

How to Identify a Foreign Application Under the Priority Document Exchange Program

June 2012

A request to electronically retrieve a foreign priority application is automatically recorded in the application transaction history when applicant indicates a priority claim to an application filed with a foreign intellectual property office that participates in the electronic priority document exchange program with the USPTO.

In order to expedite processing of a request to retrieve and ensure that the first attempt to retrieve is successful, the applicant is strongly encouraged to:

- cite the foreign application using an acceptable format (presented below) and its filing date, and
- use proper and consistent citation format throughout the U.S. application.

An improper, incomplete, or inconsistent citation of a foreign priority application and/or its filing date will result in a delay or prevent retrieval under the Priority Document Exchange program. In particular, any foreign priority claim that is incomplete will prevent successful electronic retrieval of the priority application, and when form [PTO/SB/38](#) is filed, the identified foreign priority application must be the same as the foreign priority application indicated in the foreign priority claim identified in the application; any inconsistency may delay or prevent electronic retrieval of the priority application. Applicants are reminded that the applicant bears the ultimate responsibility for ensuring that the priority document is filed by the time of patent grant as required under 37 CFR 1.55(a).

PDX participating foreign intellectual property office, retrievable under a bilateral document exchange agreement between the USPTO and the foreign office

European Patent Office (EPO):

EP ynnnnnnn

(e.g., EP 09123456)

Japan Patent Office (JPO):

JP yyyy-nnnnnn

(e.g., JP 2009-123456)

JP yyyy-nnnnnn U (utility model)

(e.g., JP 2009-123456 U)

Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO):

KR tt-yyyy-nnnnnnn, where tt is the type of IP utility application)

(e.g., KR 10-2009-1234567, where 10 is a

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Spanish Patent and Trademark Office (SPTO):

ES yyyy-nnnnn (e.g., ES 2009-12345)

United Kingdom Intellectual Property Office (UKIPO):

GB yynnnnn.n (e.g., GB 0912345.6)

Australian Patent Office (IPAU):

AU yyyynnnnnn (e.g., AU 2009112345)

International Bureau (IB):

PCT/IByyyy/nnnnnn (e.g., PCT/IB2010/000123)

National Board of Patents and Registration (NBPR) of Finland:

FI yyyynnnn (e.g., FI 20110123)

PCT filed with RO/FI: PCT/FIyyyy/nnnnnn (e.g., PCT/FI2011/000123)

Danish Patent and Trademark Office

DK PA yyyy nnnnn (e.g., DK PA 2010 01002)

PCT filed with RO/DK: PCT/DKyyyy/nnnnnn (e.g., PCT/DK2011/000100)

Swedish Patent and Registration Office

SE yynnnnnn (e.g., SE 09500323)

PCT filed with RO/SE: PCT/SEyyyy/nnnnnn (e.g., PCT/SE2011/000123)

State Intellectual Property Office of the People's Republic of China (SIPO):

CN yyyy-nnnnnnnn.n (e.g., CN 2011-20167071.2)

¹ More information regarding WIPO DAS digital libraries at <http://www.wipo.int/patentscope/en/pdocforum/participating.html>