

Publications

Patent Office Updates You Need to Know (August 11, 2021)

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As part of our dedication to helping our clients stay up-to-date on the ever-changing landscape as it relates to the COVID-19 pandemic, we've compiled the following highlights of changes to patent, trademark, and copyright operations around the world.

The following are a few recent updates identified in the past month. However, as always, a complete list of countries may be [found in our Google Document](#).

Update Highlights

- The Federal Circuit has updated its access restrictions to the National Courts Building complex through August 31, 2021. All persons must wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status. Fully vaccinated individuals, though, do not need to observe social distancing.
- The USPTO has made the **July 2021 Trademark Manual of Examining Procedure** (TMEP) available online. The update reflects final rules, examination guides, and any other statement of USPTO policy, as well Supreme Court decisions. The USPTO also published a **change summary**.
- The European Patent Office (EPO) has announced that the Boards of Appeal have revised some of their measures for the arrangement and conduct of oral proceedings: self tests are strongly recommended and new rules on access to the buildings for vaccinated and recovered people are in place. More information [here](#).
- Other general closures & deadline extensions have been added to the document.

If you have any patent or trademark questions during this time, do not hesitate to contact us.