

**New formats of numbering for patent applications and patents ~~(not yet in force)~~
(Effective Date: 19 December 2019)**

To facilitate distinguishing the different types of patent applications and patents under the new patent system, the new formats of Hong Kong Application Numbers and Hong Kong Publication Numbers (or, if granted, Patent Numbers) as mentioned in paragraph 3 below will be adopted and applicable to:

- a) standard patent (O) applications¹, standard patent (R) applications² and short-term patent applications **filed on or after** the commencement date of the Patents (Amendment) Ordinance 2016 (hereinafter “the commencement date”); and
 - b) standard patent (R) applications and short-term patent applications filed before the commencement date and the Patents Registry’s records are created for such applications on or after the commencement date.
2. For standard patent (R) applications and short-term patent applications filed before the commencement date (except for those as mentioned in sub-paragraph (b) above), even if they are published on or after the commencement date, their formats of the allotted Hong Kong Application Numbers and Hong Kong Publication Numbers (or, if granted, Patent Numbers) will remain unchanged and will NOT be converted into the new formats.
3. The details of the new patent application and patent numbering formats are as follows:

(A) Hong Kong Application Numbers

Format: TYYYYSSSSSS.C

Denotations:

- “T” is a single digit denoting the type of application:
 - “2” for standard patent (O) application

¹ These are the applications for standard patents by original grant filed in Hong Kong directly without the prior need for filing corresponding patent applications with any designated patent office outside Hong Kong as required under the re-registration system.

² These are the applications for standard patents by re-registration based on the patent registrations granted by one of the three designated patent offices outside Hong Kong.

- “3” for short-term patent application not based on PCT application
- “4” for standard patent (R) application with designated patent application not based on PCT application
- “5” for short-term patent application based on PCT application
- “6” for standard patent (R) application with designated patent application based on PCT application
- “YYYY” is a four-digit number denoting the year of filing.
- “SSSSSS” is a six-digit serial number continuously running among all types of applications.
- “C” is a single check digit.

(B) Hong Kong Publication Numbers (or, if granted, Patent Numbers)

Format: TSSSSSSS

Denotations:

- “T” is a single digit denoting the type of application:
 - “2” for standard patent (O) application
 - “3” for short-term patent application
 - “4” for standard patent (R) application
- “SSSSSSS” is a seven-digit serial number continuously running among all types of applications.

4. The following hypothetical examples show the new format of numbering for the patent applications and patents with emphasis added for the first numerals of the numbers:³

Type of application	Application no.	Publication no./Patent no.
Standard patent (O) application	<u>2</u> 2019080001.0	<u>2</u> 0345678
Short-term patent application	<u>3</u> 2019080002.0	<u>3</u> 0345679

³ Under the existing format, the application numbers (e.g. 19180002.0) and publication numbers (e.g. 1345679) allocated to these applications do not specifically denote whether these applications or their designated patent applications are based on PCT applications.

not based on PCT application		
Standard patent (R) application with designated patent application not based on PCT application	<u>4</u> 2019080003.0	<u>4</u> 0345680
Short-term patent application based on PCT application	<u>5</u> 2019080004.0	<u>3</u> 0345681
Standard patent (R) application with designated patent application based on PCT application	<u>6</u> 2019080005.0	<u>4</u> 0345682

5. For enquiries, please email at businesscentre@ipd.gov.hk.

The Patents Registry
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
~~October June~~ 2019