

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

1. General Description

What is *China IP Law Search*?

China IP Law Search is a search tool and information source designed to help users find and access legal resources on the current legislative framework of intellectual property protection and enforcement in China.

Who is involved?

China IP Law Search is an initiative of the EU-China IPR2 Project in co-operation with China International Electronic Commerce Centre (CIECC), the organisers of 'Intellectual Property Protection in China' www.ipr.gov.cn – an information platform, under the Ministry of Commerce of China, aimed at comprehensively reflecting China's establishment of an IP legal system of protection with the basic goal of providing widespread access to IP-related information both in English and Chinese to the public.

What type of laws does it search?

China IP Law Search contains more than 140 legal texts including laws, ministry rules, judicial interpretations etc. covering the major fields of intellectual property such as Administrative and Administrative Procedure Law, Copyrights, Civil and Civil Procedure Law, Criminal and Criminal Procedure Law, Customs Protection, General IP Protection, Geographical Indications, Integrated Circuit Layout Designs, Internet-related, Patents, New Plant Varieties, Technology Transfer, Trademarks, and Unfair Competition and Anti-Monopoly.

Who can use *China IP Law Search*? How much does it cost?

Access to *China IP Law Search* is free-of-charge to all users, whether they be students, academics, legal practitioners, government officials or companies. It does not require a login or password; and where possible (given copyright), the full text of each reference can be readily downloaded. Where a full translation is not freely available, a commercial source is offered.

How will *China IP Law Search* be updated and maintained?

The legal texts and links on *China IP Law Search* will be updated on an ongoing basis, as new laws are adopted and take effect and as previous legislations are revised, and their respective translations are made available. This is an objective of the partnership between IPR2 and CIECC, within the scope of Intellectual Property Protection in China' www.ipr.gov.cn, and is an important part of the sustainability of the tool.

2. Basic Operations

How can I search for a law?

You can search for a law in three different ways:

1. Using the quick search panel on the homepage
Input a keyword(s) or a short citation of the law you are searching for, then click "GO".
2. Clicking on a specific field of IP on the homepage
Click on one of the 14 fields of IP on the homepage and you will see the search results page.
3. Using the Advanced Search Page
The advanced search page can be reached by clicking "Advanced Search" on the quick search panel. It provides some choices of fields, categories and law-making body to refine your search. You can also search in file names, short descriptions or full texts defining the dates effective, so as to narrow down the list of results as much as possible.

In what way will the search results display?

The search tool returns results in order of relevance. On the result page, there is the option for the user to sort them in ascending or descending alphabetical order or by category of law, effective date or law-making body.

What if I get too many results?

The user can filter a search by selecting the field, category and law-making body from the box at the top right-hand side of the results page.

3. Site Features

How reliable is the information provided by *China IP Law Search*?

While the information provided by *China IP Law Search* is not exhaustive, it aims to be as informative and accurate as possible. All of the Chinese legal texts and the majority of the English translations are derived from official sources and are regularly updated. However, given that the database relies on numerous and external sources of information, neither *China IP Law Search* nor its partners can provide guarantees or assurances of the accuracy, completeness or up-to-date nature of the contents. Users are advised to confirm information from another source if it is of sufficient importance to do so.

Why should I use *China IP Law Search* and not just Google?

A Google search covers the entire Internet with a wide range of articles returned, many of which may not be relevant nor come from a reliable source. A search using *China IP Law Search* does not provide as many results, but only covers the relevant legal texts for IP in China, allowing for a fast and comprehensive search with results that are systematically arranged and can be downloaded for easy reference as Word documents.

What are the key features of *China IP Law Search*?

- A comprehensive collection of key IP laws in China
- Free-of-charge
- User-friendly
- Based on simple-to-follow search operations
- content download possible in English and Chinese
- Regularly updated

4. Other questions

Can the information provided by *China IP Law Search* be used for other purposes?

China IP Law Search provides references from open official sources with the exception of some translations, where their copyright is referenced accordingly. When used for purposes other than immediate reference, users should take into account the respective copyright policies of third parties.

Will there be a similar tool available for European IP laws?

A similar facility providing access to European legal IP references is foreseen. Depending on the extent of use of the *China IP Law Search*, a database of European references could be developed.

Your opinions, comments and suggestions are valued in order to continue to improve the quality and expand the quantity of references provided. We welcome your feedback at info@ipr2.org.

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