

## Legal status information in freedom to operate (FTO) search reports

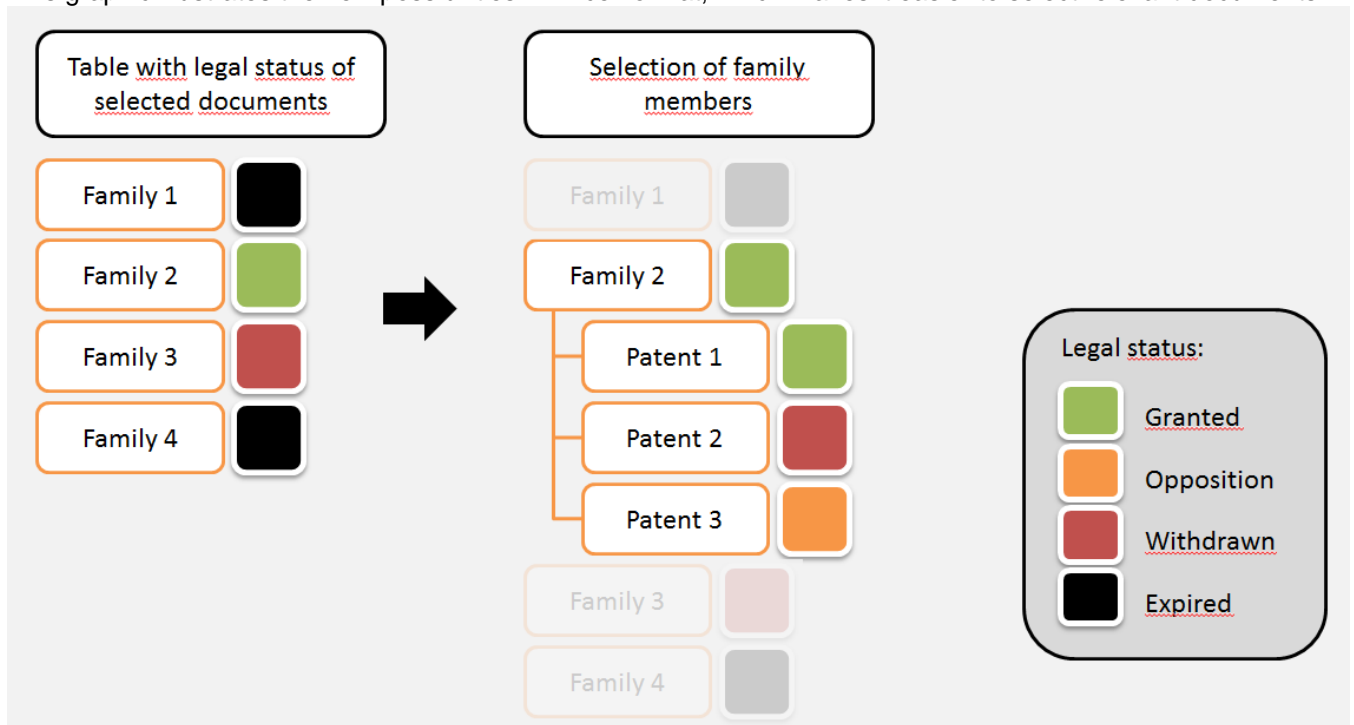
Our freedom to operate (FTO) search report is now available in a new format. This new format contains a tabular list of selected documents and the patent family members to which they belong, together with the corresponding legal status information. This means you can quickly identify and evaluate patent documents currently in force.

INPADOC events are condensed into simplified legal status codes from a total of 13 groups of legal status definitions. These simplified codes are marked with a colour code according to legal status, for example blue (published), green (granted), red (withdrawn) or black (expired).

You can access current legal status information via links directly embedded in the report, meaning you can retrieve relevant documents at a later date and keep track of the current legal status via the link. You can also query the legal status history record of each family member for the lifetime of the said patent family.

You can choose to have the report delivered either in the current Word document format supplemented with legal status information, or now also as an Excel file with family members grouped under the selected documents. Information on these documents is therefore clearly presented in a structured and concise way with a simple click on the respective patent family displaying the family members and its legal status.

This graphic illustrates the new possibilities in Excel format, which makes it easier to select relevant documents:



Legal status information is obtained from Minesoft's PatBase, a database containing over 45 million patent families:

<http://www.minesoft.com/patbase>

PatBase uses the Inpadoc legal status codes to establish its own definition of a simplified, normalised legal status. The most important PatBase codes have been adopted for use in our reports.