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## Access Code on the AIA/14

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### ***Q1. What is an Access Code?***

A1. Data that used together with the application number and filing date to uniquely identify a patent application that is registered into the WIPO DAS (World Intellectual Property Organization Digital Access Service).

### ***Q2. When is an Access Code required?***

A2. When the following conditions are met:

- (1) The nonprovisional application is filed on or after March 18, 2013;
- (2) The foreign priority application is filed in a foreign intellectual property office that is a participating WIPO DAS depositing office on the date the nonprovisional is filed;
- (3) Steps have been taken by the applicant to make the priority application available to the Office via the WIPO DAS; and,
- (4) The applicant wishes the Office to attempt electronic retrieval of the priority application.

### ***Q3. Which offices participate in the WIPO DAS?***

A3. The Office is required to furnish to the WIPO DAS an Access Code in order to obtain a foreign application filed in the following foreign intellectual property offices:

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|-----------|--|
| AU, RO/AU | Australian Patent Office   |
| DK, RO/DK | Danish Patent and Trademark Office                                   |
| EE        | Estonian Patent Office   |
| ES, RO/ES | Spanish Patent and Trademark Office                                  |
| FI, RO/FI | National Board of Patents and Registration of Finland                |
| GB        | United Kingdom Intellectual Property Office                          |
| IB, RO/IB | International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization |
| JP        | Japan Patent Office  |
| MA, RO/MA | Moroccan Office of Industrial and Commercial Property                |
| NZ        | New Zealand Intellectual Property Office                             |
| SE, RO/SE | Swedish Patent and Registration Office                               |

### ***Q4. What format should be used on the Application Data Sheet (ADS) Foreign Priority Information section?***

A4. The application number and access code format are determined by the DAS participating office. Sample application number formats can be found on the USPTO Website at

<https://www.uspto.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ADSSampleFormat.pdf>

### ***Q5. Will the Office send a notification to the applicant when an Access Code is required, but not furnished?***

A5. When an applicant claims priority to a foreign application filed in a WIPO DAS depositing office, the U.S. application filing receipt will include an indication adjacent the foreign application number. The indication will be either:

- Access Code Provided (when an Access Code is needed by the Office and the applicant has provided an Access Code, without regard to the validity of the Access Code provided), or
- No Access Code Provided (when an Access Code is needed by the Office, but has not been provided by the applicant).