APIs for exchanging information with your IP management systems

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What APIs are currently available?

We have developed MyEPO business-to-business technical interfaces – referred to as APIs (Application Programming Interfaces) – that your IT department can use to connect your IP management systems directly to MyEPO services and therefore automate filing submissions and receiving communications from the EPO.

MyEPO APIs are in line with World Intellectual Property Office recommendations for processing and communicating Intellectual Property data using Web APIs, specifically WIPO Standard ST.90.

The following APIs are currently available:

Mailbox API

You can use this API to download Mailbox content, including documents and metadata.

It is available in a "sandbox" environment that contains dummy data, so that you can test the API from your IP management systems.

Once you have completed your technical tests in the sandbox environment, you can connect to the API in our live "production" environment to handle your Mailbox communications.

Online Filing 2.0 API

This API allows you to import, export, submit, get the status, and delete all EP forms in Online Filing 2.0.

Import of PCT forms is not yet covered, as these are not yet available in the WIPO's ePCT offering.

The API is available for testing using "demo" mode in Online Filing 2.0, as well as in live "production" mode once you have completed testing.

How do I know whether my IP management software is ready to use the EPO's APIs?

You should check this with your software supplier or IT department directly.

However, if your company uses a commercially available IP management software package, you can contact support@epo.org or your EPO key account manager if you have one, and we can confirm whether the software supplier has contacted us for access to test the APIs.

Are the credentials the same for the Mailbox API and the Online Filing 2.0 API?

Yes.

When you request API credentials the first time, we will create a B2B (business-to-business) account for your MyEPO Portfolio company and send your company administrator credentials consisting of a client ID and secret for this account.

These credentials and the B2B account can be used for all MyEPO APIs, including the Mailbox API and the Online Filing 2.0 API.

Your company administrator will see the B2B account in list of company members in the administration area of MyEPO Portfolio and should assign Mailbox access rights.

In Online Filing 2.0, your company administrator should first add the B2B user to your company and make sure that it has been assigned “draft rights” at minimum.

How can I review and sign submissions when using the Online Filing 2.0 API?

For the review step, if there is a submission package in Online Filing 2.0 that you would like to review without using the Online Filing 2.0 web application, you can use the API’s export endpoint to download the package and perform the review in your in-house IP management software.

For the sign step, you can use the API to import a submission package to which you have already applied the signature in the XML file. During import, Online Filing 2.0 checks that the package meets the minimum requirements.

If there are no critical errors, the package will appear with “Ready to Send” status, and the signatures will also be rendered in the PDF file. If you are satisfied with the reviewed and signed package, you can use the API’s submit endpoint to send it.

If there are critical errors, the package will appear with “Draft” status in Online Filing 2.0 and the signature will not be applied.

Where can I go for more information or if I’m not sure?

The MyEPO feature guide on “APIs for exchanging information with your IP management systems” provides links to the technical documentation in Swagger and step-by-step instructions.

In case of questions, please contact support@epo.org or your EPO key account manager if you have one.