



Russia switches to electronic form of patent letters and other IP rights certificates

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📖 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, RUSSIA

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On 20 June 2020 amendments to Part 4 of the Russian Civil Code were officially published after adoption by the Parliament and signing by the President (Law 217-FZ dated 20 July 2020). From the amendments effective date, which is 17 January 2020, electronic patent letters and certificates for other IP rights will replace paper documents usually issued by the Russian Patent Office (Rospatent). The full list includes patent letters, certificates for utility models, industrial designs, trademarks, well-known trademarks, geographical indications, appellations of origin, databases and computer programs. The law leaves the option of obtaining hard copies of the relevant certificates at the request of the rightholder.

The amendment contains one exception, that an electronic document is not issued for secret inventions, which still should be granted only as a paper patent letter. In accordance with the Russian Civil Code invention is secret if it contains state secret information in patent application materials. Secret inventions are subject to special regulation, including exemption from publication or disclosure of any information about such inventions.

The same law also allows applicants of patents, utility models and industrial designs to file electronic 3D shapes in support of their applications, which is effective as of the same date.





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