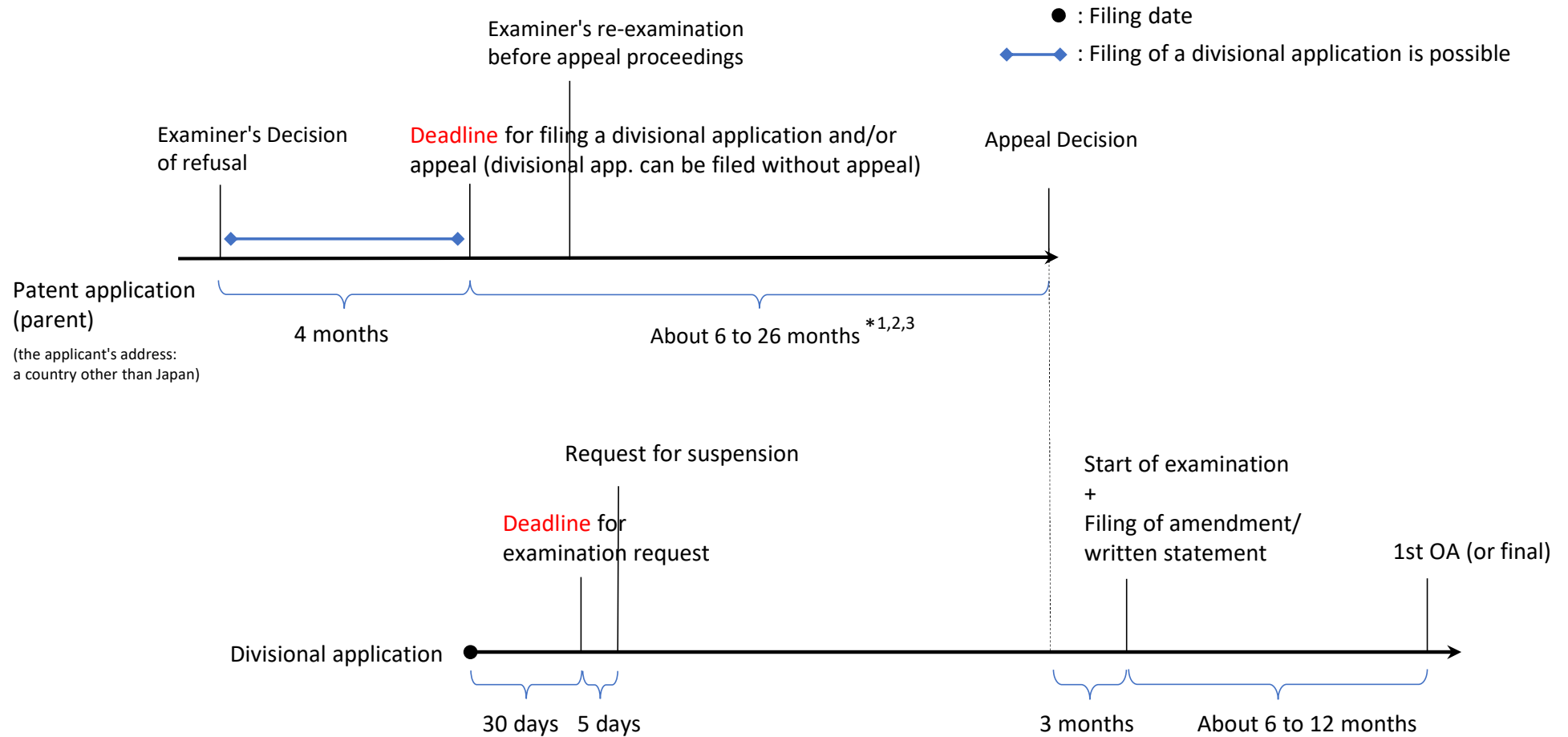


Flow of procedures for a patent application and a divisional application after notification of 1st OA in Japan



\*1: Appeal Decision is often obtained in about 12 to 16 months.

\*2: By filing a request for accelerated appeal examination, it is possible to obtain Appeal Decision in about 2 to 6 months.

\*3: If the Examiner finds the patent application to be allowable upon the examiner's re-examination before appeal proceedings, a Notice of Allowance will be issued about 1 to 3 months after the request for appeal.