



Insights: Alerts

European Patent Office COVID-19-Related Extension Period Ends Tuesday, June 2, 2020

June 1, 2020

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Please note: The below information may require updating, including additional clarification, as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to develop. Please monitor our main [COVID-19 Task Force page](#) and/or your email for updates.

We previously published an [alert](#) that the European Patent Office (EPO), had issued a [Notice](#) that extended the times to file papers that could not be filed due to disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The EPO extended most deadlines accruing after March 15, 2020 until April 17, 2020, including deadlines for international applications under the PCT.

We published an updated [alert](#) regarding these EPO extensions, which previously expired on April 17, 2020. The EPO issued a second [Notice](#) on April 16, 2020, extending the times to file papers to May 4, 2020. The EPO issued a third [Notice](#) on May 1 extending the deadline to June 2, 2020.

The EPO recently issued a new [Notice](#) on Thursday, May 27, 2020, that supersedes the EPO's previous Notices. Practitioners should note that the EPO has decided **not** to extend the extensions that were previously available for many if not most EPO deadlines due to disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Practitioners relying on the EPO extensions to extend deadlines falling on or after March 15, 2020, will now have a deadline of Tuesday, June 2, 2020. There are still extensions available if it can be shown that there is a general dislocation of the mail in the applicant's or representative's EP place of business ([Rule 134\(2\) EPC](#)), and also on a case by case basis if there is an exceptional occurrence justifying the extension (*see, for example, [Rule 134\(5\) EPC](#) and [Rule 82quater.1 PCT](#)*) but we recommend that extensions available under these provisions **should not be relied upon** due to the "discretion" involved.

If you are not a qualified European patent attorney, we recommend you work very closely with one, especially if you want to consider discretionary extensions under these or similar provisions.

Related People



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