

Reasons

At present, e-mail addresses entered into international applications are used only for rapid communication purposes equivalent to the telephone or fax, not for regular communications ('informal'). It is desired to offer an opt-in PCT service where applicants can be e-mailed a copy of communications from the International Bureau at the same time that paper copies are posted ('advance'). Alternative options provided for but which are not proposed to be initially offered in PCT (and therefore PCT-SAFE) are that e-mail may be the 'main' form of communication, normally replacing the paper mailing entirely, or that the e-mail address can be used for any 'general' purpose.

The corresponding PFC has previously passed through the Annex F consultative process and the change has been adopted.

[http://www.wipo.int/efiling_standard/en/pfc_already_processed/pfc-08-006.pdf]

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