

eGrants FAQs

Last updated 04/18/2023

What types of patents will be issued as electronic patent grants (eGrants)?

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

Will patents issued before April 18, 2023 be issued again as eGrants?

We will not convert any paper patents issued prior to April 18, 2023 into eGrants. For all patents issued prior to April 18, 2023, the issued paper patent will still be the official statutory patent grant.

What do I do if I am having trouble accessing my eGrant due to a disability?

At this time, the electronic patent grants found in [Patent Center](#) may not meet all standards for web accessibility. You can view accessible versions of patents on the [USPTO Patent Public Search](#) page.

Additionally, you can view accessible versions of the patents from USPTO Patent Public Search via a link directly from Patent Center. If you experience difficulties accessing your electronic patent grant or have any questions, please contact the Patents Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 1-866-217-9197, Monday through Friday from 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. eastern time.

How will I be notified of my eGrant?

Issue Notifications will be available electronically via Patent Center after the payment of the issue fee, usually on the Wednesday or Thursday before the patent issues. Additionally, the USPTO will provide an eGrant Notification the day of electronic patent issuance to inform you that your electronic patent grant is now available. For those applicants who participate in the e-Office action program, the USPTO emails notification of the Issue Notification and day-of eGrant Notification to the applicant's designated email address. For those who do not participate in the e-Office action program, the USPTO will send a mailed Issue Notification and mailed day-of eGrant Notification.

How do I ensure the authenticity of an eGrant?

The USPTO seal on an eGrant represents the digital signature. This signature ensures the authenticity of the eGrant by digitally signing the file, which informs the user that the eGrant was created by the USPTO and has not been altered. Any alterations or changes to the document would invalidate the digital signature. To fully view and see the digital signature properties and additional details, please download the eGrant file to your computer and open with a PDF-viewing application.

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.

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).

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.

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

Requests for duplicate letters patent for patents issued prior to April 18, 2023 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.

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 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 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).