

Japan (JP) Coverage

Patent Office Details

Japan Patent Office
3-4-3 Kasumigaseki
Chiyoda-ku Tokyo
100-8915, Japan

Web: www.jpo.go.jp

Official gazette: *Patent and Utility Model Gazette*

Kinds of Protection

Patents of Invention	Granted for a term of 20 years from submission date
Extensions	Extensions of up to five years for pharmaceutical, veterinary and agrochemical patents
Utility models	Granted for a term of 10 years from the application date (six year term prior to 01.01.2005; 10-15 year term prior to 1994)
Industrial Designs and Models	May be registered

Convention & Treaty Membership

Patent Cooperation Treaty	01.10.1978
Signatory of:	Paris Convention (Stockholm wording) Budapest Treaty World Intellectual Property Organization International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants

Filing for Patents

Inventions are patentable. The patent office considers animals to be patentable. Computer programs can also claim protection.

Applications may be made, in Japanese, by the invention or his legal successor. Foreign applicants must designate a Japanese representative. From January 1996, the Japanese Patent Office has allowed filing in English, although patentees still have to supply a translation in Japanese within 23 months. The English version is the final arbiter in disputes on quality of translations affecting scope of invention.

The application is laid open to public inspection after 18 months from the date of filing, or the earliest priority date, if priority has been claimed and is published in the patent gazette. Upon acceptance the complete examined specification is published in the official gazette.

For patents granted on or after 1 April 2015, opposition must be filed within six months of the announcement of grant. The patentee (but not the opponent) may appeal the Patent Office decision to the IP High Court.

DWPI Coverage

Kind		DWPI Start Dates
A	Unexamined OPI application	1963
B	Examined accepted specification	1963
B1	Examined accepted spec not published as unexamined	14 August 1996
B2	Examined accepted spec not published as unexamined	23 December 1982
U	Utility Model	10 January 2008
W	PCT transfer (origin abroad)	12 March 1981
X	PCT transfer (origin Japan)	5 March 1981
Y	PCT transfer to utility model (origin abroad)	30 April 1981
Z	PCT transfer to utility model (origin Japan)	11 March 1982

Notes:

Due to the volume of Japanese documents published each year, DWPI initially only included Japanese documents based on the International Patent Classification (IPC):

Unexamined applications (A documents)

Chemical patents	Included for the start dates above
Electrical patents	Included from 1981
Other patents	Included from update 199548

Examined specifications (B documents)

Chemical patents	Included for the start dates above
Electrical patents	Included from publication date 7 July 2004
Other patents	Included from publication date 7 July 2004

Full details are given in the appendix.

DWPI Data elements online	Notes
✓ Bibliographic data	
✓ English value-add title and abstract	
✓ Original title and abstract	Title (machine translation) from 1975 onwards. Abstract (machine translation) from 200824 onwards
✓ Claims	Main claim (machine translation) from 200824 onwards
✓ Manual Codes	Chemical (CPI) and Electrical (EPI)
✓ Chemical Indexing	DCR, Chemical Fragmentation, Polymer and Markush

Numeration

Kind Codes – A

Publication Numbers				
Original Data	Derwent Innovation	Dialog	Questel	STN
<i>Published up to 8 January 1989 (Showa Era)</i>				
XX-Nnnnnn	JPXXnnnnnn	JP XXnnnnnn	JPXXNNNNNN	JPXXnnnnnn
60-36354	JP60036354	JP 60036354	JP60036354	JP60036354
<i>Published from 9 January 1989 to 2000 (Heisei Era)</i>				
xx-Nnnnnn	JPxxnnnnnnA	JP xxnnnnnn	JPXXnnnnnn	JPXXnnnnnn
8-92277	JP8092276	JP 8092276	JP08092276	JP08092276
<i>Published from 2000 onwards</i>				
YYYY-Nnnnnn	JPYYYYnnnnnn	JP YYYYnnnnnn	JPYYYYnnnnnn	JPYYYYnnnnnn
2000-34521	JP2000034521	JP 2000034521	JP2000034521	JP2000034521

Application Numbers*				
Original Data	Derwent Innovation	Dialog	Questel	STN
<i>Published up to 8 January 1989 (Showa Era)</i>				
XX-Nnnnnn	JPXXNnnnnnA	JP YYYYNnnnnn	YYYYJP-nnnnnnn	JPYYYY-Nnnnnn
59-97410	JP198497410A	JP 198497410	1984JP-0097410	JP1984-97410
<i>Published from 9 January 1989 to 2000 (Heisei Era)</i>				
xx-Nnnnnn	JPYYYYNnnnnnA	JP YYYYNnnnnn	YYYYJP-nnnnnnn	JPYYYY-Nnnnnn
6-1230	JP19941230A	JP 19941230	1994JP-0001230	JP1994-1230
<i>Published from 2000 onwards</i>				
YYYY-Nnnnnn	JPYYYYNnnnnnA	JP YYYYNnnnnn	YYYYJP-nnnnnnn	JPYYYY-Nnnnnn
2011-10124	JP201110124A	JP 201110124	2011JP-0010124	JP2011-10124

*Full coverage of application numbers commenced from DWPI update 199216

XX	2 digit Japanese Imperial year
xx	1 or 2 digit Japanese Imperial year
YYYY	4 digit Western year
Nnnnnn	1 to 6 digit serial number
nnnnnnn	7 digit serial number

Notes:

Whilst the Japanese year officially begins on 1 January each year, the actual calculation of the Imperial year is based on the Emperor's reign:

Showa Era	To 8 January 1989	Imperial Year: Western year minus 25	Example: 1988 Western year = 63 Imperial year
Heisei Era	From 9 January 1989	Imperial Year: Western year minus 88	Example: 1992 Western year = 4 Imperial year

When the Era changed the serial part of the application numbers formed part of a continuous series and did not revert to 1. The last application under the Showa Era was serial number 3200 (JP64003200-A).

Printed applications issued by the Japanese Patent Office carried the year 64 until their changeover was completed on 11 April 1989. DWPI has converted these years to the Heisei Imperial year from serial number 3201 onwards

From the Western year 2000, the Imperial year is no longer used in patent numbering.

Kind Codes – B, B1, B2

Publication Numbers				
Original Data	Derwent Innovation	Dialog	Questel	STN
Published up to 29 May 1996				
XX-Nnnnnn	JPYNNNNNNN	JP YNNNNNNN	JPYNNNNNNN	JPYNNNNNNN
8-22870	JP96022870	JP 96022870	JP96022870	JP96022870
Published from 29 May 1996 (continuous series from 2500001)				
nnnnnnn	JP0nnnnnnn	JP nnnnnnn	JPnnnnnnn	JPnnnnnnn
4600023	JP04600023	JP 4600023	JP4600023	JP4600023

XX 1 or 2 digit Japanese Imperial Year
 YY or YYYY 2 or 4 digit Western year
 NNNNNN 6 digit serial number
 nnnnnnn 7 digit serial number

See note above on how to convert Japanese Imperial years to Western years

Kind Codes – U

Publication Numbers				
Original Data	Derwent Innovation	Dialog	Questel	STN
Published up to May 1996				
XX-Nnnnnn	JPXXNNNNNN	JP XXNNNNNN	JPXXNNNNNN	JPXXNNNNNN
6-88140	JP6088140U	JP 6088140	JP6088140	JP6088140
Published from July 1994 (continuous series from 3000001). Note that the use of this series overlaps with that above				
nnnnnnn	JP0nnnnnnnU	JP nnnnnnn	JPnnnnnnn	JPnnnnnnn
3000475	JP03000475U	JP 3000475	JP3000475	JP3000475

XX 1 or 2 digit Japanese Imperial Year
 nnnnnnn 7 digit serial number
 U denotes utility model

Application Numbers				
Original Data	Derwent Innovation	Dialog	Questel	STN
YYYY-Nnnnnn	JPYYYYNnnnU	JP YYYYNnnn	YYYYJP-Unnnnnn	JP YYYY-NnnnU
U2007-8196	JP20078196U	JP 20078196	2007JP-U008196	JP 2007-8196U

YYYY 4 digits representing the year of application
 U denotes utility model
 Nnnn 1 to 4 digit serial number
 nnnnnn 6 digit serial number

Kind Codes – W, X, Y, Z (PCT transfers)

Publication Numbers				
Original Data	Derwent Innovation	Dialog	Questel	STN
<i>Published up to 8 January 1989 (Showa Era)</i>				
XX-NNNNNN	JPXXNNNNNN	JP XXNNNNNN	JPXXNNNNNN	JPXXNNNNNNK
S63-500143	JP63500143	JP 63500143	JP63500143	JP63500143W
<i>Published from 9 January 1989 to 2000 (Heisei Era)</i>				
xx-NNNNNN	JPxxNNNNNN	JP xxNNNNNN	JPXXNNNNNN	JPXXNNNNNNK
H8-518608	JP8518608	JP 8518608	JP08518608	JP08518608X
<i>Published from 2000 onwards</i>				
YYYY-NNNNNN	JPYYYYNNNNNN	JP YYYYYNNNNN	JPYYYYNNNNNN	JPYYYYNNNNNN
2003-534853	JP2003534853	JP 2003534853	JP2003534853	JP2003534853

Application Numbers*				
Original Data	Derwent Innovation	Dialog	Questel	STN
<i>Published up to 8 January 1989 (Showa Era)</i>				
XX-NNNNNN	JPYYYYNNNNNNA	JP YYYYYNNNNN	YYYYJP-nnnnnnn	JPYYYY-NNNNNN
61-502974	JP1986502974A	JP 1986502974	1986JP-0502974	JP1986-502974
<i>Published from 9 January 1989 to 2000 (Heisei Era)</i>				
xx-NNNNNN	JPYYYYNNNNNNA	JP YYYYYNNNNN	YYYYJP-nnnnnnn	JPYYYY-NNNNNN
3-600008	JP1992600008A	JP 1992600008	1992JP-0600008	JP1992-600008
<i>Published from 2000 onwards</i>				
YYYY-nnnnnn	JPYYYYNNNNNNA	JP YYYYYNNNNN	YYYYJP-nnnnnnn	JPYYYY-NNNNNN
2002-500018	JP2002500018A	JP 2002500018	2002JP-0500018	JP2002-500018

- XX 2 digit Japanese Imperial year
- xx 1 or 2 digit Japanese Imperial year
- YYYY 4 digit Western year
- K Kind code
- NNNNNN 6 digit serial number beginning with: 5 for kinds W, X and Y; 6 for kind Z
- nnnnnnn 7 digit serial number

Appendix – DWPI coverage of Japanese patents by International Patent Classification (IPC)

IPC	Section	DWPI Coverage
A	Human necessities A01, A21-24, A41-47, A61-63, A99	A01G, , A01JK, A01M, A01N*, A21*, A22*, A23*, A24B, A24D, A41F, A41G, A42B, A42C, A42D, A44B, A47J, A47K, A47L, A45D, A61B, A61C, A61F, A61J, A61K*, A61L, A61M, A62C, A62D
B	Performing operations; transporting B01-09, B21-32 B41-44, B60-68, B81-82, B99	B01*, B03, B04, B05, B07B, B21B, B21C, B21H, B21J, B21K, B22, B23K, B27K, B29*, B32, B41D, B41M, B41N, B60C, B65H
C	Chemistry; Metallurgy C01-14, C21-23 C25, C30, C40, C99	C*
D	Textiles; Paper D01-07, D21, D99	D*
E	Fixed constructions E01-06, E21, E99	E21B
F	Mechanical Engineering; Lighting; Heating; Weapons; Blasting F01-04, F15-17 F21-28, F41-42, F99	F17C, F22B, F25, F26, F27, F28, F42B,
G	Physics G01-12, G21, G99	G01N31/00-33/44*, G01N33/48-50*, G03CG, G21*
H	Electricity H01-05, H99	H

NOTES:

- 100% coverage of all applications from 199548.
- IPCs marked with asterisks (*) are guaranteed to have DWPI abstracts. Otherwise entries are either DWPI abstracts or DWPI enhanced titles.
- Selection can take place from other IPCs if of chemical importance.
- From 200450 (publication date 07.07.2004), the DWPI coverage of JP-B was extended to include all technologies.

Coverage of Japanese unexamined documents was extended to all technologies during 1995, phased in as follows:

IPC	DWPI Update
B60, B65-B68, F01, F02N, F02P, F16, F17	199528
B02-B09, G06, G11	199532
B21-B28, B30-B32, B41-B44, F21-F41	199536
B61-B64, E01-E21, F02-F15	199540
G01-G12	199544
A01-A47, A61-A63	199548