

Under the *International Convention* applications claiming priority must be filed within 12 months of the earliest filing date in a Convention country. Priority must be claimed on filing in Korea and a certified copy of the priority document must be submitted within 16 months of the earliest priority. A Korean translation of the priority document must also be submitted. As of 01.09.1990, Korea retracted its reservation to Chapter II of the PCT. As such the national phase of an international patent application will be initiated in Korea on submission of a translation of application to the Korean Patent Office within 31 months of the earliest priority date.

Examination is made upon request and within five years of the filing date or, if it is a PCT application, within five years of the international filing date. Requests for examination cannot be withdrawn. Applications are examined as to novelty, industrial application and inventive step. When a request for examination is filed along with the patent application it generally takes two to three years from the filing date for the examination to be conducted. However, the Korean Patent Office plans to reduce the time it takes to examine a patent application to less than a year.

A patent application should be laid open to public inspection after 18 months from the filing date (from the earliest priority date if priority is claimed). Where a registration has been made, the grant of the patent together with the relevant information is published in the Patent Gazette for public inspection for a period of three months from the publication date.

An early opposition period exists for application subject to early publication. The opposition procedure after the registration of the patent has been abolished from 01.10.2006. Instead, the public examination function supplements the invalidation trial of patents.

Dual application for patent and utility model covering the same invention was abolished from October 2006 and a modification application that allows a change in the type of application between patent and utility model will be introduced.

DWPI Coverage

| Kind | DWPI Start Dates |
|--|------------------|
| A Application | 8 January 1997 |
| B Examined patent specification | 24 February 1986 |
| B1 Examined patent specification | 1 October 1991 |
| B2 Examined patent specification (first publication) | 18 August 1993 |
| U Utility model | 2 January 2008 |
| Y1 Utility model (registered) | 2 January 2008 |

| DWPI Data elements | Notes |
|--|--|
| ✓ Bibliographic data | |
| ✓ English value-add title and abstract | |
| ✓ Original title and abstract | Title and abstract from 2008 onwards |
| ✓ Claims | All claims from 2008 onwards |
| ✓ Manual Codes | Chemical (CPI) and Electrical (EPI) |
| ✓ Chemical Indexing | DCR, Chemical Fragmentation, Polymer and Markush from January 2008 |

Numeration

Kind Code – A, U

| Publication Numbers | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Original Data | Derwent Innovation | Dialog | STN |
| <i>Published to May 1998</i> | | | |
| YY-Nnnnnnn | KYYYYnnnnnn | KR YYnnnnnn | KRYYnnnnnn |
| 97-0000107 | KR1997000107 | KR 97000107 | KR97000107 |
| <i>Published May 1998 to 2003</i> | | | |
| YYYY-Nnnnnnn | KYYYYnnnnnn | KR YYnnnnnn | KRYYnnnnnn |
| 1999-0023460 | KR1999023460 | KR 99023460 | KR99023460 |
| <i>Published 2004 onwards</i> | | | |
| XX-YYYY-NNNNNNN | KYYYYNnnnnn | KR YYYYnnnnnn | KYYYYNnnnnn |
| 10-2004-0012345 | KR2002012354 | KR 2002012354 | KR2002012354 |
| 20-2009-0011191 | KR200911191U | KR 2009011191 | KR2009011191U |

| | |
|------------|--|
| YY or YYYY | 2 or 4 digit year |
| XX | Denotes type (10 = patent; 20 = utility model) |
| nnnnnn | 6 digit serial number |
| Nnnnnn | 5 or 6 digit serial number |
| Nnnnnnn | 6 or 7 digit serial number |
| NNNNNN | 7 digit serial number |
| U | Denotes Utility Model (U kind) |

Kind Codes – B, B1, B2, Y1

| Publication Numbers | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Original Data | Derwent Innovation | Dialog | STN |
| <i>Published to October 1997</i> | | | |
| YY-NNNNNNN | KRYYYnnnnnKK KR199108439B1 | KR YYnnnnn KR 9108439 | KRYYnnnnn KR9108439 |
| <i>Published October 1997 to May 1999</i> | | | |
| NNNNNNN | KRnnnnnnKK KR232283B1 | KR nnnnnn KR 232283 | KRnnnnnn KR232283 |
| <i>Published May 1999 onwards</i> | | | |
| XX-NNNNNNN | KRnnnnnnKK | KR nnnnnn | KRNnnnnnn |
| 10-0837877 | KR437861B | KR 837877 | KR837877 |
| 20-451020 | KR451020Y1 | KR 451020 | KR451020U |

YY or YYYY 2 or 4 digits representing the year of publication
 XX Denotes type (10 = patent, 20= utility model)
 KK Kind code
 nnnnn 5 digit serial number
 Nnnnnnn 6 or 7 digit serial number
 NNNNNNN 7 digit serial number
 U or Y1 Denotes Utility Model

Kind Codes – A, B, B1, B2, U, Y1

| Application Numbers* | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Original Data | Derwent Innovation | Dialog | STN |
| <i>Published to 1993</i> | | | |
| YY-Nnnnnnn | KRYYYNnnnnnA | KR YYYNnnnn | KR YYYY-Nnnnn |
| 92-0004828 | KR19924828A | KR 19924828 | KR1992-4828 |
| <i>Published 1994 to 1997</i> | | | |
| YYYY-Nnnnnnn | KRYYYNnnnnnA | KR YYYNnnnn | KR YYYY-Nnnnn |
| 1996-0021041 | KR199675336A | KR 199675336 | KR1996-21041 |
| <i>Published 1998 onwards</i> | | | |
| XX-YYYYnnnnnnn | KRYYYNnnnnnA | KR YYYNnnnn | KRYYY-Nnnnn |
| 10-2009-0041503 | KR200941503A | KR 200941503 | KR2009-41503 |
| | KRYYYXXnnnnnnnU | KR YYYNnnnn | KRYYY-NnnnnU |
| 20-2008-0005656 | KR2008200005656U | KR 20085656 | KR2008-5656U |

YY or YYYY 2 or 4 digits representing the year of publication
 XX 2 digits denoting the type of patent (10 = patent, 20= utility model)
 Nnnnn 1 to 5 digit serial number
 Nnnnnnn 6 or 7 digit serial number
 NNNNNN 6 digit serial number
 nnnnnnn 7 digit serial number
 U Denotes Utility Model (U & Y1 kinds)

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