

Search Report (SR)
or
Search Report with Written Opinion (SRWO)

According to Regulation 1733/1987, patents are granted for inventions that are **new**, include an **inventive step** and **are industrially applicable**.

During the granting procedure of a patent and in order to establish whether the individual application meets the above-mentioned legal criteria, OBI conduct a worldwide search and draw up a report in which the most relevant documents revealed by the search (closest state of the art) are reported. These documents are listed on the second page of the search report, accompanied by specific symbols, e.g. X, Y, A..., which indicate whether these document affect the “novelty” or the “inventive step” of the invention under consideration. This type of search report is designated as **Simple Search Report (SSR)** and does not contain any comment by OBI.

The **Search Report with Written Opinion** includes, apart from the listing of the relevant documents with the specific symbols, comments which interpret the search report and explain why the listed documents affect the invention under consideration or not. Part of these comments also refers to the industrial applicability requirement.

These comments are of high value both for the inventor himself and for third parties since it provides a clear view of the level of novelty and inventive step of the application and thus of the patent derived therefrom.

Furthermore, the **search report with written opinion** helps the applicant to decide whether it is worth continuing the patent procedure by filing a European or International application as well as what kind of amendments to make in the application description, and finally which are the prospects for a commercial exploitation of the rights provided by said patent.

The applicants who file an application for a patent or a patent of modification after **31st August 2009** may choose a SSR or a SRWO, after paying the respective fee.

The selection can be made either during filing by filling in the relevant field in the first page of the application form, or at any other time within the 4 months term from the filing date, by submitting the form “**Search Report Statement**”.

In both cases, the respective fee should be paid. In case that one of the said Search Report fees is not paid, the application is directly converted to a utility model application, as defined by R. 1733/87.

It should be noted that the Search report with written opinion, as the Simple Search Report, are only informative and do not influence the issuing of a patent.

→ (further information as well as examples of a simple search report as well as a search report with written opinion can be found in the webpage of OBI: www.obj.gr)