

Swedish patent publications

A Swedish national patent application normally gives rise to the following publications:

A1 documents

A patent application becomes publicly available 18 months after the filing date or priority date. At that time (since April 2010) an A1 document is published, which contains the description, claims, abstract and drawings that were first filed. A1 documents have a seven-digit number, of which the first two digits show the year. Applications which are fully processed without leading to a patent within 18 months are not made available to the public. For this reason, the number series has many gaps.

The applicant can request that an application is made available to the public earlier than 18 months.

A small number of applications come under the law of classified military documents. They become available to the public when they are declassified.

C2 documents

When a patent is granted, a patent specification is published (since 1994), which has the document code C2. It includes the approved patent claims and a complete description of the invention. C2 documents have a six-digit publication number from 500,001 and upwards.

E documents

If an opposition is made against a granted patent and the scope of protection is limited, the patent is re-published with changed wording (since 1994). Such patent specifications have the document code E and the same number as the original patent.

E5 documents

If the scope of protection of a granted patent is limited at the applicant's request, the patent is also re-published (since 2007). Such patent specifications have the document code E5 and the same number as the original patent.

Amendments

The document codes A2, C3, C8, E1, E8 and E9 are used for different kinds of amendments of the above-mentioned types of documents.

A0 documents

When a publicly available application is ordered from PRV's file archive, PRV may publish a document which contains the application's description, claims, abstract and drawings. Since April 2010 these documents have the document code A0. Previously they had the document code A.

Previous rules and regulations

Between 1971 and 2004, bibliographic data was published in the Swedish Patent Gazette (Svensk Patenttidning) when an application was filed. This information is not available in the Swedish Patent Database.

Between 1968 and 1970, applications were made publicly available 18 months after the filing date or priority date without a document being published.

Before 1968, patent applications were secret until the patent was granted.

L documents

A patent application becomes publicly available 18 months after the filing date or priority date. Between 1971 and April 2010 a one-page document was published, which includes the application's bibliographic data, an abstract (or originally a patent claim) and often a figure. This abstract has the document code L. L documents have a seven-digit number, of which the first two digits show the year. Applications which are finally processed without leading to a patent within 18 months are not made available to the public. For this reason, the number series has many gaps.

B documents

Between 1968 and 1993, the grant of a patent was preceded by a period of public inspection when the general public could oppose the potential grant. At the start of that period the patent application was published with the document code B. B documents included the potential claims of the patent and a complete description of the invention. If no opposition was made, the patent was granted according to the B document, without a special patent specification being published. B documents have a six-digit publication number between 300,001 and 480,000.

C documents

Between 1968 and 1993, if an opposition was made against a published patent application and the scope of protection was limited, a patent specification was published. Such a patent specification has the document code C and the same number as the original published patent application.

Amendments

The document codes L1, B5 and C5 are used for amended documents of the above-mentioned types.

C1 documents

Between 1885 and 1967, a patent specification was published when a patent was granted, which has the document code C1. It included the granted patent claims and a complete description of the invention. C1 documents have a one- to six-digit publication number between 1 and 230,000.

Exceptions

In the transitional periods between the different rules and regulations, transitional rules applied. Several patent specifications and published patent applications were therefore published according to previous rules and regulations long after new rules had come into force.