

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA - US

Jurisdiction - General Information

The United States of America has been a Contracting Party to the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property since May 30, 1887. It has also been a Contracting Party to the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) since January 24, 1978. In addition, it is a party to the Budapest Treaty on the International Recognition of the Deposit of Microorganisms for the Purposes of Patent Procedure and the Patent Law Treaty (PLT).

More legal information about intellectual property-related laws and regulations of the United States of America can be found on [WIPO Lex](#).

Online Patent Register and Online Gazette

The United States of America have an [Online Register](#). They also have an [Online Gazette](#) (“Official Gazette for Patents”).

Features and search functionalities

The Online Register (Patent Center) has an **English interface**.

Through the Online Register you can retrieve information on PCT **National Phase Entry, Fee Payment, Legal Status, Patent Term Extension**, and access the **Dossier/File Wrapper Information** and the **Full Publications**.

The Online Register can also be searched by US application, publication or patent number or **PCT Application Number**.

Through a separate US patents database accessible at this [link](#) (Basic search) or at this [link](#) (Advanced search), it is possible to carry out additional searches by **Applicant/Inventor Name, Priority Data** and other search terms.

The Online Gazette for patents is published weekly on Tuesdays in English and provides drawings and bibliographic data for each newly issued patent. It is searchable by date or number. The coverage is from 1995 to present. Previous editions since 1964 can be accessed at this [link](#).

Additional Information

Particularities of patent protection in the United States of America

The current term is 20 years from filing, adjustable in case of delay in the procedure according to the Patent Term Adjustment rules (Act of 1999), but a few patents granted under the previous law (term: 17 years from grant) could be still alive. A Patent Term Calculator (last update April 4, 2018) is available at this [link](#).

Designs in the US are also considered as 'Patents' and searchable in the same databases.

Protection through **Patent Term Extension** Certificate is available. This [link](#) leads to an unofficial list of patents having received patent term extensions.

US applications are filed by the inventor; assignment to a company can follow later. When the USPTO receives relevant information for its assignment database, the USPTO puts the information in the public record and does not verify the validity of the information. Patent assignment recordal is not mandatory in the US, moreover, the USPTO neither makes a determination of the legality of the transaction nor the right of the submitting party to take the action. The USPTO maintains a searchable database at this [link](#) that contains all recorded Patent Assignment information from August 1980 to the present.

Search tips

An example of **PCT Application Number** is, e.g., "PCT Number" PCT/EP05/12345.

To access **Dossier/File Wrapper Information**, open the tab "Documents & transaction" in the patent record.

A tab addressing to the "Global dossier" of the IP5 group (the dossiers published by the European Patent Office (EPO), Japan Patent Office (JPO), Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO), and the National Intellectual Property Administration, PRC (CNIPA) and the United States of America (USPTO) is also available in the patent record. Dossiers of additional IP Offices can be accessed through a link to the [WIPO CASE](#) service.

To check the possible **Patent Term Extensions** (e.g. for patent 6,740,669) or Patent Term Adjustment (e.g. for patent 8,740,669) click on the corresponding tab of the patent record.