

C. PCT 1557

January 23, 2019

Madam,
Sir,

This Circular is addressed to your Office in its capacity as a receiving Office (RO), International Searching Authority (ISA), International Preliminary Examining Authority (IPEA) and/or designated or elected Office (DO/EO) under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT). It is also being sent to interested intergovernmental organizations as well as certain non-governmental organizations representing users of the PCT System.

Following the adoption, by the PCT Assembly (paragraph 16 of document PCT/A/50/5) of the proposed amendment of Rule 69.1(a) as set out in document PCT/A/50/2, this Circular concerns proposals for change to the Standard for the Filing and Processing in Electronic Form of International Applications (Annex F of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT) related to the PCT Demand Form (IPEA/401) where an additional indicator is required to indicate the expiry of the postponement of the start of the international preliminary examination.

DESCRIPTION OF CHANGES

Proposed changes to Annex F and its appendices are set out in the following Proposal for Change (PFC) file (available at: https://www.wipo.int/pct/efiling_standard/en/pfc_files.htm):

- PCT/EF/PFC 19/001 (Modification of the DTD for the PCT Demand (IPEA/401))

CONSULTATIONS

Consultations under PCT Rule 89.2 are being conducted in accordance with the procedure set out in Section 2.5 of Annex F of the PCT Administrative Instructions. The International Bureau has updated the facilities available to the consultative group and has, in addition to the normal process, made this PFC available in the WIPO Wiki (available at: <https://www3.wipo.int/confluence/display/PCTAFCG>) to enable the prompt sharing of

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comments in a public forum. Existing members of the consultative group have been granted access rights to post comments directly on to the WIPO Wiki page; furthermore, comments submitted using the existing e-mail process, that is, submitted by e-mail sent to the address set out below, will be added to the WIPO Wiki page by the International Bureau.

The International Bureau will undertake a consultation on a parallel modification to the PCT Demand Form (IPEA/401) in due course.

The International Bureau would appreciate receiving any comments on the proposals by March 6, 2019. Comments should preferably be made by posting them directly onto the WIPO Wiki page or by e-mail to: pctbdd@wipo.int. All comments received will be made available on the WIPO Wiki and later as Annexes to the PFC file. Copies of the proposals on paper are available from the International Bureau upon request. Enquiries concerning the proposals should be directed to the International Bureau by e-mail at: pctbdd@wipo.int.

FURTHER PROCESS

Once the Consultative Group established under Section 2.5 of Annex F of the PCT Administrative Instructions has made its recommendations, the International Bureau will promulgate any necessary changes to the PCT Administrative Instructions, together with information on entry into force of the changes.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Sandage", is written over a horizontal line.

John Sandage
Deputy Director General