

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 Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) has an **online** system that provides access to issued US patents and published US applications (Patent Application Information Retrieval or PAIR) (an [Online Register](#) for the purposes of the Patent Register Portal) which is accessible at this. The USPTO also has an [Online Gazette](#) ("Official Gazette for Patents").

Features and search functionalities

The online patent register (Patent Application Information Retrieval or Public PAIR) has an **English interface**.

Through the patent register (Public PAIR) you can retrieve information on **Legal Status, Fee Payment, PCT National Phase Entry, Patent Term Extension**, and access the **Dossier/File Wrapper Information** and the **Full Publications**.

The patent register Public PAIR can also be searched by US application, publication or patent number or **PCT Application/Publication Number**.

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

The online Official 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 1964 to present.

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 some patents granted under the previous law (term: 17 years from grant) are still alive. A Patent Term Calculator is available at this [link](#).

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 recordation 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 (<https://assignment.uspto.gov/patent/index.html#/patent/search>) 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 "Image file Wrapper" in the Public PAIR. Full file wrappers can be downloaded at this [link](#). File inspection is also possible through the 'Global Dossier' service integrated in Espacenet for US-A1 documents.

It is not possible to search for **Patent Term Extensions**. A so-called "Patent Term Extension Certificate" may be recorded in the "Image File Wrapper" tab of granted patents, e.g. for patent 6,740,669.