INPADOC ON CAS STNEXT®

Coffee Lecture

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Why search INPADOC?

Great support for business critical decisions

- Keep an eye on global patent families for new applications and publications
- Get detailed information on post-grant activities, such as oppositions, revocation etc.
- Evaluate patent portfolios in Freedom to Operate searches
- Monitor patent validity, extensions, and licensing – as part of competitive intelligence
- …and many more!

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INPADOC in a nutshell

Two INPADOC databases on CAS STNext offer widest retrieval capabilities

Produced by the European Patent Office

- Bibliographic and family data of various patent publications, utility models, and design patents
- Classifications, abstracts and legal status information
- More than 100 patent-issuing organizations

On CAS STNext:

- **INPADOCDB** – records based on one application
- **INPAFAMDB** – records based on one INPADOC family
- Available alongside major patent files like CAplus, DWPI, Patent fulltext files
- Value-added content by FIZ Patent Editorial
- STNext supports patent analysis, reporting and duplicate removal

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Added Value, ONLY on CAS STNext!

Enhanced quality and added value by FIZ Patent Editorial

- Enhanced Patent Family Information
  - Extensive error corrections of patent numbers and dates
  - Linking Chinese Dual Filings into one family
- Patent Status Indicators
- Calculated Expiration Dates
- Legal Status Categories
- Links to Patent Registers, Global Dossier and Espacenet

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Two implementations for different use cases

Two INPADOC databases

INPADOCDB

- application-based
- one record represents the **national family**

- **Legal status search**
- **Analysis of number of patents/filings**

e.g.

- How many applications has a company filed in which country?
- Who files oppositions?

INPAFAMDB

- invention-based
- one record contains data of the **global patent family** (members have at least one priority number in common

- **Technology search**
- **Competitor search**
- **Classification search**
- **Analysis of inventions, e.g. patent portfolio**

e.g.

- How many inventions did a company file?

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Patent Status Indicator (STI)

- To meet the growing need for predictive data of the lifetime status of a patent application, the field Status Indicator (STI) is applied for each application in INPADOCDB and INPAFAMDB.
- The status of a given application is based on legal events reflected in more than 4.400 codes classified by FIZ Editorial and corresponding gazette dates and/or the calculated expiration date XPD.
- Time coverage of the Status Indicator is from the 19th century to the present. The Status Indicator is updated with every INPADOCDB update.
- The Status Indicator is displayed in many predefined bibliographic formats and some family formats.

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Patent Status Indicator - possible entries

ALIVE

The application is still under active prosecution or the granted patent is in force. The calculated expiration date is not exceeded and the latest available legal event is classified as an alive event.

DEAD

The calculated expiration date is exceeded or the latest available legal event is classified as a dead event. The application is no longer being pursued, or the rights granted to the IP holder are no longer in force, due to expiry, withdrawal by the IP rights holder, permanent cancellation due to non-payment of fees past any deadlines, etc.

TRANSITIONAL

If a lapse or withdrawal event is the latest available legal event the status is TRANSITONAL. If no further event occurs, the application turns DEAD 6 months later, but it could also change to ALIVE again earlier. The status TRANSITIONAL is intended to inform that an application may change to status DEAD and that it should therefore be observed in particular.

INDETERMINATE

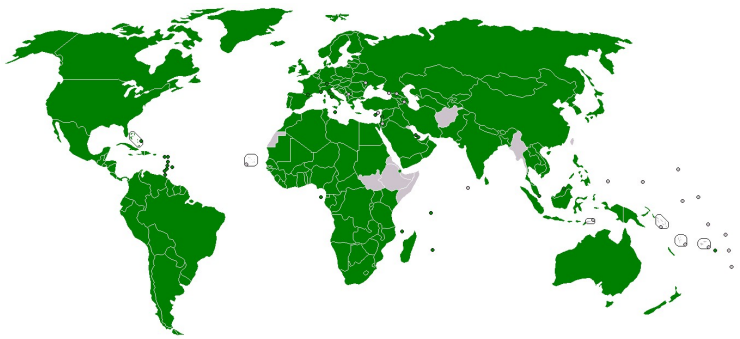
INDETERMINATE is exclusively used for granted EP and EA documents and means that the status cannot be determined within the 20 years term after filing. EP and EA applications are affected by a large volume of positive and negative legal events.

Calculated Expiration Dates

Narrow down FTO searches, do portfolio analyses, etc.

Calculated expiration dates are available for

- all patent authorities (except for PCTs)
- all pre- and post-grant publications with an application year >= 1980



- More than 400 rules operate behind the scenes and are continuously updated
- FIZ Editorial closely follows new patent coverage in INPADOC and changes of the patent laws

XPD – Calculated expiration date
XPY – Calculated expiration year

```
TIEN  NOVEL CARBODIIMIDES, METHOD FOR PRODUCTION THEREOF, AND USE THEREOF.
XPD   20381102
XPY   2038
```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Legal status information

INPADOC covers the largest worldwide collection of legal events

Legal status information for 97 patent authorities, searchable

- with about 4400 legal status codes (/LSC) – or
- with 29 legal status categories (/LSC2) or 21 classes (/LSEC)

- All legal status codes (/LSC) are classified to one of the 29 categories (/LSC2) and 21 classes (/LSEC)

- New/changed codes continuously reviewed by FIZ

The two classification system can be used alternatively or complementarily according to your search topic.

For our search recommendations see **HELP LEGSTAT**

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Legal status category examples

Find specific Legal Status events with /LSC2 search refinements

Legal Status Category	Use cases – what can we search?
ENP: Entry into national phase	Which EP inventions are protected in specific nations?
WTH: Withdrawal	What applications of Company X have been withdrawn?
REI: Reinstatement/Restoration	Have any patents belonging to a competitor which had previously lapsed or been abandoned since been reinstated?
CHG: Change of owner, inventor, applicant	Track transfer of intellectual property from a large company to a spin-off, change of IP rights and assignments

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Legal Status Categories

Over 4,400 legal event codes are grouped in 29 categories and indexed in the search field LSC2

Category	Text
CHG	Change of Owner, Inventor, Applicant
CLA	Change, Removal or Addition of Classifications
COR	Correction, Amendment, Modification in Specification
DIV	Divisional and Additional Applications
ENP	Entry into National Phase
ERR	Erratum
EXA	Examination, Search Report
EXP	Epiry
EXT	Time Extension
FEE	Fee Payment
LAP	Lapse (Non-Payment of Fees)
LIC	Licensing
LIM	Nullification of Parts of Rights, Limitation
MIS	Miscellaneous or Ambiguous
NEN	Non-entry into national phase (WO)
NOP	No Opposition or Appeal
ORE	Opposition, Reexamination, Appeal
PUB	New or Withdrawn Publication
REI	Reinstatement or Restoration
REP	Change of Representative
SPC	Supplementary Protection Certificate, Term Extension
UER	Unitary Effect Request
UOO	Opt-out of UPC Jurisdiction
WTH	Withdrawal, Refusal, etc.

Five Legal Status Categories are based on the bibliographic data

Publication information is part of legal information.

Category	Text
APP	Application Information
GRA	Granted Publication
PRE	Pre-Grant Publication
PRI	Priority Information
UKN	Unknown Publication Status

24 Legal Status Categories are based on legal event information

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Legal Status Event Classes

The EPO has introduced a classification scheme for INPADOC legal events where the application during its life cycle is the primary criterion. The legal event classes are indexed in the search field LSEC.

Code	Text
A	Application filing
B	Application discontinuation
C	Application revival
D	Search and examination
E	Pre-grant review request
F	IP right grant
G	Protection beyond IP right term
H	IP right cessation
K	IP right revival
L	IP right review request
M	IP right maintenance
P	Re-publication of document after modification
Q	Document publication
R	Party data change
S	Information on licensing and similar transactions
T	Administrative procedure adjustment
U	Payment
V	Appeal
W	Other
Y	Correction and deletion of event information
Z	Classification pending

The two classification system can be used alternatively or complementarily according to your search topic.

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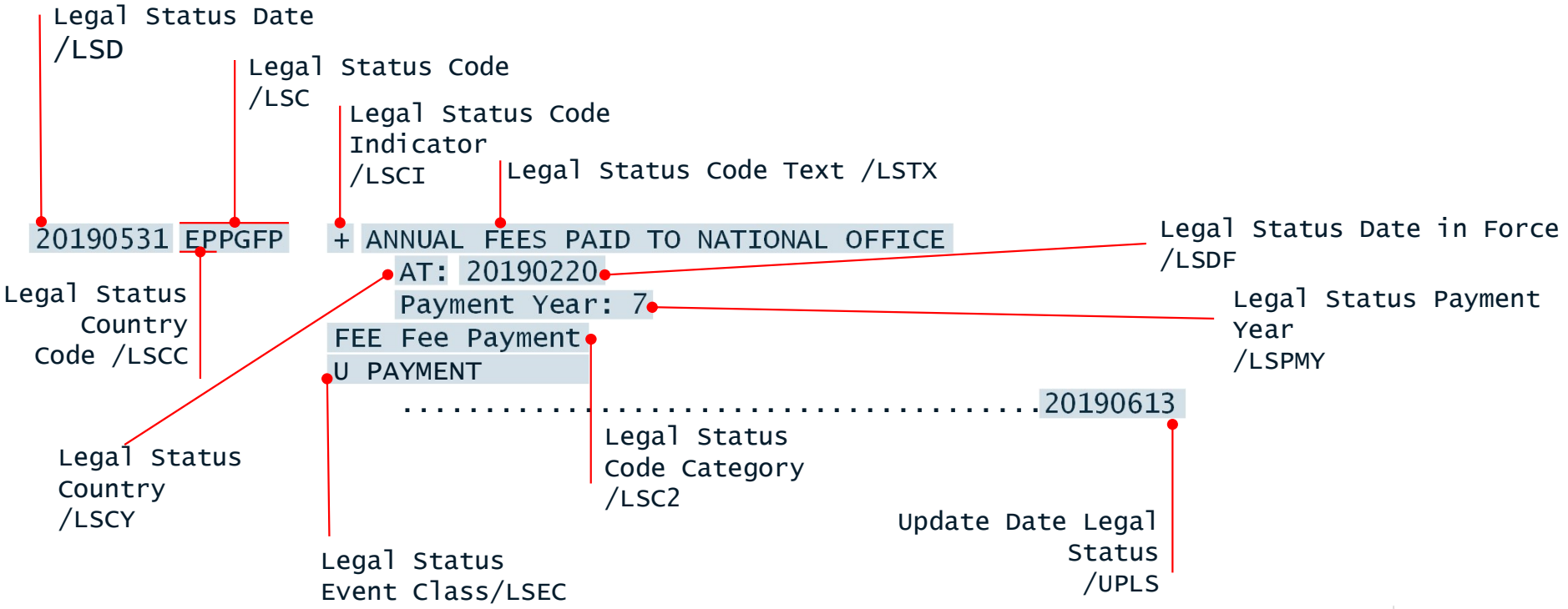
Anatomy of a legal status entry



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Unitary Patent in INPADOCDB / INPAFAMDB

All standard retrieval options on the new patent family member and new legal event information are fully supported in CAS STNext:

- Existing patent families will be updated with new **EP C0** family members
- UP participating states with specific display and search options

- **INPADOC legal events:**
  - Two new Legal Status Categories specifically monitor Unitary Patent activities
  - usual post grant events as fee payment, licensing, lapse, or withdrawal are available
- **Status indicator** for EP C0 documents
- **Unitary patent and UPC opt-out monitoring:**
  - Standard STNext options and FIZ PatMon

UER – Unitary effect request
UOO – Opt-out from UPC jurisdiction

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Alerts and Monitoring

- SDIs on CAS STNext available for simple routine monitoring, including linked SDIs for monitoring legal status event updates
- FIZ PatMon also accesses the INPADOC content to provide direct monitoring of simple to highly specific cases with the precision of INPADOC legal status data and currency

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Between problems and progress are connections that matter

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