



Patents Act 1977

1977 CHAPTER 37

PART III

MISCELLANEOUS AND GENERAL

Supplemental

[^{F1}124A. Use of electronic communications

- (1) The comptroller may [^{F2}give] directions as to the form and manner in which documents to be delivered to the comptroller—
 - (a) in electronic form; or
 - (b) using electronic communications,are to be delivered to him.
- (2) A direction under subsection (1) may provide that in order for a document to be delivered in compliance with the direction it shall be accompanied by one or more additional documents specified in the direction.
- (3) [^{F3}Subject to subsections (14) and (15), if a document to which a direction under subsection (1) or (2)] applies is delivered to the comptroller in a form or manner which does not comply with the direction the comptroller may treat the document as not having been delivered.
- (4) Subsection (5) applies in relation to a case where—
 - (a) a document is delivered using electronic communications, and
 - (b) there is a requirement for a fee to accompany the document.
- (5) The comptroller may [^{F4}give] directions specifying—
 - (a) how the fee shall be paid; [^{F5}and]
 - (b) when the fee shall be deemed to have been paid.
- (6) The comptroller may [^{F6}give] directions specifying that a person who delivers a document to the comptroller in electronic form or using electronic communications

Changes to legislation: Patents Act 1977, Section 124A is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 24 January 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

cannot treat the document as having been delivered unless its delivery has been acknowledged.

(7) The comptroller may [^{F7}give] directions specifying how a time of delivery is to be accorded to a document delivered to him in electronic form or using electronic communications.

(8) A direction under this section may be given—

- (a) generally;
- (b) in relation to a description of cases specified in the direction;
- (c) in relation to a particular person or persons.

^{F8}(9)

^{F8}(10)

(11) A direction under this section may be varied or revoked by a subsequent direction under this section.

^{F9}(12)

[^{F10}(13) The delivery using electronic communications to any person by the comptroller of any document is deemed to be effected, unless the comptroller has otherwise specified, by transmitting an electronic communication containing the document to an address provided or made available to the comptroller by that person as an address of his for the receipt of electronic communications; and unless the contrary is proved such delivery is deemed to be effected immediately upon the transmission of the communication.

(14) A requirement of this Act that something must be done in the prescribed manner is satisfied in the case of something that is done—

- (a) using a document in electronic form, or
- (b) using electronic communications,

only if the directions under this section that apply to the manner in which it is done are complied with.

(15) In the case of an application made as mentioned in subsection (14)(a) or (b) above, a reference in this Act to the application not having been made in compliance with rules or requirements of this Act includes a reference to its not having been made in compliance with any applicable directions under this section.

(16) This section applies—

- (a) to delivery at, in, with or to the Patent Office as it applies to delivery to the comptroller; and
- (b) to delivery by the Patent Office as it applies to delivery by the comptroller.]]

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 124A inserted (1.4.2003) by [Patents Act 1977 \(Electronic Communications\) Order 2003 \(S.I. 2003/512\)](#), arts. 1, 2
- F2** Word in s. 124A(1) substituted (1.10.2006) by [Registered Designs Act 1949 and Patents Act 1977 \(Electronic Communications\) Order 2006 \(S.I. 2006/1229\)](#), arts. 1, **4(2)**
- F3** Words in s. 124A(3) substituted (1.10.2006) by [Registered Designs Act 1949 and Patents Act 1977 \(Electronic Communications\) Order 2006 \(S.I. 2006/1229\)](#), arts. 1, **4(3)**

Changes to legislation: Patents Act 1977, Section 124A is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 24 January 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) [View outstanding changes](#)

- F4** Word in s. 124A(5) substituted (1.10.2006) by Registered Designs Act 1949 and Patents Act 1977 (Electronic Communications) Order 2006 (S.I. 2006/1229), arts. 1, **4(4)(a)**
- F5** Word in s. 124A(5) inserted (1.10.2006) by Registered Designs Act 1949 and Patents Act 1977 (Electronic Communications) Order 2006 (S.I. 2006/1229), arts. 1, **4(4)(b)**
- F6** Word in s. 124A(6) substituted (1.10.2006) by Registered Designs Act 1949 and Patents Act 1977 (Electronic Communications) Order 2006 (S.I. 2006/1229), arts. 1, **4(5)**
- F7** Word in s. 124A(7) substituted (1.10.2006) by Registered Designs Act 1949 and Patents Act 1977 (Electronic Communications) Order 2006 (S.I. 2006/1229), arts. 1, **4(6)**
- F8** S. 124A(9)(10) omitted (1.10.2006) by virtue of Registered Designs Act 1949 and Patents Act 1977 (Electronic Communications) Order 2006 (S.I. 2006/1229), arts. 1, **4(7)**
- F9** S. 124A(12) omitted (1.10.2006) by virtue of Registered Designs Act 1949 and Patents Act 1977 (Electronic Communications) Order 2006 (S.I. 2006/1229), arts. 1, **4(7)**
- F10** S. 124A(13)-(16) substituted for s. 124A(13)-(15) (1.10.2006) by Registered Designs Act 1949 and Patents Act 1977 (Electronic Communications) Order 2006 (S.I. 2006/1229), arts. 1, **4(8)**

Changes to legislation:

Patents Act 1977, Section 124A is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 24 January 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 56(4)(a)(iiia) and word added by [S.I. 2006/1056 Sch. para. 2\(b\)](#) (This amendment comes into force on the day on which 2005 asp 13, s. 20 comes into force, see art. 1(2)(b))
- s. 63(3)(a) words in s. 63(3) renumbered as s. 63(3)(a) by [2004 c. 16 s. 2\(4\)](#) (Amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S. 2(4) was repealed (29.4.2006) by S.I. 2006/1028, art. 2(4), Sch. 4)
- s. 63(3)(b) and word inserted by [2004 c. 16 s. 2\(4\)](#) (Amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S. 2(4) was repealed (29.4.2006) by S.I. 2006/1028, art. 2(4), Sch. 4)