

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 Register has an **English interface**. It contains information about United Kingdom (country code GB) and European Patent publications.

Through the Online Register you can retrieve information on PCT **National Phase Entry, Fee Payment, Legal Status, 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 Online 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. You can search for information on filed applications from journals dating from October 2006. Other information is available from March 2008. Patent journals from 12 August 1998 to 26 March 2008 can be downloaded from the [National Archive](#).

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

The 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 at this [link](#).

The exit of the United Kingdom from the European Union did not have legal effects on the validity of national or European Patents designating the United Kingdom.

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 [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](#).