

Adding and removing inventors

Adding or removing inventors from an application and correcting their details is possible. The deadline for providing the European Patent Office (EPO) with inventor details is 16 months from priority.

Adding an inventor

Adding an inventor to an application is very straightforward, assuming that adding the inventor does not affect who owns the patent (I.e., if the new inventor has assigned the application to the current owner or is employed by the current owner).

Removing an inventor

Removing an inventor is more complicated. The EPO requires statements from the inventor to be removed confirming that they are not an inventor, and from the remaining co-inventors to say that they invented all the inventions in the application.

Correcting inventor details

Correcting an inventor's name sits halfway between the two. The EPO is increasingly insisting on proof that there was an initial error. This proof should be straightforward to provide – it can take many forms, including a statement from the inventor, a paralegal, or an instructing attorney (indicating that a mistake was made in the initial file). One straightforward solution would be to provide a corresponding US patent with the correct inventor details on if one exists. Correcting or updating an inventor address is generally straightforward.

What next?

If you would like more information, then please get in touch.
You can email us info@barkerbrettell.co.uk or call us on **+44 (0)121 456 0000**.

This paper is intended as a guide only and should not be used as a substitute for legal advice. © 2026 - 2027 Barker Brettell LLP