

EPO Rule Change update - Active from 1 January 2011

Decision of the President of the European Patent office dated 9 December 2010 exempting applicants claiming the priority of a first filing made in Japan, the United Kingdom or the United States of America from filing a copy of the search results under Rule 141(1) EPC-utilisation scheme.

The President of the European Patent Office, having regard to Rules 141(1) and (2) and 70b(1) and (2) of the European Patent Convention (EPC), has decided as follows:

Article 1

Exemption under Rule 141(2) EPC from filing a copy of the search results

The European Patent office shall include in the file of a European patent application copy of the search results referred to in Rule 141(1) EPC, thus exempting the applicant from filing said copy, where the priority of a first filing made in one of the following states is claimed;

- Japan
- United Kingdom
- United States of America

Article 2

Entry into force

This decision shall enter into force on 1 January 2011 and shall apply to European patent applications and international applications filed on or after that date.

Contributor: Rosemary Barker

For further advice, please contact your HGF representative or email marketing@hgf.com with your query.