MyEPO services

Feature guide: APIs for exchanging information with your IP management systems

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Content

1. Introduction

Many companies using MyEPO services – Online Filing 2.0, MyEPO and Central Fee Payment – have their own in-house IP management and docketing systems, which they use for managing all their patent and trademark business with organisations worldwide including the EPO, EUIPO, regional and national IP offices.

In addition to using our MyEPO services via the epo.org website, some companies connect their IP management systems directly to MyEPO services so they can automate filing submissions and receiving communications from the EPO.

We provide MyEPO business-to-business technical interfaces – referred to as APIs (Application Programming Interfaces) – that your IT department can use to make this exchange of digital information possible.

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.

In this feature guide, we explain how to start using the APIs that are currently available:

- MyEPO API for Mailbox content and information about applications
- Online Filing 2.0 API for submitting EP forms

To guide you further, you can find all technical documentation about our APIs on the MyEPO Developer Portal, and we have also published some “frequently asked questions” (FAQs) about APIs for exchanging information with your IP management systems.

Please contact your IP management software supplier or IT department if you aren’t sure whether your in-house IP management software is ready to use the EPO’s APIs.

You can always get in touch with us at epo.org/support or through your key account manager if you still aren’t sure about something.

2. MyEPO API

This API allows you to:

- retrieve lists of Mailbox communications (handled, unhandled) and lists of folders
- download Mailbox communications (documents and data)
- move Mailbox communications into a folder and mark as handled
- retrieve due fees for an application
- retrieve due dates for an application and descriptions for the terms indicated
- retrieve all applications, portfolios and all applications for a given portfolio
- retrieve bibliographic data
- retrieve the schedule of fees
- update user references

It is available in a “sandbox” environment that contains dummy data that allows you to 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.

2.1 How to get started with the “Sandbox” environment

Step 1: read the MyEPO API “sandbox” technical documentation to understand the functional scope of the API and how it works technically.

Step 2: contact epo.org/support to request sandbox client credentials for testing the MyEPO API

- We will send you credentials consisting of an OAuth 2.0 standard client ID and client secret for your company to access the sandbox environment.

Step 3: connect your IP management system using the provided client credentials and test the API

Following the instructions provided in the MyEPO API “sandbox” technical documentation, which includes a set of examples of how to use the API in Python, Java and Javascript.

2.2 How to get started with the live “production” environment

Step 1: read the MyEPO API “production” technical documentation to understand the functional scope of the API and how it works technically.

Step 2: if you don’t already have a B2B (business-to-business) account with credentials for your company, contact epo.org/support to request production client credentials for using MyEPO APIs.

- Before you submit your request, make sure your company is already using MyEPO. In other words, you already have at least one user of MyEPO associated with your company and you already have at least one company administrator. For more information, see section 2.2 of the MyEPO feature guide on your EPO account and two-factor authentication.

- In your request for credentials to epo.org/support, please specify which MyEPO company these credentials are for.
- We will create a B2B (business-to-business) account for your company and send credentials consisting of an OAuth 2.0 standard client ID and client secret for this account to the company administrator.
- These credentials and the B2B account can be used for all MyEPO APIs. Company administrators should take care not to share these credentials with people who should not have access to confidential company information.

Step 3: authorise the B2B account in MyEPO

- Your company administrator will see the B2B account in list of company members in the administration area of MyEPO and of Online Filing 2.0 and should grant it Mailbox access rights.
- In addition, the API will only be able to retrieve or update information about applications if your company administrator has granted permissions for the B2B account to access the portfolios to which the applications belong. These permissions can be granted in the Applications and patents area of MyEPO.

For more information about granting access, see the MyEPO feature guide about managing user access in MyEPO.

Step 4: connect your IP management system using the provided client credentials

Following the instructions provided in the MyEPO API “production” technical documentation, which includes a set of examples of how to use the API in Python, Java and Javascript.

3. 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.

3.1 How to get started in "demo" mode

Step 1: read the OLF2.0 API technical documentation to understand the functional scope of the API and how it works technically.

Step 2: if you don't already have a B2B (business-to-business) account with credentials for your company, contact epo.org/support to request production client credentials for using MyEPO APIs.

- Before you submit your request, make sure your company is already using MyEPO. In other words, you already have at least one user of MyEPO associated with your company and you already have at least one company administrator. For more information, see section 2.2 of the MyEPO feature guide on your EPO account and two-factor authentication.
- In your request for credentials to epo.org/support, please specify which MyEPO company these credentials are for.
- We will create a B2B (business-to-business) account for your company and send credentials consisting of an OAuth 2.0 standard client ID and client secret for this account to your company administrator.
- These credentials and the B2B account can be used for all MyEPO APIs, whether in "demo" or "production" mode. Company administrators should take care not to share these credentials with people who should not have access to confidential company information.

Step 3: in "demo" mode, add the B2B account as a user to your company and authorise it in the administration area of Online Filing 2.0

- In the Online Filing 2.0 demo environment, your company administrator should add the B2B account as a user to your company, in the administration area of OLF2.0, under "Access rights / Permissions" by selecting to add a new user
- Upon adding it, the B2B account will appear in the list of company members in the administration area of Online Filing 2.0
- Your company administrator should assign "draft rights" to the B2B account in the Online Filing 2.0 demo environment.

Step 4: connect your IP management system using the provided client credentials.

- Following the instructions provided in the OLF2.0 API technical documentation.
- The base URL for the demo API is https://api.apps.epo.org/latest/olf20/demo

3.2 How to get started in live "production" mode

Step 1: read the OLF2.0 API technical documentation to understand the functional scope of the API and how it works technically.

Step 2: if you don't already have a B2B (business-to-business) account with credentials for your company, contact epo.org/support to request production client credentials for using MyEPO APIs.

- Before you submit your request, make sure your company is already using MyEPO. In other words, you already have at least one user of MyEPO associated with your company and you already have at least one company administrator. For more information, see section 2.2 of the MyEPO feature guide on your EPO account and two-factor authentication.
- In your request for credentials to epo.org/support, please specify which MyEPO company these credentials are for.
- We will create a B2B (business-to-business) account for your company and send credentials consisting of an OAuth 2.0 standard client ID and client secret for this account to your company administrator.
- These credentials and the B2B account can be used for all MyEPO APIs, whether in "demo" or "production" mode. Company administrators should take care not to share these credentials with people who should not have access to confidential company information.

Step 3: Add the B2B account as a user to your company and authorise it in the administration area of Online Filing 2.0

- Your company administrator should add the B2B account as a user to your company, in the administration area of OLF2.0, under "Access rights / Permissions" by selecting to add a new user
- Upon adding it, the B2B account will appear in the list of company members in the administration area of Online Filing 2.0
- Your company administrator should assign "draft rights" to the B2B account in Online Filing 2.0.

Step 4: connect your IP management system using the provided client credentials.

- Following the instructions provided in the OLF2.0 API technical documentation.
- The base URL for the production API is https://api.apps.epo.org/latest/olf20/prod