



Patents Act 1949

1949 CHAPTER 87

Miscellaneous provisions as to rights in inventions

55 Power of comptroller to give directions to co-owners

- (1) Where two or more persons are registered as grantee or proprietor of a patent, the comptroller may, upon application made to him in the prescribed manner by any of those persons, give such directions in accordance with the application as to the sale or lease of the patent or any interest therein, the grant of licences under the patent, or the exercise of any right under the last foregoing section in relation thereto, as he thinks fit.
- (2) If any person registered as grantee or proprietor of the patent fails to execute any instrument or to do any other thing required for the carrying out of any direction given under this section within fourteen days after being requested in writing so to do by any of the other persons so registered the comptroller may, upon application made to him in the prescribed manner by any such other person, give directions empowering any person to execute that instrument or to do that thing in the name and on behalf of the person in default.
- (3) Before giving directions in pursuance of an application under this section, the comptroller shall give an opportunity to be heard—
 - (a) in the case of an application under subsection (1) of this section, to the other person or persons registered as grantee or proprietor of the patent;
 - (b) in the case of an application under subsection (2) of this section, to the person in default.
- (4) An appeal shall lie from any decision or direction of the comptroller under this section.
- (5) No directions shall be given under this section so as to affect the mutual rights or obligations of trustees or of the personal representatives of a deceased person, or their rights or obligations as such.