C. PCT 957
08.19

November 14, 2003

Madam,
Sir,

This Circular is addressed to your Office in its capacity as receiving Office under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT). It concerns the replacement of PCT-EASY software by PCT-SAFE and the incorporation therein of amendments to the Regulations under the PCT that will enter into force on January 1, 2004.

Modifications to the Request Form, PCT/RO/101, have been made and promulgated in Circular C.PCT 945 dated October 9, 2003. Such modifications require similar changes to the electronic filing software, which has been done. This opportunity has also been taken to replace PCT-EASY with PCT-SAFE as part of the transition process to our new electronic software. The new version of PCT-SAFE will be made available before January 1, 2004.

PCT-SAFE incorporates full PCT-EASY functionality, allowing for the creation and printing of the validated PCT-EASY Request Form and the PCT-EASY diskette. The distribution of PCT-EASY as separate software will be discontinued. Consequently, as of January 1, 2004, all PCT-EASY users, applicants and receiving Offices, are requested to use PCT-SAFE.

The changes to the Regulations necessitate some modifications to the format of electronic SGML (Standard Generalized Markup Language) data that will be submitted to the receiving Office on the PCT-EASY diskette produced by the PCT-SAFE software. These modifications are outlined in the Annex to this Circular. If your Office uses the PCT-EASY electronic data for internal processing we highly recommend that you evaluate whether it will be necessary to update your computer system to take into account the above-mentioned modifications.
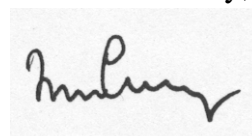
/...

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While PCT-EASY users make the transition to the new PCT-SAFE software, we would advise your Office to install the current PCT-EASY system and the new PCT-SAFE system in parallel and, if it applies, ensure that any internal processing system that uses the SGML data can handle the old and new formats of the SGML.

Furthermore, to align PCT-EASY with the technical standard for electronic filing and processing under the PCT, the new PCT-SAFE software will also produce a duplicate of the SGML data file in the XML (Extensible Markup Language) format prescribed by this standard. If your Office uses the PCT-EASY electronic data for internal processing, we would advise you to evaluate whether it will be more useful to modify your systems to adopt the XML file, in preparation for electronic filing under the PCT, and the discontinuation of the PCT-EASY data in SGML that is planned for the end of 2004.

More information on the technical standard for electronic filing and processing under the PCT is available at: *http://pcteasy.wipo.int/efiling_standards/EFPage.htm.* For further information or assistance please contact the PCT-SAFE Help Desk preferably by e-mail to pctsafe.help@wipo.int or by telephone on (+41-22) 338 9523.

Yours sincerely,

Francis Gurry
Assistant Director General

Enclosure: Annex (January 1, 2004 amendments to the Regulations under the
                    PCT and subsequent modifications to PCT-EASY data format)

JANUARY 1, 2004 AMENDMENTS TO THE REGULATIONS
UNDER THE PCT AND SUBSEQUENT MODIFICATIONS
TO PCT-EASY DATA FORMAT

PCT-EASY Mode – SGML

SGML DTD Version number

The system shall set dtd version attribute of request element as follows:

<WOF101 ... DTD="0.8" ...>

Benefit: Important

Designation of States – SGML(1)

If no boxes are checked on the Designations page, the designations SGML shall be represented by including the <B810> element with no child elements:

<B810/>

Benefit: Critical

Designation of States – SGML(2)

If boxes are checked on the Designations page, the SGML shall be represented by using the B820 (exclusion-from-designation) tag:

```
<!-- all states -->
<B810/>
<!-- except Germany -->
<B820WO>
   <CTRY>DE</CTRY>
</B820WO>
```

Benefit: Critical

Designation of States - SGML(3)

If Rule 49*bis* box is checked on the Designation page and some protection data are inputted on the Designation Details screen, the SGML shall be represented by using the B817WO and B818WO tags:

```
<B810>
<CTRY>US</CTRY>
<B817WO>CON</B817WO>
<B818WO>
<PNUM>US3216578</PNUM>
<DATE>20011010</DATE>
</B818WO>
</B810>
```

Benefit: Critical