



Companies and Intellectual
Property Commission

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PRACTICE NOTICE NO. 1 OF 2026

PATENT STAKEHOLDERS

ELECTRONIC ISSUANCE OF DIGITAL PATENTS AND PATENTS OF ADDITION

(issued in terms of section 44 of the Patents Act, 57 of 1978, read together with regulation 1A and 47 of the Patent Regulations, 1978)

1. With effect from 2 February 2026, patents and patents of addition will be issued electronically, as well as certified copies thereof.
2. Electronically issued patents and patents of addition will be in a form as set out in **Annexures A** and **B**, respectively.
3. Uncertified copies of electronically issued patents and patents of addition may be accessed, viewed and printed via the CIPC IP Online portal, which is available at: <https://iponline.cipc.co.za>.
4. Further information is provided in **Annexure C**.

Adv Rory Voller

Commissioner: CIPC

23 January 2026

Annexure A

REPUBLIC COAT OF ARMS
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
PATENTS ACT, 1978

PATENT

In accordance with section 44 (1) of the Patents Act, No. 57 of 1978, it is hereby certified that has been granted a patent for an invention as disclosed and claimed in the complete specification entitled deposited at the Patent Office and assigned patent number

Form P2 is annexed, together with a declaration, disclaimer and information page.

In testimony thereof, the seal of the Patent Office has been affixed to this patent at Pretoria with effect from the day of 20..... .

.....
REGISTRAR OF PATENTS

DECLARATION, DISCLAIMER AND INFORMATION PAGE

Declarations

- The effect of the patent shall be to grant to the patentee in the Republic of South Africa, subject to the provisions of the Patents Act, No. 57 of 1978 (“the Act”), for the duration of the patent, the right to exclude other persons from making, using, exercising, disposing or offering to dispose of, or importing the invention as defined in the claims.
- The duration of the patent shall be 20 years from the date of application therefor, subject to payment of the prescribed renewal fees by the patentee or an agent.
- Where a patent being granted is derived from a PCT application that was published on PATENTSCOPE with a nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing forming part of the PCT application, such nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing will be deemed to have been filed at the Patent Office in terms of regulation 1A of the Patent Regulations, 1978.
- This patent is issued in accordance with the official records of the Patent Office as at the date of publication of acceptance in the Patent Journal.
- This patent is electronically issued in accordance with section 44 of the Act.

Disclaimers

- This patent is digitally sealed and issued by the Patent Office in accordance with section 14 of the Electronic and Communications Act, No. 2 of 2002. Any alteration of this document is prohibited.

Information

- The original patent may be downloaded once.
- The QR code for this patent allows for the verification of information relating to this patent. The information includes the patent number, type of patent, name of patentee, date of grant, name of inventor, and a unique ID.
- An uncertified copy of the patent, bearing a watermark, may be viewed and downloaded from CIPC IP Online.
- Upon request and payment of the prescribed fees, a certified copy of the patent, bearing a watermark, will be generated for downloading in accordance with section 73 of the Act. The certified copy, once generated, may be downloaded once.
- The complete specification as well as any other document relating to this patent may be obtained from CIPC IP Online or the Patent Office on request and upon payment of the prescribed fees.

Annexure B

REPUBLIC COAT OF ARMS
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
PATENTS ACT, 1978

PATENT OF ADDITION

In accordance with section 39 of the Patents Act, No. 57 of 1978, it is hereby certified that has been granted a patent of addition with number for certain additions to, improvements in and/or modifications to an invention that has been disclosed and claimed in a complete specification deposited under patent number

Form P2 in respect of the patent of addition is annexed, together with a declaration, disclaimer and information page.

In testimony thereof, the seal of the Patent Office has been affixed to this patent of addition at Pretoria with effect from the day of 20.....

DECLARATION, DISCLAIMER AND INFORMATION PAGE

Declarations

- The effect of a patent of addition shall be to grant to the patentee in the Republic of South Africa, subject to the provisions of the Patents Act, No. 57 of 1978 (“the Act”), for the remaining duration of the Patent No. (“the earlier patent”), the right to exclude other persons from making, using, exercising, disposing or offering to dispose of, or importing the invention as defined in the claims.
- No renewal fees are payable in respect of a patent of addition.
- The earlier patent and its patent of addition shall not be capable of assignment apart from one another.
- Where the earlier patent is surrendered, revoked, refused or abandoned, the patent of addition shall, unless the commissioner or the registrar otherwise directs, become an independent patent and the normal term of such independent patent shall not extend beyond the date on which the earlier patent would have expired if it had not been surrendered, revoked, refused or abandoned. The prescribed renewal fees, which would have been payable in respect of the earlier patent shall, as from the date on which the patent becomes an independent patent, be payable in respect of the last-mentioned patent.
- This patent of addition is issued in accordance with the official records of the Patent Office as at the date of publication of acceptance in the Patent Journal.
- This patent of addition is electronically issued in accordance with section 44 of the Act.

Disclaimers

- This patent of addition is digitally sealed and issued by the Patent Office in accordance with section 14 of the Electronic and Communications Act, No. 2 of 2002. Any alteration of this document is prohibited.

Information

- The original patent of addition may be downloaded once.
- The QR code for this patent of addition allows for the verification of information relating to this patent of addition. The information includes the patent number, name of patentee, date of grant, name of inventor, and a unique ID.
- An uncertified copy of the patent of addition, bearing a watermark, may be viewed and downloaded from CIPC IP Online.
- Upon request and payment of the prescribed fees, a certified copy of the patent of addition, bearing a watermark, will be generated for downloading in accordance with section 73 of the Act. The certified copy, once generated, may be downloaded once.
- The complete specification as well as any other document relating to this patent of addition may be obtained from CIPC IP Online or the Patent Office on request and upon payment of the prescribed fees.

Annexure C

All patents and patents of addition granted from January 2026 onward will be issued electronically.

1) Copies

- 1.1) Certified copies of patents and patents of addition will bear a watermark including the words “CERTIFIED COPY”.
- 1.2) Certified copies may be requested on Form P4 via the CIPC IP Online portal and on payment of the prescribed fees.
- 1.3) Uncertified copies of patents and patents of addition will bear a watermark including the words “UNCERTIFIED COPY”.
- 1.4) The Patent Office will no longer require paper copies of documents for the purpose of binding and compilation of a patent or patent of addition in paper form. The complete specification as well as any other document relating to a patent or patent of addition may be obtained from the CIPC IP Online portal or the Patent Office on request and on payment of the prescribed fees.

2) Features of the digital patent and patent of addition

- 2.1) Electronically issued patents and patents of addition will be in accordance with the official records of the Patent Office as at the date of publication of acceptance in the Patent Journal, and will include the following features:
 - electronic signature of the Registrar of Patents (or authorised proxy);
 - Email address of the official who generated the document;
 - QR code for instant verification of the patent or patent of addition;
 - authorised digital seal of the Patent Office; and
 - authorised digital national coat of arms.

3) Accessing electronically issued patents, patents of addition and certified copies thereof

- 3.1) Upon electronic issuance of a patent or patent of addition, an automated email will be sent to the email address recorded in a CIPC customer profile associated with a customer code for an address for service, as reflected in the electronic register of patents on the date of issuance of the patent or patent of addition.
- 3.2) The automated email will contain a link directing the recipient to the CIPC IP Online portal. To access the digital patent or patent of addition, the recipient must log into the CIPC IP Online portal using their registered login credentials and thereafter conduct a search using the relevant patent or patent of addition number.
- 3.3) The digital patent or patent of addition is capable of being downloaded **once only**. Upon successful download, a corresponding entry will be recorded in the electronic register of patents.
- 3.4) The process set out in paragraphs 3.1 to 3.3 will also be applicable for accessing issued certified copies and processed Form P4 requests.
- 3.5) A user guide setting out the procedure for accessing and downloading electronically issued patents, patents of addition and certified copies thereof is available on the CIPC IP Online portal.

4) Obtaining patents or patents of addition in paper form

- 4.1) Patents or patents of addition will be issued in paper form on request only. Such request may be submitted to the Patent Office on Form P4 and on payment of the prescribed fees.
- 4.2) Patents or patents of addition issued in paper form will be in a form as per the current practice and will therefore be bound with the complete specification, together with the relevant Form P2.
- 4.3) Patents or patents of addition issued in paper form will be issued **no less** than 30 days following receipt of the official file from the off-site storage and after successful billing of the Form P4 request.

5) Technical difficulties and/or typographical errors

5.1) For assistance, or if experiencing technical difficulties when using the new electronic service, please contact the following person(s):

- Ms Boitumelo Sepato - BSepato@cipc.co.za
- Ms Teleni Mahlawule - tmahlawule@sword-sa.com

5.2) In the event that an electronically issued patent or patent of addition includes typographical error(s), please contact the official who generated the document to correct the error(s) and generate a corrected patent or patent of addition.