

INVITATION TO A WEBINAR

organized by FICPI Sweden

on Thursday 24 April 2025

14:30 to 17:00 CET (Stockholm)

Not able to attend? Don't worry, the webinar will be recorded

Grace period rules in various jurisdictions— a 'round-the-world tour in 2,5 hours

Grace period rules can be used to give patent applicants a welcome respite in certain circumstances. A grace period is an exception to the absolute novelty requirement, whereby an applicant's prior disclosure is removed from prior art if it occurs in the grace period time window. Grace periods are implemented in a number of countries, but the way the grace period is implemented varies across the world.

Whereas the EPC protects an applicant against prior disclosure of the invention due to abuse or display at an international exhibition, many countries have a much broader definition of graced disclosures. Also, the duration of the grace period differs (six months or twelve months). What is the relevant reference date in each jurisdiction? Is it the priority date or the filing date?

Moreover, since the implementation of a grace period relates to the novelty of an invention, the relations Grace Period - Conflicting Applications and Grace Period – Prior User Rights are also of importance.

How do various jurisdictions balance these competing interests?

FICPI Sweden has gathered several experts in these fields, who are going to share their perspectives on these issues.

SEMINAR PROGRAM 24 April 2025

Grace period rules in various jurisdictions— a ‘round the world tour in 2,5 hours

(the below times are Central European Summer Time, CEST)

14:30

WELCOME ADDRESS

Louise Jonshammar, President FICPI Sweden

Michael Andersson, Vice President FICPI Sweden

14:40 – 15:20

An overview of Grace Periods in AU, NZ, JP and KR

Michael Caine, Principal at DAVIES COLLISON CAVE



Michael Caine is a Principal at DCC, where his professional activities include drafting and prosecuting patent applications, providing patent infringement and validity advice, conducting patent oppositions, filing and prosecuting patent term extensions and providing strategic patenting advice. Michael has been Vice President of FICPI since 2022 after serving four years as Vice President of FICPI's Study & Work Commission (CET).

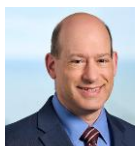
Michael is Past President of the Institute of Patent and Trade Mark Attorneys of Australia (IPTA).

Michael was involved in overseeing the preparation of submissions to IP Australia and other Government bodies in relation to Australian patent law and practice on behalf of IPTA. He also consulted extensively with IP Australia during his time on the IPTA council, particularly in his role as member of their Patents Consultation Group.

15.20 – 15.40

Pros and Cons of Grace Periods in the US

M. David Galin - Partner at Tucker Ellis LLP



David focuses on the strategic acquisition of intellectual property, including preparing and prosecuting utility and design patent applications.

He also uses his technical education and experience to provide valuable counsel to clients on various intellectual property matters, preparing patent opinions, handling trademark matters, and handling patent applications prosecuted globally. David has represented clients in technologies including consumer electronics, semiconductor devices for high-speed computer processors and flash memory assemblies, computer programs, software-based control systems, telecommunication systems, micro-electrical mechanical systems (MEMS), electrical circuits, optical devices, computer hardware, remote monitoring, and mechanical assemblies.

15.40-15.45 Short break

15.45- 16.05 Grace Periods in INDIA



Swarup Kumar, Managing Partner at Kumar & Sardana Associates

Swarup Kumar is a seasoned IP Attorney and a registered Patent Agent with an experience of over two decades in the IP profession. He has worked closely with Fortune 500 multi-nationals as well as small and medium enterprises building their IP portfolio (Patent, Trademark, Design etc.), protecting, defending and enforcing their IP rights. Swarup has prosecuted and supervised prosecution of thousands of patent applications and is also experienced in dealing with high-stake erstwhile Appellate Board (IPAB) and Court matters.

Swarup is currently Deputy Secretary General (DSG) of FICPI and he is one of the founder members of FICPI-India. He has published several peer reviewed papers, articles, pieces about IP (Patent) law and practice, and attends various reputed IP conferences.

16.05– 16.20 Grace Periods in CANADA

Alex Ross, Partner at Gowling WLG



Alex Ross is a lawyer and registered Canadian patent agent. He gained valuable experience early in his career working as an in-house intellectual property lawyer at IBM Canada. Alex delivers a full range of IP services to a wide variety of clients – from startups to multinational companies – with a focus on the Golden Horseshoe, including Hamilton and the Niagara Region, and he works with both Innovate Niagara and Hamilton's Innovation Factory. His work encompasses all areas of intellectual property law, including patents, copyright, trademarks and industrial designs. Alex's patent practice includes patent drafting and prosecution, preparation of patent infringement and validity opinions, and advising on patent strategy, with a focus on mechanical devices (including fitness equipment) and computer and information technology.

16.20– 16.45 Non-prejudicial disclosures under the EPC and European user positions on the grace period

Ms Sylvie Strobel, Lawyer in the EPO's IP Lab, Patent Law Harmonisation directorate

Sylvie Strobel, LL.B. (Montreal), Member of the Quebec Bar, former Fellow of the Max-Planck-Institute for Foreign and International Patent, Copyright and Competition Law (now Max-Planck-Institute for Innovation and Competition), has been a lawyer at the European Patent Office in Munich since 1997 and currently works in the IP Lab - Patent Law Harmonisation Department. She deals inter alia with substantive patent law harmonization, TRIPs and WTO issues, the PLT, EU law, and trade issues. She is currently a member of the Group B+ Working Group on SPLH.

16.45– 17.00 FICPI's continuous work on Substantive Patent Law Harmonisation

Michael Andersson , Vice President FICPI Sweden, Senior Partner, Zacco Sweden

General Information

Registration

Webinar attendance: register at this [link](#) no later than **April 23**. Please indicate your **name, email address**, and whether you are a **FICPI member** (we will contact you regarding your invoice address after registration).

Attendance in person: We are happy to welcome you to join the seminar in person at AWA Sweden in Stockholm. Register by email to info@ficpiseden.se no later than **April 23**. Please indicate your **name** and **invoice address**, and whether you are a **FICPI member**. Address: Jakobsbergsgatan 36, 7th floor, after the seminar, we invite you to stay for refreshments and mingle.

Price

Attendance (webinar and in person): 400 SEK for FICPI members, 900 SEK for non-FICPI members
The registration fee will be invoiced, your payment is expected within 30 days.

FICPI Sweden

FICPI Sweden is the Swedish part of FICPI which is an international organization, with members from more than 80 countries. FICPI works for patent and trademark attorneys in the free profession, with issues relating to their daily work as well as IP law issues on a global scale. The membership in FICPI Sweden, which is prerequisite for membership in FICPI International, provides a global network of IP professionals, and a possibility to understand and participate in the development of IP law throughout the world.

FICPI Sweden runs regular seminars focusing on current issues and trends in IP being of interest to IP practitioners. The seminars are open for all, but FICPI members enjoy a reduced registration fee. If you are interested in membership, send an email to info@ficpiseden.se for more information.

Membership in FICPI Sweden

Anyone who applies for membership in FICPI Sweden (contact info@ficpiseden.se) will enjoy a reduced membership fee for two years and will enjoy the lower registration fee for this seminar. Please note that only IP professionals in private practice are eligible for FICPI membership.

CLE Credits

FICPI Sweden submits all its seminars to Swedish *Patentombudsnämnden* for your convenience when you report the seminar as part of your Continued Legal Education (CLE, *Sw. Professionell Vidareutbildning, PVU*) in Sweden. Upon request, we are happy to provide you with a certificate of attendance from FICPI Sweden.