

NEW PATENT LAW IN BRAZIL - LAW 9279/96

Dear Sirs,

The new Brazilian Patent Law was finally put into force as of May 15, 1997.

According to this new Law, substances, matter or products obtained by chemical means or processes and alimentary and chemical-pharmaceutical substances, matter, mixtures or products and medicaments of any type, as well as the respective processes of obtaining or modifying them, diagnostic methods for use outside the human or animal body, and transgenic micro-organisms that exhibit, due to direct human intervention in their genetic composition, a characteristic that cannot normally be attained by the species under natural conditions, are now patentable provided the patentability requirements — novelty, inventive activity and industrial application — are met.