

JAPAN – JP

Jurisdiction - General Information

Japan has been a Contracting Party to the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property since July 15, 1899. It has also been a Contracting Party to the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) since October 1, 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 Japan can be found on [WIPO Lex](#).

Online Patent Register and Online Gazette

Japan has an [Online Register](#) (JPO's J-PlatPat). It also has an [Online Gazette](#).

Features and search functionalities

The online patent register has a **Japanese** and an **English interface**.

Through the online patent register (Japanese interface) you can retrieve information on **Legal Status**, **Fee Payment**, **Patent Term Extension**, and access the **Full Publications**. **Full Publications** can also be retrieved through the searchable English interface of the patent register.

The patent register can be searched by **PCT Application/Publication Number**, **Applicant/Inventor Name** and **Priority Data**.

For searches in English using the **Applicant/Inventor Name** or **Priority Data** (Priority number only), you can use the interface accessible at this [link](#). Using the interface accessible at this [link](#), you can also search by **PCT Publication Number** by selecting the search field "A1: Domestic republication of PCT publication" which will retrieve the PCT document republished by the JPO.

Public access to **Dossier/File Wrapper Information** is possible through the "Global Dossier" service integrated in [J-PlatPat](#) (including machine translation) for JP-A1 publications. Access to the Dossier is also possible through another service of JPO's J-PlatPat - see the document "Electronic file inspection on JPO's J-PlatPat" on the EPO's [Searching in databases – Japan page](#).

Furthermore, access to **Dossier/File Wrapper Information** through AIPN is possible for registered users (e.g., patent examiners) from IPOs; AIPN also includes legal status and has an English interface.

Legal Status information is also available through Espacenet.

Basic **Legal Status** information (excluding PCT National Phase Entry) is available in English for patents that have an English abstract also on the Patent Abstract of Japan (PAJ).

The online gazette is searchable by number and downloadable in PDF format, and is published monthly in Japanese. The current coverage is from 2015 to present.

Additional Information

Particularities of patent protection in Japan

A **Patent Term Extension** for pharmaceutical products is available.

Search tips

To search the **Online Register** for a non-Japanese speaker, it is suggested to follow the [explanations in English given by the European Patent Office](#).

To retrieve **Fee Payment** information, see the document "[Retrieving detailed legal status information in Japanese from the JPO's J-PlatPat](#)" made available by the European Patent Office.