

France (FR) Coverage

Patent Office Details

INPI
15 rue des Minimes
CS 50001
92677 Courbevoie Cedex
France

Web: <https://www.inpi.fr/>

Official gazette: *Bulletin Officiel de la Propriété Industrielle (BOPI) Brevets d' invention*

Kinds of Protection

Patents of Invention	Granted for a term of 20 years from submission date; patents of addition were abolished from 26.11.1990
Supplementary Protection Certificates	Extensions of up to five years for medicinal products or plant protection products. Paediatric extensions of up to six months are possible.
Utility Models	Granted for a term of ten years from submission date. Utility models still in force as of 10 January 2020 were extended from the previous term of six years, subject to the payment of renewal fees.

Convention & Treaty Membership

Patent Cooperation Treaty	25.02.1978
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

Filing for Patents

Patents are granted for new inventions involving an inventive step and capable of industrial application.

Applications may be made, in French, by the inventor or his successor, whether they are an individual, corporation or firm. Non- residents may apply on a reciprocity basis. A provisional application may be filed which can be converted into a patent application within 12 months.

Under the *International Convention*, applications claiming priority must be filed within 12 months of the earliest filing in a Convention country. Priority may be claimed two months after the filing in France. Certified copy must be filed within 16 months of the priority date. Under the PCT, international applications designating France must be filed at the European Patent Office, along with all necessary documentation, within 31 months of the priority date. France is a signatory to the London Agreement and as a country with an official language in common with those of the EPO does not require translations of granted European Patents designating France to be filed.

Applications are examined as to form and novelty. Additionally, applications filed after 23 May 2020 will be examined for inventive step. Interconversion between applications for utility model and patent is permitted. When formalities connected with the search are completed (maximum 18 months from filing) the patent office will draw up a final documentary report. When filing the application, the applicant may request postponement of the final documentary report until the end of the 18 months period.

Publication of the search report and the application occur in the *Official Industrial Property Bulletin* after the search for prior art has been completed.

After publication of the documentary report the patent is issued and a notice is published in the *Official Industrial Property Bulletin*. From 1 April 2020, it is possible to file opposition to a patent for nine months from the date of grant.

DWPI Coverage

Kind	DWPI Start Dates	
A	Granted patent (until 1969); OPI application (from 1969)	1963*
A1	OPI application (first publication)	Used from update 199221
A2	Application for certificate of addition	28 February 1992
A3	Application for certificate of utility	3 April 1992
B1	Patent of invention (after A1)	1 January 2010
B2	Certificate of addition (after A2)	1 January 2010
B3	Certificate of utility (after A3)	1 January 2010
B4	Certificate of addition to utility (after A3)	1 January 2010
E	Certificate of addition (until 1969)	1963*
M	Medicament (addition) (until 1979)	1963

Note that following interconversion between applications for patents and for utility models, an A1 can be followed by a B3 or an A3 by a B1 for the same serial number.

*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	
✓ Original title and abstract	From January 2009 to date
✓ Manual Codes	Chemical (CPI) and Electrical (EPI)
✓ Chemical Indexing	DCR, Chemical Fragmentation, Polymer and Markush

Numeration

Kind Codes – A, A1, A2, A3, B1, B2, B3, B4

Publication Numbers			
Original Data	Derwent Patent Search	Dialog	STN
FRnnnnnnn	FRnnnnnnn	FR nnnnnnn	FRnnnnnnn
FR2932968	FR2932968	FR 2932968	FR2932968

nnnnnnn 7-digit serial number

Application Numbers*			
Original Data	Derwent Patent Search	Dialog	STN
YY NNNNN	FRYYYYNnnA	FR YYYYNnn	FRYYYY-Nnn
08 03679	FR20083679A	FR 20083679	FR2008-3679

YY or YYYY 2 or 4 digits representing the year of application
 NNNNN 5 digit serial number starting at 00001 on January 1st each year
 Nnn 1-5 digit serial number starting at 1 on January 1st each year
 nnnnnnn 7 digit serial number starting at 0000001 on January 1st each year

*Full coverage of application numbers commenced from DWPI update 199216

Kind Codes – E, M

Publication Numbers			
Original Data	Derwent Patent Search	Dialog	STN
<i>Medicament patents until 1969 (M)</i>			
FRNnn	FRNnn	FR Nnn	FRNnn
FR316	FR316	FR 316	FR316
<i>Certificate of addition until 1969 (E)</i>			
FRNnn	FRNnn	FR Nnn	FRNnn
FR96644	FR96644	FR 96644	FR96644

nnnnnnn 7 digit serial number
 Nnn 1-5 digit serial number

Application numbers are not always covered for FRE and FRM documents