

## Official Gazette Notice

### New Opt-In Process for Ceremonial Copies of Patent Grants

#### Summary

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) continually seeks opportunities to streamline and improve its processes. Accordingly, the USPTO is now offering applicants the option to request a courtesy ceremonial copy, rather than automatically providing one to all applicants. This process change will increase efficiency, lower costs, and reduce paper waste.

#### Background

On April 18, 2023, the USPTO transitioned to electronically granted patents and discontinued the granting and mailing of U.S. patents in paper form. See USPTO Officially Transitions to Issuing Electronic Patent Grants in 2023, 88 FR 12560 (Feb. 28, 2023). Since that time, over 1 million electronic patents have been granted. To support stakeholders through this transition, the USPTO began mailing a courtesy ceremonial copy of each electronically granted patent to the correspondence address of record. The ceremonial paper copy commemorates the electronically issued patent and is reminiscent of the paper patents in that it is bound with a cover having both a seal and the signature of the USPTO Director. The electronic patent grant is the official statutory patent grant.

#### Process Change

For applications where applicant pays the issue fee on or after March 9, 2026, applicants will no longer automatically receive a courtesy ceremonial copy. Instead, they will have the option of requesting a courtesy ceremonial copy.

Notices of Allowance mailed on or after March 9, 2026, will have a new check box on the PTOL-85b form which may be checked to opt-in to receive a courtesy ceremonial copy. For applicants who receive a Notice of Allowance before March 9, 2026, but are submitting the issue fee transmittal on or after that date, a copy of the updated PTOL-85b form with the new check box will be available at [www.uspto.gov/patentforms](http://www.uspto.gov/patentforms). Additionally, the web-based issue fee transmittal form available in Patent Center will be updated to include a check box for opting-in at the time of the issue fee payment. If the new check box on the PTOL-85b or web-based issue fee transmittal form was inadvertently left blank at the time of paying the issue fee, an applicant or patent owner may opt-in by emailing [eGrants@uspto.gov](mailto:eGrants@uspto.gov) with the patent number by June 9, 2026.

When an applicant opts-in to receive a ceremonial copy, one free ceremonial copy will be mailed to the correspondence address of record. Duplicate ceremonial copies will not be available at this time. For each patent grant where the issue fee transmittal form and issue fee payment are submitted before March 9, 2026, applicants will not need to opt-in because a courtesy ceremonial copy will automatically be mailed.

As a reminder, a ceremonial copy is a commemorative item; the official patent grant may be accessed through Patent Center at <https://patentcenter.uspto.gov>. To access an electronically issued patent, enter the patent number or application number in the search bar on the Patent Center homepage, and then select “eGrant” from the menu on the left side of the screen. For more information on eGrants, please visit [www.uspto.gov/electronicgrants](http://www.uspto.gov/electronicgrants).

Patent owners and members of the public who are interested in commemorative items are reminded that presentation copies continue to be available for a fee. A presentation copy is a certified copy of the first page of an issued patent that is suitable for framing and display, and has a unique certification statement with a special ribbon and seal. Presentation copies and other paper documents, such as a certified copy of an application as filed, are available from the Certified Copy Center at <https://certifiedcopycenter.uspto.gov>. Eventually, the ceremonial copy will also be available for purchase at the Certified Copy Center for a nominal fee.

Contact Information

Legal inquiries regarding this notice may be directed to Andrew St.Clair, Legal Advisor, Office of Patent Legal Administration, Office of the Deputy Commissioner for Patents, at 571-270-0238, or [PatentPractice@uspto.gov](mailto:PatentPractice@uspto.gov). For all other inquiries regarding this notice, contact Stephanie Sobers, Acting Patent Issuance Division Manager, Office of Data Management, Office of Application Processing for Patents, at 703-756-1560, or [eGrants@uspto.gov](mailto:eGrants@uspto.gov).

Date: 02/17/26



---

John A. Squires  
Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and  
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office