

i-link for Access Code on the AIA/14

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 with the following foreign intellectual property offices:

Application Types Which May be Available				Participating Office
National/ Regional	Utility Model	Industrial Design	PCT International	
AU			RO/AU	IP Australia
BR			RO/BR	Brazil National Institute of Industrial Property
CL	CL	CL	RO/CL	Chile National Institute of Industrial Property
CN	CN	CN	RO/CN	National Intellectual Property Administration, PRC (CNIPA)
DK			RO/DK	Danish Patent and Trademark Office
EA			RO/EA	Eurasian Patent Office
EE	EE			Estonian Patent Office
ES	ES	ES	RO/ES	Spanish Patent and Trademark Office
FI	FI		RO/FI	National Board of Patents and Registration of Finland
GB				United Kingdom Intellectual Property Office
			RO/IB	International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization
IN		IN	RO/IN	India Patent Office
JP	JP			Japan Patent Office
MA			RO/MA	Moroccan Office of Industrial and Commercial Property
NL			RO/NL	Netherlands Patent Office
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).