



Accelerated Examination

The USPTO has established procedures under which the examination of a patent application may be accelerated. Under one of these procedures, the USPTO will advance an application out of turn for examination if the applicant files a grantable petition to make special under the accelerated examination program. The USPTO is similarly revising the procedures for other petitions to make special, except those based on applicant's health or age or the PPH pilot program. Other petitions to make special (i.e., based on: manufacture, infringement, environmental quality, energy, recombinant DNA, superconductivity materials, HIV/AIDS and cancer, countering terrorism, and biotechnology applications filed by small entities [MPEP § 708.02 \(/web/offices/pac/mpep/documents/0700_708_02.htm\)](/web/offices/pac/mpep/documents/0700_708_02.htm)) will be processed using the revised procedure for accelerated examination. Thus, petitions to make special, except those based on applicant's health, age, or the [PPH pilot program \(/web/patents/pph/index.html\)](/web/patents/pph/index.html) , will be required to comply with the requirements for petitions to make special under the accelerated examination program as set forth in this notice.

The effective date for this change in practice is : **25 August 2006** .

- [Statistics](#)
- [Resources](#)
- [Guidelines](#)
- [Samples](#)
- [Tips to Consider When Drafting an AE Submission](#)
- [Powerpoint Presentations](#)
- [Federal Register Notices](#)
- [File On-Line via EFS-Web](#)
- [Contacts](#)

Statistics

Decisions on Petitions to Make Special (May 29, 2015)

Fiscal Year of Decision	Granted	Dismissed	Denied	Undecided
2015	32	26	28	73
2014	106	53	83	0
2013	150	97	112	0
2012	257	161	129	0
2011	690	354	240	0
2010	452	312	275	0

Fiscal Year of Decision	Granted	Dismissed	Denied	Undecided
2009	1130	664	358	0
2008	701	816	412	0
2007	219	363	341	0
2006	0	5	2	0

Decision Timelines on Petitions to Make Special (May 29, 2015)

Fiscal Year of Decision	Decisions	Pendency (Days) - Mailroom to Decision
2015	86	82.5
2014	243	93.5
2013	363	69.5
2012	554	66.3
2011	1297	64.3
2010	1051	58.3
2009	2178	93.9
2008	1963	57.4
2007	946	48.4
2006	7	21.9

2B43 First Action Pendency from Filing and PTMS Decision (May 29, 2015)

Fiscal Year of First Action	Eligible 2B43 First Actions	Pendency (Months)- Filing to First Action	Pendency (months) - Petition Decision to First Action
2015	42	5.77	2.42
2014	101	4.59	1.58
2013	149	4.88	1.48
2012	298	4.70	1.60

Fiscal Year of First Action	Eligible 2B43 First Actions	Pendency (Months)- Filing to First Action	Pendency (months) - Petition Decision to First Action
2011	678	4.65	1.90
2010	457	4.61	1.88
2009	1241	6.90	1.56
2008	538	4.83	1.61
2007	166	4.24	1.43
2006	0	0	0

2B43 Pendency from Filing and PTMS Decision (May 29, 2015)

Fiscal Year of Issue/Aband.	Eligible 2B43 Issues/Aband.	Pendency (months)- Filing to Issues/Aband.	Pendency (months)- Petition Decision to Issues/Aband.
2015	48	12.58	9.26
2014	126	14.68	11.39
2013	146	12.72	9.35
2012	445	9.90	6.66
2011	593	8.62	5.99
2010	825	11.42	6.79
2009	1097	10.90	6.25
2008	301	9.04	6.07
2007	45	6.87	4.41
2006	0	0	0

Comparison Chart of Domestic Acceleration Initiatives

[\(/sites/default/files/patents/process/file/accelerated/comp_chart_dom_accel.pdf\)](/sites/default/files/patents/process/file/accelerated/comp_chart_dom_accel.pdf) [PDF]

For more information on international worksharing programs and proposals, see the worksharing Web page:

http://www.uspto.gov/ip/global/patents/ir_pat_worksharing.jsp (/ip-policy/patent-policy/patent-worksharing)

Accelerated Examination Statistics

[\(/sites/default/files/patents/process/file/accelerated/ae_petition_status_2012apr09.pdf\)](/sites/default/files/patents/process/file/accelerated/ae_petition_status_2012apr09.pdf) [PDF] [data updated April 9, 2012]

Resources

Frequently Asked Questions (https://www.uspto.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ae_faq.pdf) [PDF] [updated March 28, 2018]

Guidelines

- **Guidelines for Applicants under the Accelerated Examination Procedure** (http://www.uspto.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ae_guidelines_20160816.pdf) [PDF] [updated August 16, 2016]
- **Basic Search Strategy** (/sites/default/files/web/patents/accelerated/ae_basic_search_strategy.ppt) [PPT]
- **PCT Minimum Documentation** (http://wipo.int/standards/en/part_04.html)

Samples

- **Sample AE Pre-Examination Search Document** (/sites/default/files/web/patents/accelerated/ae_presearch_sample.doc) [DOC]
- **Sample AE Support Document** (/sites/default/files/web/patents/accelerated/ae_support_document_sample.doc) [DOC]

Tips to Consider When Drafting an AE Submission

- **Accelerated Examination Tips** (/sites/default/files/web/patents/accelerated/ae_tips_061907.doc) [DOC]

Powerpoint Presentations

- **Accelerated Examination Web Seminar Presentation on November 2, 2006** (/web/patents/accelerated/documents/ae_webinar_version.ppt) [PPT]
 - **ZIP version** (/web/patents/accelerated/documents/ae_webinar_version.zip) [ZIP]
- **Revised Accelerated Examination Program and Petition to Make Special Procedures** (/sites/default/files/web/offices/pac/dapp/opla/presentation/accelerated_exam.ppt) [PPT]
 - **ZIP version** (/sites/default/files/web/offices/pac/dapp/opla/presentation/accelerated_exam.zip) [ZIP]

Federal Register Notices

- **Changes in Accelerated Examination Practice** (<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-08-16/pdf/2016-19527.pdf>) (81 Fed. Reg. 54564 - August 16, 2016) [PDF]
- **Changes to Practice for Petitions in Patent Applications To Make Special and for Accelerated Examination** (</sites/default/files/web/offices/com/sol/notices/71fr36323.pdf>) (71 Fed. Reg. 36323 - 26Jun2006) [PDF]

File On-Line via EFS-Web

- **EFS-Web** (<https://sportal.uspto.gov/secure/myportal/efs-registered>) (for Registered (/ebc/portal/infocustomernumber.htm) users)
- **EFS-Web Help & Tutorials** (</patents/apply/applying-online/efs-web-guidance-and-resources>) (new users please start here)

- [Tutorial \(/sites/default/files/web/patents/accelerated/ae_accelerated_examination_tutorial.pdf\)](/sites/default/files/web/patents/accelerated/ae_accelerated_examination_tutorial.pdf) [PDF]
Filing for Accelerated Examination Of a New Application ; Responding to the USPTO about an Accelerated Examination Application
- [Fillable Form SB/28 \(/sites/default/files/web/forms/sb0028_fill.pdf\)](/sites/default/files/web/forms/sb0028_fill.pdf) (Petition to Make Special Under Accelerated Examination Program Form) [PDF]
- [Form SB/28 with sample information \(/sites/default/files/web/patents/accelerated/sample_sb0028_fill.pdf\)](/sites/default/files/web/patents/accelerated/sample_sb0028_fill.pdf) [PDF]

Contacts

- [AcceleratedExam@uspto.gov \(mailto:AcceleratedExam@uspto.gov\)](mailto:AcceleratedExam@uspto.gov).
- [Patent EBC Customer Support Center \(/learning-and-resources/support-centers/electronic-business-center/patent-online-services\)](/learning-and-resources/support-centers/electronic-business-center/patent-online-services).

Interim filing procedure for sequence listings:

On October 14, 2006 the USPTO deployed the newest release of EFS-Web. EFS-Web is now capable of handling sequence listings and other large text files. Therefore, the interim procedures for filing such large text files are no longer available. Applicants must file the entire application through the new improved EFS-Web interface.

- Some contents linked to on this page require a plug-in for [DOC \(/using-usptogov/browser-plugins/plugins-word-processing-spreadsheets-and-presentations\)](/using-usptogov/browser-plugins/plugins-word-processing-spreadsheets-and-presentations) files.
- Some contents linked to on this page require a plug-in for [PDF \(/using-usptogov/browser-plugins/plugins-pdf\)](/using-usptogov/browser-plugins/plugins-pdf) files.
- Some contents linked to on this page require a plug-in for [PPT \(/using-usptogov/browser-plugins/plugins-word-processing-spreadsheets-and-presentations\)](/using-usptogov/browser-plugins/plugins-word-processing-spreadsheets-and-presentations) files.
- Some contents linked to on this page require a plug-in for [ZIP \(/using-usptogov/browser-plugins/plugins-zip\)](/using-usptogov/browser-plugins/plugins-zip) files.

Submit feedback about this page to **Office of Patent Legal Administration**.

Published on: Apr 9, 2018 06:17 PM EDT

Last Modified: Apr 9, 2018 06:17 PM EDT