

PUBLIC NOTICE

Communication of First Examination Reports (FERs) in Design Applications only Through Electronic Mode

It is hereby notified for the information of all applicants, registered patent agents, advocates and other stakeholders that, with a view to promoting efficient and paperless administration and in furtherance of the Government's Digital India initiative the Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs & Trade Marks has decided to streamline the mode of communication of FERs relating to design applications.

Under the Designs Rules, 2001 (Rule 4) applicants are required to furnish their e-mail address, mobile number and contact details in the prescribed application form. Further, the Design e-Filing system provides an established electronic platform for filing applications, receiving official communications and submitting responses.

Accordingly, with effect from **02/10/2026**, FERs in respect of Design applications shall ordinarily be communicated to the applicants only through the e-mail address provided by them in Form-1 under the "Address for Service in India" particulars. Consequently, physical dispatch of FERs by post shall ordinarily be discontinued from the aforesaid date except where the Controller, for reasons to be recorded in writing, considers it necessary in the interest of justice or administrative exigencies. In view of the above, applicants, registered patent agents and advocates are advised to:

- ensure that the e-mail address is correctly entered in the designated field while filing the application through the Design e-Filing Portal or correctly provided in Form-1, where the application is filed physically, and that the said e-mail address remains valid, active and accessible throughout the prosecution of the application.
- regularly monitor their Inbox as well as the Spam/Junk folder of their registered e-mail account to ensure that official communications from the Patent Office are not inadvertently overlooked or filtered by the e-mail service provider.
- regularly check the Design application status for messages like "Application Under Process, Case is Waiting for Examination Report Reply (FER generated on date..)"
- promptly update any change in their contact details, including eMail address and mobile number wherever applicable, in accordance with the provisions of the Designs Act, 2000 and the Designs Rules, 2001.

This Public Notice shall come into force with effect from **02/10/2026**. All applicants, registered patent agents, advocates and other stakeholders are requested to take note of the above change in practice and take necessary measures accordingly.

Sd/-
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