

Inside this Issue

<u>Preview versions of Guidelines 2025 published</u>	3
<u>Latest advances in next-generation IT tools</u>	3
<u>Enhancing Collaboration Between INPI and EUIPO</u>	4
<u>Costa Rica and EUIPO Sign Cooperation Agreement</u>	4
<u>Libya: Increase in Trademark Renewal Fees</u>	4
<u>Artificial Intelligence (AI) Transparency Statement</u>	5
<u>MyEPO services: launch of groundbreaking AI-powered legal search tool</u>	5
<u>JPO holds opinion exchange with Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) government agencies</u>	6
<u>Update on IPD's new E-Filing System and Online Search System</u>	6
<u>EPO to launch pilot project for issuing electronic priority documents</u>	7
<u>WIPO conducts research on biological sequences in patent applications</u>	7
<u>The Danish Patent and Trademark Office implements new case handling system</u>	8

Inside this Issue

[Entry into force of the 15th edition of the Locarno Classification \(classification for registered designs\)](#) **8**

[U.S. Copyright Office Releases Updated Version of the Compendium of U.S. Copyright Office Practices, Third Edition](#) **9**

[Japanese and Chinese Governmental Organizations Hold Opinion Exchange for Stronger Intellectual Property Rights Protection](#) **9**

[JPO Further Increases Its Competence to Act in the Capacity as an International Searching Authority \(ISA\) and International Preliminary Examining Authority \(IPEA\) for PCT International Applications](#) **10**

01. Preview versions of Guidelines 2025 published

EPO RELEASES PREVIEW VERSIONS OF GUIDELINES 2025 FOR USER CONSULTATION

[GO TO TOP](#)

Today the EPO publishes the English preview versions of the EPC and PCT-EPO Guidelines 2025 as well as the first ever edition of the UP Guidelines. The Guidelines 2025 enter into force on 1 April 2025. You have now the opportunity to familiarise with the latest Guidelines editions and to participate in the annual user consultation by providing feedback on all three Guidelines. The consultation website will be open for comments until 7 April 2025.

The Guidelines for Examination in the European Patent Office ("EPC Guidelines") and the Guidelines for Search and Examination at the European Patent Office as PCT Authority ("PCT-EPO Guidelines") give instructions on the practices and procedures to be followed in the examination of European and international applications... [Read more](#)

02. Latest advances in next-generation IT tools

EPO STRENGTHENS IT CO-OPERATION WITH MEMBER STATES AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

[GO TO TOP](#)

Enhanced IT co-operation with member states, end users and international partners is a key priority for the European Patent Office (EPO) under its Strategic Plan 2028. A series of co-operation activities has already commenced this year, with further actions planned in the coming months. On 22 and 23 January, over 80 delegates from national patent offices (NPOs), the Institute of Professional Representatives before the European Patent Office (epi), the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) met with EPO experts to review progress to date, identify challenges and share plans. This week, working groups of technical and managerial experts... [Read more](#)

03. Enhancing Collaboration Between INPI and EUIPO

INPI AND EUIPO STRENGTHEN COOPERATION IN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

[GO TO TOP](#)

The Brazilian National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI) and the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) met in Rio de Janeiro on Wednesday 5 February to discuss cooperation in intellectual property matters. The parties have signed a cooperation agreement for a period of four years. The meeting mainly focused on the activities under EUIPO's IP Key Latin America programme, as well as the continuity of cooperation activities for the coming... [Read more](#)

04. Costa Rica and EUIPO Sign Cooperation Agreement

COSTA RICA AND EUIPO SIGN MOU TO ENHANCE IP COOPERATION

[GO TO TOP](#)

The National Registry of Costa Rica and EUIPO signed a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen cooperation in intellectual property. The agreement, signed during the IP KEY Summit 2025 in Rio, focuses on trademarks, designs, IT systems, and training programs. Costa Rica aims to digitalize its services with EUIPO's support fully... [Read more](#)

05. Libya: Increase in Trademark Renewal Fees

LIBYA INCREASES TRADEMARK RENEWAL FEES FOR FOREIGN OWNERS UNDER NEW RESOLUTION

[GO TO TOP](#)

TRIPOLI - The Ministry of Economy and Commerce has issued Ministerial Resolution No. 586 of 2024, dated November 27, 2024, regarding the renewal of trademarks in Libya. The resolution states that there will be an increase in the official fees for the renewal of trademarks for foreign owners to be \$2000 per year.

The resolution was effective from December 27, 2024, and due to the significant increase in fees, a meeting was held on February 3, 2025, with officials in the Ministry, who confirmed... [Read more](#)

06. Artificial Intelligence (AI) Transparency Statement

AUSTRALIA'S COMMITMENT TO RESPONSIBLE AI USE IN THE IP SYSTEM

This initiative aligns with the Australian Government's Policy for the responsible use of AI, which aims to ensure a coordinated and ethical approach to AI use across government agencies. Our purpose is Enabling Australians to benefit from great ideas by providing a world-leading IP system. We use AI where it can support the achievement of this purpose and our strategic objectives as outlined in our Corporate Plan.

We are committed to continuous improvement to meet the demands of the future, and AI is becoming increasingly important to ensure we foster innovation and adaptiveness in our stewardship of the IP rights system. For more information on our approach to AI adoption, read our AI Transparency Statement in full... [Read more](#)

[GO TO TOP](#)

07. MyEPO services: launch of groundbreaking AI-powered legal search tool

EPO LAUNCHES LEGAL INTERACTIVE PLATFORM (LIP) AS PART OF MYEPO SERVICES

After a successful pilot phase, the European Patent Office (EPO) is delighted to announce the launch of its Legal Interactive Platform (LIP), a legal search tool developed in line with our Strategic Plan 2028 (SP2028) and now available to all our users within the MyEPO services suite. The LIP is the first generative AI-based tool to be added to our suite of online services. Queries can be formulated in a conversational manner, responses are swiftly generated and structured, with short summaries and direct links to the relevant legal documents. Pilot users, as well as EPO examiners who have been using the platform since last year, value the platform's speed, clarity of responses and ease of use,... [Read more](#)

[GO TO TOP](#)

08. JPO holds opinion exchange with Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) government agencies

**JPO AND GCC
OFFICIALS DISCUSS
COUNTERMEASURES
AGAINST
COUNTERFEIT GOODS**

*The Japan Patent Office (JPO) conducted an exchange of opinions with senior officials from the government agencies of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries on January 24, 2025 regarding countermeasures against counterfeit goods. The exchange took place at the JPO as part of the International Intellectual Property Protection Forum (IIPPF)*1, which aims to address issues related to intellectual property rights infringements, such as counterfeiting and piracy overseas. The event brought together officials from the IP Advisory Council*2, which plays a crucial role in combatting counterfeit goods in GCC countries... [Read more](#)*

[GO TO TOP](#)

09. Update on IPD's new E-Filing System and Online Search System

**HONG KONG - IPD
ANNOUNCES NEW
TRADE MARKS,
PATENTS, AND
DESIGNS FORMS
EFFECTIVE MAY 2025**

The Intellectual Property Department ("IPD") is pleased to announce that a new set of Trade Marks Forms, Patents Forms and Designs Forms ("the new forms") will come into effect from 16 May 2025. One of the main features of the new forms is that a declaration for an agent's confirmation of its local physical presence in compliance with relevant statutory requirements will be added to all relevant trademarks, patents and designs forms. To facilitate the conduct of due diligence concerning IP transactions, data fields for collecting the type and place of incorporation of IP owners, grantees, licensees/sub-licensees, mortgagees, etc. will be introduced for Forms T8, T10, T11, P9, P10, P19, D5 and D11. The data field "designated patent office" will be deleted from Forms P4 and P5... [Read more](#)

[GO TO TOP](#)

10. EPO to launch pilot project for issuing electronic priority documents

**EPO ADVANCES
DIGITALISATION WITH
ELECTRONIC PRIORITY
DOCUMENTS AND
ENHANCED ONLINE
SERVICES**

In line with the Strategic Plan 2028, the European Patent Office (EPO) continues its journey towards the full digitalisation of the patent granting process. Guided by a focus on user-experience and efficiency, one of the first initiatives of 2025 will be the digitalisation of priority documents that can be requested from the EPO. As of today pilot users will be able to request EPO priority documents in electronic, rather than in paper format, making them easier to obtain and use, with the full rollout to all users planned for later this year.

A new service that also contributes to our sustainability goals

With this new service, an electronic priority document can be requested via MyEPO Portfolio and will arrive... [Read more](#)

[GO TO TOP](#)

11. WIPO conducts research on biological sequences in patent applications

**WIPO INVITES FEEDBACK
ON MINIMUM LENGTH
REQUIREMENT FOR
BIOLOGICAL SEQUENCES
IN PATENT
APPLICATIONS**

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is inviting users of WIPO Sequence, a tool used to create the ST.26 standard, to conduct research on the impact of changes to the minimum length for biological sequences contained in patent applications. In this regard, WIPO standard ST.26 prohibits the inclusion of "short sequences" in sequence listings. "Short sequences" are defined as sequences of any length that contain less than 10 specifically defined nucleotides or less than four specifically defined amino acids.

It is worth remembering that the same prohibition is observed in the rules for national applications in paragraph 2 of article 3 of Ordinance/INPI/PR/ No. 48, of 06/20/2022... [Read more](#)

[GO TO TOP](#)

12. The Danish Patent and Trademark Office implements new case handling system

**DENMARK
INTRODUCES NEW
CASE HANDLING
SYSTEM FOR DESIGNS
AND TRADEMARKS**

The case handling system for trademarks and designs at the Danish Patent and Trademark Office has been in use for many years. As part of an ongoing modernization of our IT systems, we have developed a new case handling system in collaboration with the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO).

Initially, the system will be implemented for designs and subsequently for trademarks. We will start using the system for design cases on 6 February 2025.

The implementation of the new system may affect you.

Examination of design cases during transition from the old to the new system

There will be a transition period from 29 January 2025 to 6 February 2025 during which we will migrate data... [Read more](#)

[GO TO TOP](#)

13. Entry into force of the 15th edition of the Locarno Classification (classification for registered designs)

**LOCARNO
CLASSIFICATION 15TH
EDITION
IMPLEMENTED FOR
INDUSTRIAL DESIGNS**

On 1 January 2025, the 15th edition of the international classification for industrial designs (Locarno Classification) and the list of goods (list of products for designs) (version: ELD2025_LOC15) entered into force. The German translation of the products contained in the 15th edition of the Locarno Classification is part of the list of products for designs, which also contains other permitted national entries.

The new edition of the list of classes and subclasses of the Locarno Classification and the new version of the list of products for designs apply to all design applications filed on or after 1 January 2025. Furthermore, in the process of renewal, registered designs will be reclassified ex officio in accordance with the new edition of the Locarno Classification if the class... [Read more](#)

[GO TO TOP](#)

14. U.S. Copyright Office Releases Updated Version of the Compendium of U.S. Copyright Office Practices, Third Edition

**UPDATED
COMPENDIUM OF U.S.
COPYRIGHT OFFICE
PRACTICES NOW
AVAILABLE**

[GO TO TOP](#)

Register of Copyrights Shira Perlmutter today released an updated version of the Compendium of U.S. Copyright Office Practices, Third Edition. It is available on the Office's website at <https://www.copyright.gov/comp3/>. This update is effective as of January 28, 2021, and it is the governing administrative manual for registrations and recordations issued by the U.S. Copyright Office on or after that date. The Compendium is the administrative manual of the Register of Copyrights concerning the mandate and statutory duties of the Copyright Office under Title 17 of the United States Code. See 37 CFR. § 201.2(b)(7). This update was initially released in draft form on March 15, 2019 The Office received comments... [Read more](#)

15. Japanese and Chinese Governmental Organizations Hold Opinion Exchange for Stronger Intellectual Property Rights Protection

**JAPAN AND CHINA
HOLD 11TH JOINT
INTELLECTUAL
PROPERTY WORKING
GROUP MEETING**

[GO TO TOP](#)

The Japan Patent Office (JPO), Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) and other relevant ministries and agencies held the 11th Meeting of the Japan-China Joint Intellectual Property Working Group (hereinafter referred to as the IP WG) in Tokyo on January 15 and 16, 2025. During the meeting, views were exchanged on efforts to strengthen protection of intellectual property rights in both Japan and China. The IP WG was established in June 2009 based on the Memorandum of Understanding on Exchanges and Cooperation for the Protection of Intellectual Property (IP) Rights, which was agreed upon between Japan's METI Minister and China's Minister of Commerce (MOFCOM)... [Read more](#)

16. JPO Further Increases Its Competence to Act in the Capacity as an International Searching Authority (ISA) and International Preliminary Examining Authority (IPEA) for PCT International Applications

**JPO DESIGNATED AS
COMPETENT
INTERNATIONAL
SEARCHING
AUTHORITY (ISA) FOR
URUGUAY**

[GO TO TOP](#)

The JPO to act as a competent International Searching Authority (ISA) for Uruguay. With an increasing number of Japanese companies creating their R&D centers in emerging markets, their intellectual property activities in these countries are becoming more important than ever. As a result, the need is rising for Japanese businesses to ensure that their inventions are appropriately acquired and protected as patent rights in these countries. The JPO has held international discussions to increase its competency to act as an ISA and IPEA for PCT applications received by IP offices of other countries or filed with the International Bureau (IB) by such countries' nationals or residents, so that it could contribute to facilitating the development of global business activities... [Read more](#)