

United States (US) Coverage

Patent Office Details

USPTO
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Mailing Address:
USPTO
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA, 22314-1450

Web: www.uspto.gov

Official gazette: *Official Gazette*

Kinds of Protection

Patents of Invention	Granted for a term of 20 years from the earliest filing date. For filings before 8 June 1995, the term is 17 years from grant if longer.
Extensions	Extensions of up to five years where there were delays in issuing patent due to an interference processing, a successful appellate review or a secrecy order. Extensions are also available to the holders of patents for human drugs, food or color additives, medical devices, animal drugs, and veterinary biological products to restore to the terms of those patents some of the time lost while awaiting premarket government approval from a regulatory agency

Convention & Treaty Membership

Patent Cooperation Treaty	24.01.1978
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 granted utility patents include new, imperceptible and useful processes, machines, manufacture, or compositions of matter. Inventions granted design patents include new, original and instinctive design for articles of manufacture. Plant patents are granted to distinct and new varieties of plants. Computer programs may also be protected by patent.

Applications may be made, in English, by the inventor, a person authorized by the inventor or the inventor's legal successor.

Applications claiming priority must be filed within 12 months of the earliest filing date in a foreign country. A certified copy of the first application must be submitted within six months of filing in the United States.

Applications are classified according to subject matter and its examination occurs in regular order of filing. A paper is considered to be filed as of its date of receipt by the USPTO. Applications are examined as to novelty and the results of the examination are communicated to the applicant in writing. If on examination a patent is granted, a notice of allowance is sent to the applicant.

Patents are published upon grant. Reissue applications are published in the official gazette.

There is no period of opposition. However, in the event of two or more inventors claim substantially the same invention, an 'interference proceeding' can be held to determine which applicant was the "first to invent" and a reexamination request can be made.

The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 provides for publication of applications at 18 months from the earliest filing date. The Act applies to applications filed on or after 29.11.2000, with the first utility application to be filed in March 2001. The Act also provides, at the applicant's request for voluntary publication (for applications pending on 29.11.2000) and early publication for applications earlier than the 18 months from the earliest filing date. The 18 month publication is *Prior Art*.

Lengthy sequence listings that are not completely included in the US patent specifications are available in electronic form from the USPTO web site: <http://seqdata.uspto.gov>

DWPI Coverage

Kind	DWPI Start Dates	
A	Examined granted patent (before 2001)	1963
A1	Utility Patent Application (from 2001)	15 March 2001
A2	Second/subsequent publication of Utility Application (from 2001)	11 April 2002
A9	Corrected published Utility Patent Application (from 2001)	17 October 2002
B	Re-examination Certificate (before 2001)	18 February 1966
B1	First re-examination certificate (before 2001) Utility Patent Grant no pre-grant publication (from 2001)	3 November 1992
B2	Second re-examination certificate (before 2001) Utility Patent Grant with pre-grant publication (from 2001)	27 June 1989
B3	Re-examination Certificate, 3rd re-examination (before 2001)	2 November 1993
C1	Re-examination (from 2001)	2 January 2001
C2	Re-examination (from 2001)	27 March 2001
C3	Re-examination (from 2001)	13 January 2004
C4	Re-examination (from 2001)	22 February 2011
E	Reissue Patent	8 November 1966
H	Statutory Invention Registration (replaces Defensive Publication)	5 November 1968
N	NTIS published invention application (1983-1996)	12 March 1971

DWPI Data elements online	Notes
✓ Bibliographic data	
✓ English value-add title and abstract	
✓ Original title and abstract	Title and abstract from 1975 onwards
✓ Claims	Main claim from 2001 onwards
✓ Manual Codes	Chemical (CPI) and Electrical (EPI)
✓ Chemical Indexing (subscribers only)	DCR, Chemical Fragmentation, Polymer and Markush

Numeration

Kind Codes – A, B, B1, B2, C1, C2, C3, C4

Publication Numbers				
Original Data	Derwent Innovation	Dialog	Questel	STN
USnnnnnnn	USnnnnnnn	US nnnnnnn	USnnnnnnn	USnnnnnnn
US4675139	US4675139	US 4675139	US4675139	US4675139

nnnnnnn 7 digit serial number

Kind Codes – A1, A2, A9

Publication Numbers				
Original Data	Derwent Innovation	Dialog	Questel	STN
USYYYY/nnnnnnn	USYYYYnnnnnnn	US YYYYnnnnnnn	USYYYYnnnnnnn	USYYYYnnnnnnn
US20120040247	US20120040247	US 20120040247	US20120040247	US20120040247

YYYY 4 digit year
 nnnnnnn 7 digit serial number

Kind Code – E

Publication Numbers				
Original Data	Derwent Innovation	Dialog	Questel	STN
USNNNNN	USRENNNNN	US RENNNNN	USRENNNNN	USNNNNN
US38812	USRE38812	US RE38812	USRE38812	US38812

RE denotes re-issue patent
 NNNNN 5 digit serial number

Kind Code – H

Publication Numbers				
Original Data	Derwent Innovation	Dialog	Questel	STN
USnnnn	USHNnn	US HNnn	USHnnnnnn	USNnn
US2266	USH2266	US H2266	USH002266	US2266

H or H1 denotes Statutory Invention Registration
 Nnn 1 to 6 digit serial number
 nnnnnn 6 digit serial number

Kind Code – N (National Technical Information Service)

Publication Numbers				
Original Data	Derwent Innovation	Dialog	Questel	STN*
US nn/nnnnnn	USNnnnnnn	US Nnnnnnnn	USNnnnnnnn	USnnnnnn
US 08/316708	USN8316708	US N8316708	USN8316708	US316708

A0 denotes NTIS (National Technical Information Service) invention
 N denotes NTIS (National Technical Information Service) invention
 nn/nnnnnn NTIS number format
 nnnnnn 6 digit serial number
 nnnnnnn 7 digit serial number

*STN format has kind code A0

All Kind Codes

Application Numbers*				
Original Data	Derwent Innovation	Dialog	Questel	STN
All national filings and PCT entries to the national phase prior to Series 13				
XX/nnnnnn	USYYYYnnnnnnA	US YYYYNNNNNN	YYYYUS-nnnnnnn	USYYYY-NNNNNN
10/639272	US2003639272A	US 2003639272	2003US-0639272	US2003-639272
National filings from Series 13 numbers forwards				
XX/nnnnnn	USXXnnnnnnA	US YYYYNNNNNN	YYYYUS-nnnnnnn	USYYYY-XXNNNNNN
13/185482	US13185482A	US 2011185482	2011US-0185482	US2011-185482
PCT entries to the national phase from Series 13 numbers forwards				
XX/nnnnnn	USXXnnnnnn	USYYYYNNNNNN	YYYYUS-nnnnnnn	USYYYY-XXNNNNNN
15/768710	US15768710	US 2018975728	2018US-0975728	US2018-15975728

YYYY 4 digit year
 XX Application series (optional in older series)
 NNNNNN 6 digit serial number
 nnnnnnn 7 digit serial number

*Full coverage of application numbers commenced from DWPI update 199216