

# W&B IP Newsletter



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## Patent

### **Fees for PCT applications at international stage will rise from January 1, 2023 and on (new fee schedule attached)**

Recently, China National Intellectual Property Administration (the “CNIPA”) published the *RMB Fee Schedule for PCT Applications at International Stage*, to be applied throughout the year 2023.

According to the WIPO’s *RMB Fee Schedule for PCT Applications at International Stage for the Year 2023*, the CNIPA will charge PCT applications at international stage according to the new fee schedule. As prescribed in the *Notice on Matters Related to the RMB Fee Schedule for PCT Applications at International Stage*, throughout the year 2023, fees for PCT applications at international stage will rise to some extent, as compared with the year 2022, as shown in the table below:

(A) International filing fees charged on behalf of the international office		Year 2022	Year 2023
1	International application documents – no more than 30 pages	9260	9620
2	Per page in excess of 30 pages	100	110
3	Reduction for electronic filings (in PDF format)	1390	1450
4	Reduction for electronic filings (in XML format)	2090	2170
(B) Service charge collected on behalf of the international office		1390	1450

(Unit: RMB)

(Source: China Intellectual Property Administration)

### **CNIPA: Online payments can be made via UnionPay, WeChat, Alipay or B2B remittance from January 26, 2023 and on**

On December 7, 2022, the CNIPA released a Notice on Adjustments for Certain Patent Services, according to which online payments by the relevant parties can be made via either of UnionPay, WeChat, Alipay or B2B remittance, subject to no remittance charge.

(Source: China Intellectual Property Administration)

## Intellectual Property

### Worldwide IP Filings Reached New All-Time Highs in 2021, Asia Drives Growth

Bucking the trend from previous economic downturns, IP filings remained strong during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and soared in 2021, WIPO's World Intellectual Property Indicators (WIPI) report showed.

Innovators around the world filed 3.4 million patent applications in 2021, up 3.6% from the previous year with offices in Asia receiving 67.6% of all applications worldwide.

Strong growth in local patent filings in China (+5.5%), the Republic of Korea (+2.5%) and India (+5.5%) drove the global growth in patent applications in 2021, propelling the share of Asian filings to cross the two-thirds threshold. Local patenting activity in the U.S. (-1.2%), Japan (-1.7%) and Germany (-3.9%) declined in 2021.

Most countries registered increases in trademark filing activity in 2021, with 18.1 million trademark class counts worldwide in 2021, up 5.5% on 2020. This growth in registering new brands coincided with a boom in entrepreneurial activity and venture capital deals prompted by the pandemic's disruptions. Industrial design filing activity rose by 9.2%. The largest growth in designs was also from offices in Asia.

IP Right applications	2020	2021	Growth (%), 2020-2021
Patents	3,281,900	3,401,100	3.6
Trademarks *	17,193,800	18,145,100	5.5
Industrial designs *	1,387,800	1,515,200	9.2
Plant variety	22,620	25,340	12.0

**Note:** \* indicates trademark classes and designs contained in applications to allow for cross-border comparison, as some countries require individual filings for each class or design, while others allow for multiple classes/designs in a single filing.

## Intellectual Property

### Patent Statistics 2021

The WIPI, which compiles the latest data from some 150 national and regional IP, found a substantial rise in patent filings in China, combined with robust contributions from the IP office of the Republic of Korea and the European Patent Office. These were the main drivers of global growth in 2021.

China's IP office received 1.59 million patent applications in 2021 of the total 3.4 million filed worldwide in 2021, which is similar in magnitude to the combined total of the next 12 offices ranked from second to 13th. China was followed by the offices of the U.S. (591,473), Japan (289,200), the Republic of Korea (237,998) and the European Patent Office (188,778). Together, these five offices accounted for 85.1% of the world total.

Patents in force worldwide grew by 4.2% to reach around 16.5 million in 2021. China surpassed the U.S. to become the top jurisdiction in terms of number of patents in force in 2021 – with 3.6 million. China was followed by the US (3.3 million), Japan (2 million), the Republic of Korea (1.2 million) and Germany (877,763). China (+17.6%) saw the fastest growth in patents in force in 2021, followed by Germany (+5.2%) and the Republic of Korea (+5.2%).

### Trademark Statistics 2021

An estimated 13.9 million trademark applications covering 18.1 million classes were filed worldwide in 2021. The number of classes specified in applications grew by a remarkable 5.5% in 2021, marking a twelfth successive year of growth. Trademark filing activity grew in 18 of the top 20 offices.

China's IP office had the highest volume of filing activity<sup>[1]</sup> with a class count of around 9.5 million; followed by the USPTO (899,678), the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) (497,542), and the offices of India (488,526) and the UK (450,815).

There were an estimated 73.7 million active trademark registrations at 149 IP offices in 2021 – up 14.3% on 2020, with 37.2 million in China alone, followed by 2.8 million in the U.S., and 2.6 million in India.

### Industrial Design Statistics 2021

An estimated 1.2 million industrial design applications containing 1.5 million designs were filed worldwide in 2021. The number of designs grew by 9.2% in 2021. China's IP office received applications containing 805,710 designs in 2021, corresponding to 53.2% of the world total. It was followed by the EUIPO (117,049), the UK (74,781), the Republic of Korea (69,248) and Türkiye (65,924). Due to Brexit, the office of the UK received 2.3 times more designs in applications in 2021 than in 2020, making it the third most active office in terms of application design count in 2021, up four positions in the world ranking within a year.

(Source: WIPO China)