

UNITED KINGDOM - GB

Jurisdiction - General Information

The United Kingdom has been a Contracting Party to the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property since July 7, 1884. 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).

The United Kingdom is a member of the European Patent Organization (EPO).

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

Online Patent Register and Online Gazette

The United Kingdom has an [Online Register](#) and an [Online Gazette](#) (The Patents Journal).

Features and search functionalities

The online patent register has an **English interface**. It contains information about United Kingdom and European Patent publications.

Through the patent register you can retrieve information on **Legal Status, Fee Payment, PCT National Phase Entry, Supplementary Protection Certificates (SPCs)**, and access the **Dossier/File Wrapper Information** and the **Full Publications**.

SPCs can be searched on a specific [Supplementary Protection Certificate Search page](#).

The patent register can also be searched by United Kingdom or European Patent publication number.

The online gazette is published weekly on Wednesday in English. It is searchable by date, number and name. Results can be displayed in HTML or downloaded in PDF or XML format. The current coverage is from 1998 to present.

The patent register of the United Kingdom can also be accessed from Espacenet.

Espacenet, which allows searches by **PCT Application/Publication Number, Applicant/Inventor Name** and **Priority Data**, includes links to the GB **Online Patent Register** for GB publications.

The GB **Online Register** may not include changes which have occurred in recent months to European Patents before the EPO, which can be found on the [European Patent Register](#).

Additional Information

Particularities of patent protection in the United Kingdom

Protection through **SPCs** is available.

Patents issued in the United Kingdom or European patents designating the United Kingdom can have effects or enjoy particular conditions in foreign jurisdictions. The Intellectual Property Office has published information in this regard [here](#).

Search tips

An example of information on **Legal Status** is, e.g. "Terminated before grant" for "Publication Number" GB2509099.

An example of **Fee Payment** can be retrieved, e.g. for "Publication Number" GB2450001.

GB and EP Publications as well as unpublished GB applications (e.g. GB1618796.5) can be searched on the Searchable [Patents Journal search page](#).

SPCs can be searched by "SPC number", e.g. SPC/GB01/044, or by "patent number", e.g. EP0674513.

Full Publications can be obtained from the [Publication Server](#).