

## United Kingdom (GB) Coverage

### Patent Office Details

Intellectual Property Office  
Concept House  
Cardiff Road  
Newport  
South Wales  
NP10 8QQ  
United Kingdom

Web: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/intellectual-property-office>

Official gazette: *Patents Journal*

### Kinds of Protection

Patents of Invention	Granted for a term of 20 years from submission date; patents of addition and utility are not provided for
Supplementary Protection Certificates	Extension of up to 5 years possible for pharmaceutical patents
Industrial Designs and Models	May be registered

### Convention & Treaty Membership

Patent Cooperation Treaty	24.01.1978
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

Inventions which are new, have industrial application and involve an inventive step can be patented.

Applications may be made, in English, by the inventor or his legal successor.

Under the *International Convention* applications claiming priority must be filed within 12 months of the earliest filing date in a Convention country. A certified copy of the priority document must be filed within 16 months of the priority date and a verified translation must be filed within 21 months. Under the *Patent Cooperation Treaty*, international applications designating the United Kingdom have the effect of national applications provided the relevant documentation is filed with the patent office within 31 months of the priority date. Under the *European Patent Convention*, European patent applications may be filed with the UK patent office. Granted European patents designating the UK confer the same rights as a national patent. However, if published in a language other than English, an English translation must be filed within three months of grant.

Applications are subject to a preliminary examination, at the request of the applicant and within 12 months of the filing date, or if priority is claimed, the priority date. Substantive examination must be requested within six months of publication.

Applications are published 18 months after filing, or if priority is claimed, after the priority date. A notice of grant will be published in the official gazette.

After the application is published, any interested party can make written observations regarding the patentability of the invention. There is no provision for opposition after the patent has been granted.

The Patent Act 2004 is an amendment to bring the UK patent law into line with the European Patent Convention agreed in 2000 regarding the infringement proceedings.

## DWPI Coverage

Kind		DWPI Start Dates
A	Examined granted patent (numbers less than 2000000)	1963*
A	OPI Application (numbers greater than 2000000)	4 January 1979
B	Examined granted patent	2 November 1979

\*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	Title from 2004 onwards
✓ Claims	Main claim 1984-1997
✓ Manual Codes	Chemical (CPI) and Electrical (EPI)
✓ Chemical Indexing	DCR, Chemical Fragmentation, Polymer and Markush

## Numeration

### All documents – A, B

Publication Numbers			
Original Data	Derwent Patent Search	Dialog	STN
<i>Published before 1979</i>			
GB1nnnnnn	GBnnnnnn	GB 1nnnnnn	GB1nnnnnn
GB1587245	GB1587245	GB 1587245	GB1587245
<i>Published from 1979 onwards</i>			
GB2nnnnnn	GB2nnnnnn	GB 2nnnnnn	GB2nnnnnn
GB2452221	GB2452221	GB 2452221	GB2452221

1nnnnnn            7-digit serial number starting with 1 (Examined granted patent)

2nnnnnn            7-digit serial number starting with 2 (OPI Application)

Application Numbers*			
Original Data	Derwent Patent Search	Dialog	STN
<i>Published before 1979</i>			
NNNNN/YY	GBYYYYNnnA	GB YYYYNnn	GBYYYY-Nnn
31280/77	GB197731280A	GB 197731280	GB1977-31280
<i>Published from 1979 onwards</i>			
YYNNNNN.Z	GBYYYYNnnA	GB YYYYNnn	GBYYYY-Nnn
0900001.9	GB20091A	GB 20091	GB2009-1

YY or YYYY            2 or 4 digits representing the year of application

NNNNN            5 digit serial number starting at 00001 on January 1<sup>st</sup> each year

Nnn            1 to 5 digit serial number starting at 1 on January 1<sup>st</sup> each year

nnnnnnn            7 digit serial number starting at 0000001 on January 1<sup>st</sup> each year

Z            optional computer check digit after decimal point

\*Full coverage of application numbers commenced from DWPI update 199216