

FRANCE - FR

Jurisdiction - General Information

France 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 February 25, 1978, but it can be designated only through a European Patent. 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).

France is a member of the European Patent Organization ([EPO](#)) and belongs to the “European patents with unitary effect” system, started on June 1, 2023, which provides a unitary effect for an European patent (EP) granted in 17 of the 27 European Union member countries (updated January 2024).

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

Online Patent Register and Online Gazette

France has an [Online Register](#) and an [Online Gazette](#).

Features and search functionalities

The Online Register has an **English** and **French interface**. It contains data on French patents or utility certificate applications published since 1903, European patent applications, and PCT applications.

Through the Online Register you can retrieve information on **Fee Payment, Legal Status, Supplementary Protection Certificates (SPCs)**, and access **Dossier/File Wrapper Information** and the **Full Publications**.

The Online Register can also be searched by **PCT Application/Publication Number**, by **Applicant/Inventor Name**, and by **Priority Data** (only by Priority date).

The Online Gazette is published weekly on Friday in French. It is searchable by number and can be displayed in PDF format. For patents, the current coverage is from 2005 to present.

European patents designating France can be searched in the patent register or in the [European Patent Register](#).

Additional Information

Particularities of patent protection in France

Protection through **SPCs** is available.

The “utility certificate” (Certificat d’Utilité) used to have a term of 6 years now has a term of 10 years. This is applicable to all utility certificates still in force on 10 January 2020.

The applicant of a utility certificate is now allowed to convert it into a patent application within a period of 18 months from filing/priority, and in any case before the start of technical preparations for the publication. This conversion option is applicable to utility certificates filed from 11 January 2020 and should in practice be requested within 16 months.

Search tips

An example of information on **Legal Status** is "Dechu" (lapsed) on 2011-11-30 for "Publication number" FR2958432.

To access the **Dossier/File Wrapper Information**, click on the tab "Documents attached".

Examples of **PCT Application/Publication Number** searches by selecting the "International patents" box can be in the form FR9800393 (for PCT/FR9800393) and WO9843840, respectively.