



C. PCT 973
– 07.2

January 28, 2004

Madam,
Sir,

Modifications of the Administrative Instructions Under the PCT

*Standard for the Electronic Filing and Processing
of International Applications: Modifications of Annex F, Including Appendix I*

1. This Circular concerns modifications of Annex F of the Administrative Instructions under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), including Appendix I thereof, to be promulgated with effect from February 12, 2004.
2. Part 7 and Annex F of the Administrative Instructions containing, respectively, the legal framework and the technical standard for electronic filing and processing of international applications entered into force on January 7, 2002 (see *PCT Gazette* S-04/2001 dated December 27, 2001). Those provisions have since been modified on several occasions. The relevant texts are available, together with other parts of the Administrative Instructions, on WIPO's Website (see <http://www.wipo.int/pct/en/texts/index.htm>).
3. The present modifications are based on a proposal for change to Annex F that was prepared by the International Bureau in 2003. This proposal is available on WIPO's Website (see http://www.wipo.int/pct/efiling_standard/en/index.html). A number of changes have been made to the proposal taking into account comments received after consultation under Rule 89.2(b) of the Regulations under the PCT, in accordance with the change procedure provided for in section 2.5.5 of Annex F (expedited consideration of proposals for change), with the national and regional patent Offices of, or acting for, all PCT Contracting States, with PCT International Authorities and with interested intergovernmental organizations, as well as with certain non-governmental organizations representing users of the PCT system (see Circular C. PCT 959, dated November 5, 2003).

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4. Following that consultation, section 4.3 (“Recommended file naming convention”) of Annex F is modified. In addition, Appendix I of Annex F (“XML DTDs for the E-PCT Standard”) is modified as follows:

- (i) addition of a new section 2.5, called “DTD Versioning”;
- (ii) addition of a new section 2.6, called “XML Document Prolog”.

5. The text of the modifications of the main body of Annex F and of Appendix I thereto is set out, respectively, in document PCT/AI/1 Rev.1 Add.11, enclosed herewith, and document PCT/AI/1 Rev.1 Add.12 (which is available, together with document PCT/AI/1 Rev.1 Add.11, on WIPO’s Web site at <http://www.wipo.int/pct/en/texts/index.htm>). Paper copies of document PCT/AI/1 Rev.1 Add.12 are available from the International Bureau upon request.

6. The modifications will be promulgated in *PCT Gazette* No. 7/2004 on February 12, 2004.

Sincerely yours,



Francis Gurry
Deputy Director General