

Belgium (BE) Coverage

Patent Office Details

Office de la Propriété intellectuelle
City Atrium
Rue du Progrès 50
1200 Bruxelles
Belgium

Web: <https://economie.fgov.be/en/themes/intellectual-property>

Official gazette: *Recueil des Brevets*

Kinds of Protection

Patents of Invention	Granted for a term of 20 years from submission date
Supplementary Protection Certificates	Extensions of five years for medical or phytopharmaceutical products

Convention & Treaty Membership

Patent Cooperation Treaty	14.12.1981
European Patent Convention	07.10.1977
Signatory of:	Paris Convention (Stockholm wording) Budapest Treaty World Intellectual Property Organization International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants World Trade Organization

Filing for Patents

Patents are granted for inventions that are new, that involve inventive activity and that have industrial application. They should not be obvious to the person skilled in the art.

Applications can be made, in French, German and Dutch, by the inventor or his assignee, but it is compulsory for persons having no official residence in Belgium to appoint a local representative.

Under the International Convention, priority must be claimed within 12 months of filing of the earliest application in a Convention country. A certified copy of the priority application must be filed within 16 months of the priority date. Under the European Patent Convention, a European patent designating Belgium has the effect of a national patent, providing a translation of the claims in one of the official languages is filed with the Belgian Patent Office. A PCT application designating Belgium can only be processed to a grant patent via a European patent. A PCT application is treated strictly as an application for a European patent. There is no 'national' phase with respect to PCT applications in Belgium.

The invention is subjected to a search at the applicant's expense. Once granted, the patent file is open to the public and contains the description, the claims, the designs to which the description refers and, where applicable, the examiner's report and any amendments, within 18 months of the date of filing.

DWPI Coverage

Kind		DWPI Start Dates
A	Patent of invention (until 1986)	1963*
A0	Unexamined application (6 or 20 years)	15 June 1993
A1	Patent granted without examination	2 February 2010
A3	Initial text with search report	19 March 1991
A4	Changed/corrected text with search report	7 April 1992
A5	Text with amended claims and search report	7 April 1992
A6	6-Year patent of invention text as filed	7 April 1992
A7	Corrected 6-year patent of invention	16 April 1991
B1	Patent for an invention	2 December 2014
B3	Patent of invention - second publication of A3 (max. 20 years)	23 November 1993
B5	Patent of invention - second publication of A5	15 February 1994
B6	Patent of invention - second publication of A6	1 December 1998
B7	Patent of invention - second publication of A7	7 December 1999
B9	Corrected document	2 February 2017
T	Transfer to national patent from EP application	7 December 1979
T7	European Transfer	15 June 1993

*Note that pre-1974 DWPI coverage is limited by subject area as follows:

Coverage starts	Subject coverage
1963	Pharmaceuticals
1965	Agrochemicals
1966	Polymers
1970	All chemistry covered
1974	All technologies covered

DWPI Data Elements	Notes
✓ Bibliographic data	
✓ English value-add title and abstract	
✓ Manual Codes	Chemical (CPI) and Electrical (EPI)
✓ Chemical Indexing	DCR, Chemical Fragmentation, Polymer and Markush

Numeration

Kind Codes – A, A0, A1, A3, A4, A5, A6, A7, B1, B3, B5, B6, B7, B9

Publication Numbers			
Original Data	Derwent Patent Search	Dialog	STN
<i>Application date before 1987</i>			
BENNNNNN	BENNNNNN	BE NNNNNN	BENNNNNN
BE905211	BE905211	BE 905211	BE905211
<i>Application date from 1987 onwards</i>			
BEnnnnnnn	BEnnnnnnn	BE nnnnnnn	BEnnnnnnn
BE1018791	BE1018791	BE 1018791	BE1018791

NNNNNN 6 digit serial number
 nnnnnnn 7 digit serial number

Application Numbers*			
Original Data	Derwent Patent Search	Dialog	STN
BEYYYY/nnnn	BEYYYYNnnA	BE YYYYNnn	BEYYYY-Nnn
BE19881182	BE19881182A	BE 19881182	BE1988-1182

YYYY 4 digits representing the year of application
 nnnn 4 digit serial number
 Nnn 1 to 4 digit serial number
 nnnnnnn 7 digit serial number

*Full coverage of application numbers commenced from DWPI update 199216

Kind Codes – T, T7

Publication Numbers			
Original Data	Derwent Patent Search	Dialog	STN
BEnnn	BEnnn	BE nnn	BEnnn
BE93	BE93	BE 93	BE93

nnn 1 to 3 digit serial number

When European applications are not examined and are converted to Belgian national patents, they are assigned to a continuing series of numbers which started at BET000001-T. A granted European patent designating Belgium is effectively a Belgian patent on grant; however Belgium does not renumber these.