**SPC Register and Journal entries from 1 January 2025**

***This notice seeks to inform practitioners and third parties of some practical differences to be aware of when viewing the details of supplementary protection certificates (SPCs) via our online services.***

**Background**

On 1 January 2025, the regulatory framework for human medicines will change. This will have an effect on the SPC system. You can find information on these changes at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changes-to-supplementary-protection-certificates-on-1-january-2025/>.

Because of these changes, some entries in the SPC Register (accessed via <https://www.ipo.gov.uk/types/patent/p-os/p-find/p-find-spc.htm>) and the Patents Journal may not fully reflect the legal status of certain SPCs and/or their accompanying authorisations. The details of this are set out below.

**Marketing authorisation details on SPCs filed before 1 January 2021**

* When viewing the details of SPCs filed before 1 January 2021, you should be aware that they may operate on the basis of an authorisation which is not recorded on the register.

Most SPCs filed before 1 January 2021 relied on EU marketing authorisations that applied to the UK. On that date, such authorisations were converted into GB authorisations which applied in Great Britain. The EU authorisation continued to apply in Northern Ireland as an NI authorisation. Those SPCs then operated relying on both GB and NI authorisations.

Register entries for such SPCs may only refer to the EU authorisation. We will only have requested details of the conversion if we needed it for the processing of a live application.

From 1 January 2025, these SPCs will rely on the converted GB authorisation alone, which will apply UK-wide. Although the details of the converted GB authorisation do not appear on the register, this does not affect the legal basis upon which the SPC operates.

**Marketing authorisations with a PLGB prefix**

* Where the relevant authorisation listed on an SPC has a PLGB prefix, you should be aware that the certificate may actually apply UK-wide.

A marketing authorisation is usually assigned an authorisation number during the application process. Marketing authorisations which only cover Great Britain are given the prefix ‘PLGB’. Under current SPC law, this allows the grant of an SPC with effect in Great Britain only.

From 1 January 2025, such authorisations will become valid for the whole of the UK. Any SPC based on these authorisations will also have effect UK-wide. However, their authorisation number and PLGB prefix will remain the same. This means that the PLGB prefix will no longer be indicative of the actual territorial effect of the SPC.

This will also apply to applications for authorisations still pending on 1 January 2025 where the number has already been assigned. If used to file an SPC application once granted, then the recorded authorisation will have a PLGB prefix, but the SPC will apply UK-wide.