

# When a Promise Isn't Enough – Crafting Proper Employee Patent Assignments

Employees are the engine that drives a manufacturer's innovations, but employees' potentially patentable innovations only become the employer's intellectual property if the proper patent assignment language is used, warns Foley & Lardner in its **Manufacturing Industry Advisor** blog.

Authors **Christopher King** and **Richard Dancy** explain:

“All employees that may develop potentially patentable innovations during the course of their employment should be required to sign contracts transferring ownership of all intellectual property rights to their employer. This may even include factory employees who submit ideas for product improvements through an employee suggestion program. However, if employee patent assignments are not carefully crafted, manufacturers may end up in a nightmare situation – believing they own a valuable patent invented by an employee when, in reality, it belongs to the employee.”

**Read the article.**