

International Cooperation Department of the State Intellectual Property Office

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Kokuchi Gaiji [2026] No. 007

Letter Regarding Information about the Identity of Foreign Inventors

U.S. Embassy in China:

We have received your letter dated January 7 regarding questions concerning supporting documentation for the identity of foreign inventors. After review, our response is as follows:

Article 14 of the Implementing Regulations of the Patent Law stipulates that an inventor is a person who has made a creative contribution to the substantive features of an invention. Based on this provision, the State Intellectual Property Office revised the Patent Examination Guidelines (Order No. 84), adding requirements for the authenticity of inventors and their information, and clarifying that the request form should include the identity information of all inventors. Regarding how foreign inventors can meet the above requirements, considering the significant differences in the identity information that inventors from different countries can provide, in the patent business processing system, for inventors and designers who are not Chinese citizens, document type and document number are not mandatory fields. Relevant publicly available information only involves the names of the inventors and designers.

This is my reply.



January 15, 2026