

eGrants FAQs

Last updated 02/27/2023

Why is the USPTO moving to electronic Grant (eGrant)?

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) is implementing electronic patent issuance to reduce pendency of patent applications, foster a green economy by reducing paper waste, and permit complete issued patents to be viewable and printable by both the applicants as well as the public immediately upon issuance in Patent Center, the USPTO's electronic patent application filing and management system. The transition to eGrants allows the USPTO to continue with its efforts to move to fully electronic processing of patent applications. USPTO will issue patents electronically under a new digital USPTO seal and bearing the digital signature from the USPTO Director. Patent owners will be able to print copies of their patent, including the patent cover, without the need to request a copy from the USPTO.

What types of documents will be issued as eGrants?

All patent types (Utility, Design, Plant, and Reissue) will be issued as eGrants beginning April 18, 2023.

Will Certificates of Correction and Reexamination Certificates be issued electronically?

Additional documents, including Certificates of Correction and Reexamination Certificates, will not be issued electronically at this time. The USPTO will provide public notice if these certificates will begin issuing electronically.

How will I receive my eGrant?

Electronically issued patents will be available for viewing and download on the date of issue in Patent Center. Visit the [Patent Center](#) page or download the [Patent Center Quick Start Guide](#) for more information. In addition, the Patent Electronic Business Center is available to assist with technical issues or troubleshooting with accessing eGrants (ebc@uspto.gov or 866-217-9197, Monday - Friday, 6-12 a.m. ET).

What is a ceremonial paper copy?

The USPTO will provide patentees a ceremonial paper copy of the patent during the transition period, free of charge. The ceremonial paper copy will be a copy of the electronically issued patent reminiscent of the paper patents, bound with a cover sheet with both an embossed seal and the signature of the USPTO Director. The ceremonial paper copy will indicate that this is a ceremonial copy of a patent that was officially issued in electronic form. The electronic patent grant will be the official statutory patent grant. The ceremonial paper copy will be available for purchase for a nominal fee after the transition period, in addition to the presentation copy and certified copy.

What options are available for obtaining a printed copy of a patent issued as an eGrant?

Patentees and the public will be able to print an unlimited number of copies of the electronically issued patent (including its cover sheet in color and any color drawings) at no charge through Patent Center on or after the issue date of the patent. Additionally, the electronically issued patent will provide the patentee greater control and flexibility in printing their issued patent. Additionally, the [USPTO Certified Copy Center](#) will continue to offer certified copies of the patent and presentation copies of the first page of the patent for a fee. The ceremonial paper copy will be available for purchase for a nominal fee after the transition period, in addition to the presentation copy and certified copy.

Will you still issue a duplicate letters patent if needed for patents issued prior to April 18, 2023?

Requests for duplicate letters patent should be directed to the [Office of Petitions](#) at 571-272-3282. Should the request be granted, the USPTO will produce a duplicate letters patent.

Can I request a duplicate ceremonial paper copy?

We will not be producing duplicates of the ceremonial paper copy during the transition period. The ceremonial copy will be a courtesy copy, free of charge. Copies of the eGrant may be printed at no charge from Patent Center. Additionally, the [USPTO Certified Copy Center](#) will continue to offer certified copies of the patent and presentation copies of the first page of the patent for a fee. After the transition period, applicants will have the option to purchase ceremonial paper copies for a nominal fee, along with the current options to purchase presentation copies and certified copies.

Where will the ceremonial paper copy be sent?

All correspondence, including the ceremonial paper copy, is directed to the correspondence address of record. See 37 CFR 1.33(a). For information on how to order certified copies and presentation copies, visit the USPTO Certified Copy Center webpage at <https://certifiedcopycenter.uspto.gov/>.

How will a shortened time to issue impact continuing application practice?

The window of time between the mailing of the Issue Notification and the issuing of the eGrant may be reduced. As such, this may reduce the amount of time during which applicants can file continuing applications. The best practice is for applicants to file these submissions as early as possible. Preferably, continuing applications should be filed before the payment of the issue fee. See Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (9th ed. Rev. 10.2019) (MPEP) 211.01(b)(I).

Will there be an exact issuance time associated with the eGrant (e.g. hour and minute timestamp) and will that impact copendency requirements?

No. Much like now, only the date of issue is considered for meeting the copendency requirements of MPEP 211.01(b).

Will patents granted before April 18, 2023, become eGrants?

We will not convert any patents issued prior to April 18, 2023 into eGrants. For all patents issued prior to April 18, 2023, the issued letters patent will still be the official copy of the patent document.