

Publications

Patent Office Updates You Need to Know (May 24, 2021)

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Carey C. Jordan

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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

- On May 19, 2021, the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board (TTAB) **introduced** additional programs for COVID-related applications. TTAB has announced a Pilot Prioritized Review Program for Appeals Related to COVID-19, which will prioritize examination and issuance of *ex parte* appeal decisions examined under the USPTO's COVID-19 Prioritized Trademark Examination Program. The TTAB is also launching a Conference Pilot Program for Oppositions Against Applications Related to COVID-19, which allows a TTAB attorney or judge to participate in the parties' mandatory settlement and discovery planning conference. More information on both programs is available [here](#).
- On May 20, 2021, the European Patent Office (EPO) **announced** that it is extending its videoconference pilot program for oral proceedings before the oppositions divisions. All oral proceedings will be held remotely through January 31, 2022. More info [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.