

## Chapter 27A

### Latvia

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#### I. INTRODUCTION

§ 27A:1 Intellectual property rights recognized

#### II. PATENTS

- § 27A:2 Nature—Creation of rights
- § 27A:3 —Beneficiaries of rights
- § 27A:4 —Maintenance
- § 27A:5 —Extension: renewal
- § 27A:6 —Transfer
- § 27A:7 —Cancellation: International aspects
- § 27A:8 Attacks on ownership—Prior inventors or users
- § 27A:9 —Public interest intervention
- § 27A:10 Infringement actions—Nature of infringement
- § 27A:11 —Action for damages
- § 27A:12 —Injunctions
- § 27A:13 —Confiscation
- § 27A:14 —Customs actions

#### III. COPYRIGHT

- § 27A:15 Nature—Creation of rights
- § 27A:16 —Beneficiaries of rights
- § 27A:17 —Duration
- § 27A:18 —Transfer
- § 27A:19 —International aspects
- § 27A:20 Attacks on ownership
- § 27A:21 Infringement actions—Nature of infringement
- § 27A:22 —Action for damages
- § 27A:23 —Injunctions
- § 27A:24 —Confiscation

§ 27A:25 —Customs action

#### **IV. TRADE AND SERVICE MARKS**

- § 27A:26 Nature—Creation of rights
- § 27A:27 —Beneficiaries of rights
- § 27A:28 —Maintenance
- § 27A:29 —Transfer
- § 27A:30 —Cancellation
- § 27A:31 —International aspects
- § 27A:32 Attacks on ownership—Prior users
- § 27A:33 —Public interest intervention
- § 27A:34 Infringement actions—Nature of infringement
- § 27A:35 —Action for damages
- § 27A:36 —Injunctions
- § 27A:37 —Confiscation
- § 27A:38 —Customs action

#### **V. TRADE AND SERVICE NAMES**

§ 27A:39 In general

#### **VI. INDUSTRIAL DESIGNS AND UTILITY MODELS**

- § 27A:40 Nature—Creation of rights
- § 27A:41 —Beneficiaries of rights
- § 27A:42 —Maintenance
- § 27A:43 —Extension
- § 27A:44 —Transfer
- § 27A:45 —Cancellation
- § 27A:46 —International aspects
- § 27A:47 Attacks on ownership—Prior users
- § 27A:48 —Public interest
- § 27A:49 Infringement actions—Nature of infringement
- § 27A:50 —Action for damages
- § 27A:51 —Injunctions
- § 27A:52 —Confiscation
- § 27A:53 —Customs action

#### **VII. LICENSING**

§ 27A:54 In general

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## I. INTRODUCTION

### § 27A:1 Intellectual property rights recognized

Latvian laws related to intellectual property recognize several types of intellectual property: copyright, patents, trade marks, plant varieties and industrial designs. In addition, know-how and trade secrets can be protected. All of these types of intellectual property are covered under individual national laws.

For instance, the Copyright Law deals with provisions regarding the works of authors, performers, and other owners and licensees of copyright and neighbouring rights, the Trade Mark Law regulates legal relations as to trade mark registration, as well as the use of and the protection of trade marks, Plant Varieties Protection Law establishes protection for new breeds of plants, whereas the Patent Law provides regulatory framework for inventions and patents. Additionally, there are laws that are related to intellectual property indirectly, for instance the Law On Scientific Activity, which establishes ownership for scientific discoveries, or Trade Secret Protection Law that provides additional legal framework for protection of trade secrets (know-how).

Intellectual property rights in relation to trade marks, patents, and designs in Latvia are supervised by the Patent office of the Republic of Latvia (the “Patent office”) in accordance with national laws and international agreements and directives. The Patent office registers approximately 3,000 trade marks and up to 300 patents each year.<sup>1</sup>

Latvia ratified the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works in 1995, has been a member of the World Trade Organization (WIPO) since 1999, and ratified the WIPO Copyright Treaty in 2002. Generally, the field of intellectual property in Latvia is constantly evolving taking into account in particular the evolving regulation within the European Union (EU).

## II. PATENTS

### § 27A:2 Nature—Creation of rights

According to the Patent Law, an invention is protected with a patent in any field of technology if the invention is new, it has an inven-

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[Section 27A:1]

<sup>1</sup>See <https://www.lrpv.gov.lv/en/patent-office/statistics/inventions>.