

C. PCT 1458

October 1, 2015

Madam,
Sir,

Following consultation with your Office in its capacity as receiving Office (RO) or designated or elected Office under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), and also with certain intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, modifications to the PCT Receiving Office Guidelines (ROGLs) are hereby promulgated with effect from October 1, 2015.

The modifications are as proposed in Circular C. PCT 1456, dated June 12, 2015, except where further changes have been made as a result of consultation, as indicated below (editorial and minor drafting changes are not specifically mentioned).

Modifications to the ROGLs

As a result of the consultation, the proposed paragraphs of the ROGLs relating to a new service offered by some International Searching Authorities (also referred to as “PCT-Direct”) have been further modified.

Following some responses received, the comments which applicants can submit are clarified as “informal comments”.

New paragraph 116E now covers what was originally proposed for paragraph 116F. Due to concerns raised by some ROs regarding the scope of the ROGLs, the previously proposed paragraph 116E will be included in the “Introduction to the International Phase” within the *PCT Applicant’s Guide*.

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A number of responses suggested the inclusion of a provision setting out a procedure for ROs handling the situation where the applicant indicated in the request that he submitted informal comments, but, in fact, no such comments have been received by the RO, and where the applicant submitted such comments to the RO with the PCT application, but forgot to make the corresponding indication in the request. As a result, the procedure is set out in new paragraph 116F.

In response to several suggestions, a provision for the handling of informal comments submitted to ROs after the filing of the PCT application has been included in new paragraph 116G.

Availability of Modified ROGLs

The consolidated version of the modified ROGLs (*as in force from October 1, 2015*) is available on the WIPO website at: www.wipo.int/pct/en/texts/gdlines.html.

Modification of Form PCT/IB/311

The occasion of this Circular is also used to promulgate modifications to Form PCT/IB/311 which were not part of the consultation in Circular C. PCT 1456. Form PCT/IB/311 is modified with effect from October 1, 2015. A warning has been added with regard to fraudulent requests for payment of fees.

Availability of Modified Form PCT/IB/311

The modified Form PCT/IB/311 is available on the WIPO website at: www.wipo.int/pct/en/forms/.

Yours sincerely,



John Sandage
Deputy Director General