such products for sale. Under copyright, the following are eligible for protection.

* Literary work
* Musical work
* Artistic work
* Sound recordings
* Broadcast

An eligible work can enjoy protection as soon as it is created and fixed in a definite medium. The copyright expires 70 years after the first publication. Examples of Copyrights include; Poems, Novels, Presentations, Computer Programs, Newspaper

1. Trademark

It is another intellectual property in a symbol or sign that can be used to differentiate someone’s goods and services from another. It can be registered which can be a name logo, slogan, shape, colour. It can legally protect your trademark from any competitor. It must not be the same with any other business owner. The period of its protection varies. However, it can be renewed beyond time limit on the payment of another or additional fees.

Examples of Trademark include; A Company’s name, Symbol, Catchphrase, Figure

1. Trade Secret

 This is another type of intellectual properties which is based on confidential information which may be sold or licensed. Trade secret must contain the following information

* Commercially valuable
* Which must be known only to few persons

It may include technical or commercial information or the combination of both of them.

REFERENCES

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