



## Notices of the President of the German Patent and Trade Mark Office 2021

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**Notice No. 1/21****of the President of the German Patent and Trade Mark Office of 18 January 2021 concerning the power of representation of British patent attorneys and British lawyers, which ceased on 1 January 2021**

As a result of the United Kingdom's exit from the European Union, British patent attorneys lost their power of representation in Germany upon expiry of the transition period on 31 December 2020.

Pursuant to the Act on the Activities of Patent Attorneys from EU Member States in Germany (*Gesetz über die Tätigkeit europäischer Patentanwälte in Deutschland*), patent attorneys from the United Kingdom were allowed temporarily and occasionally to pursue their activities in Germany under their British professional title (patent attorney) as what are called patent attorneys from EU member states providing services until 31 December 2020. Accordingly, they were also authorised to represent their clients before the German Patent and Trade Mark Office (DPMA).

Furthermore, it was possible for British patent attorneys to seek admission to the German Chamber of Patent Attorneys after the equivalency of their professional qualification had been verified. As established patent attorneys from EU member states, they were also allowed to establish themselves in Germany in order to pursue their profession in the area of foreign and international IP protection. These possibilities ceased to exist on 1 January 2021.

Likewise, lawyers admitted to the bar in the United Kingdom are no longer authorised to represent clients before the DPMA since 1 January 2021.

The President of the German Patent and Trade Mark Office  
Cornelia Rudloff-Schäffer

## **Notice No. 2/21**

### **of the President of the German Patent and Trade Mark Office of 17 February 2021 on the postal address for filing applications and making requests and other submissions in design matters and on the forms to be used in design matters**

*The German Patent and Trade Mark Office (DPMA) is expected to introduce fully electronic case file processing for designs in 2022, too. To allow initial preparations for digitisation and internal tests, all future correspondence relating to design matters (including invalidity proceedings) is to be sent to the central postal address in Munich, where the digitisation centre of the DPMA is located.*

*The following changes take effect from 1 March 2021:*

#### **1. Central postal address and fax number in design matters**

Design applications can only be sent to the central postal address of the German Patent and Trade Mark Office (Deutsches Patent- und Markenamt, 80297 München) in the future, other requests or letters in design matters must be sent by post to the aforementioned address or by fax to the central fax number of the Design Division (+49 3641 40-5800). Applications and representations of designs cannot be submitted by fax. If any post is received by other offices or via other fax connections, this results in delayed processing.

#### **2. Use of forms**

The forms in design matters have been revised and a new layout has been developed. It should be noted that the new, revised forms have to be used from 1 March 2021.

The forms are available free of charge on the Designs web pages of the German Patent and Trade Mark Office.

The forms should be completed electronically if possible to ensure correct form recognition within the scope of the digitisation of the documents. Do not make changes to the forms issued by the DPMA; enclose a separate letter instead if required.

The President of the German Patent and Trade Mark Office  
Cornelia Rudloff-Schäffer

1243/1-4.3.3/2021-1

## **Notice No. 3/21**

### **of the President of the German Patent and Trade Mark Office of 1 September 2021 concerning the publication of the Patent Gazette (*Patentblatt*), the trade Mark Journal (*Markenblatt*) and the Design Gazette (*Designblatt*) on the official Internet platform DPMAregister in 2022**

In 2021, in accordance with the regulations, patents and utility models, trade marks and designs will be published for the last time on 31 December 2021. Generally, publications take place on Thursdays (for patents and utility models) and on Fridays (for trade marks and designs).

If planned publication days coincide with public holidays in Bavaria, the publication days shall be brought forward by one day in each case. If the previous day is also a public holiday, the publication days shall be brought forward by another day to the previous working day.

In 2022, the following publication dates will be affected by this regulation:

- 6 January 2022 (patents and utility models) - rescheduled to 5 January 2022
- 15 April 2022 (trade marks and designs) – rescheduled to 14 April 2022
- 26 May 2022 (patents and utility models) – rescheduled to 25 May 2022
- 16 June 2022 (patents and utility models) – rescheduled to 15 June 2022

The President of the German Patent and Trade Mark Office  
Cornelia Rudloff-Schäffer

544 E 9 – 2.1.2

**Notice No. 4/21****of the President of the German Patent and Trade Mark Office of 30 August 2021 concerning the closure of the automated letterbox at the Munich office (Zweibrückenstraße)**

*Due to technical issues, the German Patent and Trade Mark Office's automated letterbox in Munich has been out of service for some time. The office now has to announce the permanent closure of the letterbox.*

***Important:***

Outside the office's opening hours, applications, oppositions and any other mail relating to IP procedures can be handed in at the reception desk of the Munich office to meet the respective time limits. To ensure we receive business documents within the period prescribed, they can also be filed by fax. If you wish to file your applications electronically, please use our online services DPMAdirektPro and DPMAdirektWeb.

The automated letterbox in Munich was an automated carousel system with seven containers that a control system rotated to the next position every day at midnight. The system had been tailored to the special needs of the DPMA and set up only three times in Germany. In 2008, the letterbox underwent its last technical overhaul. Now, the control system and various mechanical components are technically outdated, so it is not possible to repair the letterbox at reasonable costs. As a consequence, the automated letterbox was closed permanently in summer 2021.

The President of the German Patent and Trade Mark Office  
Cornelia Rudloff-Schäffer

544 E 952 – 2.1.1

**Notice No. 5/21****of the President of the German Patent and Trade Mark Office of 10 September 2021 concerning the issuing of acknowledgements of receipt**

The DPMA abandons with immediate effect its previous practice to confirm receipt of incoming mail by placing a receipt stamp on a copy or any other enclosed document (if so requested) with respect to all IP procedures.

This also applies to all submissions in connection with payments; the last bullet point of item 2 of Notice No. 7/2011 of the President of the German Patent and Trade Mark Office of 24 May 2011, which contains information about the issuing of acknowledgements of receipt relating to payments, is also cancelled with immediate effect.

The sending of acknowledgements of receipt concerning all IP applications (as provided for in section 8 (2) of the DPMA Ordinance) remains unaffected.

The President of the German Patent and Trade Mark Office  
Cornelia Rudloff-Schäffer

3610-4.3.3/2020-19

**Notice No. 6/21****of the President of the German Patent and Trade Mark Office of 29 September 2021 concerning the opening hours of the German Patent and Trade Mark Office from 24 December to 1 January 2022**

The German Patent and Trade Mark Office will be closed between 24 December 2021 and 1 January 2022 (inclusive). Cash payments will not be possible during that period. The search rooms will be closed. The enquiry units will not be staffed.

Furthermore, the desk of the Document Receiving Service in the Munich office will be closed from Friday, 24 December 2021 to Saturday, 1 January 2022 (inclusive). Please note that the Document Receiving Service cannot accept business documents during that period. As an alternative, you can use the night letterboxes of the three offices in Munich, Jena and Berlin.

The DPMAdirekt services (Pro and Web) for online filing of IP applications as well as the DPMAregister service will be fully available during the closure period of the office.

The President of the German Patent and Trade Mark Office  
Cornelia Rudloff-Schäffer

2043 E 9 - 4.1.2