

## **eCofC FAQs**

Last Updated January 16, 2024

### **When will certificates of correction be issued electronically?**

Electronic certificate of correction (eCofC) will begin on January 30, 2024. All certificates of correction will be issued electronically beginning on that date, regardless of when the request was received.

### **Will certificates of correction issued before January 30, 2024 be issued again electronically?**

We will not reissue any paper certificates of correction in electronic form. For all certificates of correction issued prior to January 30, 2024, the paper certificate will still be the official certificate of correction provided for by statute.

### **How will I be notified of my electronic certificate of correction?**

The USPTO will provide an eCofC Notification the day that the certificate of correction is granted to inform you that the electronic certificate of correction is now available. For those applicants who participate in the e-Office action program, the USPTO will email the notification of the eCofC to the applicant's designated email address. For those who do not participate in the e-Office action program, the USPTO will mail the eCofC Notification to the correspondence address of record.

### **How do I ensure the authenticity of an eCofC?**

The USPTO seal on an electronic certificate of correction will be the same as the seal which currently appears on electronically granted patents. This USPTO seal includes a digital signature. The digital signature ensures the authenticity of the eCofC by digitally signing the file, which informs the user that the certificate was created by the USPTO and has not been altered. Any alterations or changes to the document would invalidate the digital signature. To fully view and see the digital signature properties and additional details, please download the eCofC file to your computer and open with a PDF-viewing application.

### **Will there be a ceremonial copy of eCofC?**

There will be no ceremonial copy of electronic certificates of correction. A certified copy of a U.S. Patent will include any certificate of correction that has been issued, and is available from the Certified Copy Center at <https://certifiedcopycenter.uspto.gov/>.

### **Will you still issue a duplicate certificate of correction if needed for certificates issued prior to January 30, 2024?**

For certificates of correction issued prior to January 30, 2024, a request for a duplicate paper certificate of correction may be filed as a petition under 37 CFR 1.182. Should the petition be granted, the USPTO will produce a duplicate paper certificate of correction.

**What options are available for obtaining a printed copy of a certificate of correction issued electronically?**

Patentees and the public will be able to print an unlimited number of copies of an electronically issued certificate of correction at no charge through Patent Center on or after the issue date of the certificate. Additionally, a certified copy of a U.S. Patent will include any certificate of correction that has been issued, and is available from the Certified Copy Center at <https://certifiedcopycenter.uspto.gov/>.

**What do I do if I am having trouble accessing my electronic certificate of correction due to a disability?**

The electronic certificates of correction found in Patent Center may not meet all standards for web accessibility. You can view accessible versions of the certificates of correction appended to granted patents using the USPTO Patent Public Search tool. If you experience difficulties accessing your electronic certificate of correction or have any questions, please contact the Patents Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 1-866-217-9197, Monday through Friday from 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. eastern time.

Additionally, Patent and Trademark Resource Centers can help access certificates of correction via the USPTO Patent Public Search page. More information and locations of Patent and Trademark Resource Centers is available at <https://www.uspto.gov/learning-and-resources/support-centers/patent-and-trademark-resource-centers-ptrcs>.

**If I received a paper patent grant issued before April 18, 2023, will I receive a paper copy of the certificate of correction?**

All certificates of correction will be issued electronically beginning on January 30, 2024, regardless of whether the underlying patent was issued on paper or electronically.

**Will eCofC impact the standards for deciding a request for a certificate of correction?**

The transition to electronic certificates of correction will have no impact on the substantive determination of whether a request for certificate of correction is granted. For more information on the standards for granting a certificate of correction, see MPEP 1480 and 1481.