



C. PCT 885
– 07.2

November 25, 2002

Madam,
Sir,

Proposed modifications of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT

Standard for the electronic filing and processing of international applications: Proposals for change (files PCT/EF/PFC 02/009 to 013)

1. This circular concerns proposals for change to the standard for the electronic filing and processing of international applications under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) which will, if adopted, result in modifications of Annex F of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT. It is being sent, for the purposes of consultation pursuant to Rule 89.2(b) of the Regulations under the PCT, to the national and regional patent Offices of, or acting for, all PCT Contracting States, including all receiving Offices, International Searching Authorities, International Preliminary Examining Authorities, and designated and elected Offices, and to interested intergovernmental organizations, as well as to certain non-governmental organizations representing users of the PCT system.

2. The International Bureau has received and prepared a number of proposals for change to the standard for the electronic filing and processing of international applications. Those proposals are available on WIPO's Web site, together with previous proposals for change, as annexes to the following proposal for change (PFC) files (see http://www.wipo.int/pct/efiling_standard/en):

- PCT/EF/PFC 02/009 “Electronic Packaging” (Annex F, sections 5 and 7) (proposal by the Korean Intellectual Property Office);

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- PCT/EF/PFC 02/010 “Modifications of XML DTDs for the E-PCT Standard” (Annex F, Appendix I) (proposal by the European Patent Office, the United States Patent and Trademark Office and the Japan Patent Office);
- PCT/EF/PFC 02/011 “Modifications of XML DTDs for the E-PCT Standard” (Annex F, Appendix I) (proposal by the International Bureau);
- PCT/EF/PFC 02/012 “New XML DTDs for the E-PCT Standard” (Annex F, Appendix I) (proposal by the International Bureau);
- PCT/EF/PFC 02/013 “Paragraph Numbering” (Annex F, section 3.1.1.1.1) (proposal by the International Bureau).

3. The International Bureau would appreciate receiving any comments on the proposals by December 23, 2002. Comments should preferably be made by e-mail via the “Submit comments” facility on the Website, but may alternatively be made in writing by letter or by fax to +41 (22) 338 8040. Comments will be included as Annexes to the relevant PFC files. Copies of the proposals on paper are available from the International Bureau on request. Inquiries concerning the proposals should be directed to Mr. Thiam Ming Song (e-mail: song@wipo.int; phone: 41 (22) 338 9640; fax: 41 (22) 338 8040).

4. In Circular C. PCT 884, dated November 25, 2002, the International Bureau notifies the promulgation, with effect from December 12, 2002, of a new section 2.5 “Change procedure” in Annex F dealing with special procedures for the proposal, consideration and implementation of future modifications of the standard for electronic filing and processing of international applications. It is intended that consideration of the proposals referred to in the present Circular will proceed independently of those new procedures.

5. The International Bureau intends to promulgate the present proposals for change, together with those set out in proposals for change files PCT/EF/PFC 02/002 to 02/013 (see Circular C. PCT 830 dated April 4, 2002), revised if necessary in the light of any comments received by December 23, 2002. It is envisaged that the modifications would be promulgated to enter into force on a date to be fixed in March 2003.

Sincerely yours,



Francis Gurry
Assistant Director General