



C. PCT 1047  
-21.1

September 29, 2005

Madam,  
Sir,

This Circular is addressed to your Office in its capacity as an International Searching Authority and International Preliminary Examining Authority under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT). The circular concerns an outline of the procedure for the International Bureau to report erroneous IPC symbols to the International Searching Authorities, and certain changes in the presentation of IPC symbols following the introduction of the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the International Patent Classification (IPC) on certain PCT Forms.

*Edition 8 IPC symbol error reporting between the IB and the ISA*

In order to ensure that the Edition 8 IPC symbols published are correct and up-to-date, as agreed in the PCT Meeting of International Authorities held in Geneva from February 21 to 25, 2005 (see document PCT/MIA/11/14, paragraph 26), the International Bureau will undertake to verify whether the IPC symbols and version dates mentioned on the ISR reconcile with the Edition 8 IPC validity file. This check will be performed by the International Bureau as soon as the ISR is received, taking into account the projected publication date. If the IPC symbols do not reconcile because a symbol or version date is incorrect in light of the projected publication date, the International Bureau will report such errors to the relevant International Searching Authority.

The International Bureau will transmit either by e-mail or via network transfer to each ISA on a weekly basis, an IPC symbol error report in the form of both a CSV file and an XML file, containing the following information for each international application concerned:

- IA number
- Projected publication date
- IPC symbol
- Type of error: (i) erroneous IPC symbol; (ii) erroneous version indicator; (iii) IPC symbol will be invalid at the time of the projected publication date.

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Following this invitation, your Authority would be requested to provide the corrected or up-dated IPC symbol either by issuing a revised or corrected international search report or, at the choice of your Office, by separately furnishing the International Bureau with the correct symbols in electronic form as either a CSV file or an XML file. It is important that best efforts are made to provide the required IPC data to the International Bureau before completion of technical preparations for publication of the international application concerned.

In order to make the necessary technical arrangements for the appropriate transmission method, your Authority is requested to inform the International Bureau, as soon as possible, of the name and e-mail address of the person who can be contacted regarding this matter, by e-mail to [pctis@wipo.int](mailto:pctis@wipo.int) and preferably before October 31, 2005.

*Format and presentation of IPC symbols (WIPO Standard ST 10/C)*

In accordance with WIPO Standard ST.10/C, for IPC symbols of the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the IPC, a tabular presentation is recommended to be used. However, the space available on the following current Forms is not sufficient for such a presentation:

- International Search Report (PCT/ISA/210)
- Written Opinion of the ISA (PCT/ISA/237)
- Declaration of Non-establishment of International Search Report (PCT/ISA/203)
- International Preliminary Report on Patentability (PCT/IPEA/409).

Since the PCT Meeting of International Authorities held in Geneva from February 21 to 25, 2005, had nevertheless considered that it would be preferable not to change the international search report form (see document PCT/MIA/11/14, paragraph 26) and since several Authorities in reply to the questionnaire attached to Circular C.PCT 1031, dated May 25, 2005, requested the advice of the International Bureau on how to comply with the recommendations of Standard ST.10/C in this respect, the International Bureau recommends that the International Authorities insert the standard phrase “See extra sheet” or “See supplemental box”, as the case may be, in the boxes foreseen for IPC symbols on the above-mentioned Forms. In this way, the IPC symbols can be presented in the recommended tabular form in compliance with WIPO Standard ST.10/C on the corresponding extra sheets or supplemental boxes that are intended for use when the space on other sheets is not sufficient.

./. For an illustration, please see the attached sample of a partially filled-in international search report (Form PCT/ISA/210).

With regard to the “Declaration of Non-establishment of International Search Report” (Form PCT/ISA/203), no extra sheet or supplemental box currently exists for this form. However, due to the fact that this form is only used when no international search report is established, it would seem unlikely that an ISA would wish to establish multiple IPC symbols in such cases, and therefore the space provided in the box would seem to be sufficient for a tabular presentation of the IPC symbol.

*Indication of the validity date*

It is recommended that the International Authorities always indicate the validity date after the IPC symbol, even in cases where there has been no update or reclassification since January 1, 2006, for example, B 28B 5/02 (2006.01).

*Distinction between invention and non-invention IPC symbols*

Since a number of Offices have expressed, in reply to Circular C.PCT 1031, some difficulty in being able to reproduce bold characters in order to distinguish between invention and non-invention information in the production of the Forms listed above, the International Bureau recommends that, if your Authority is not able to present the IPC symbols in distinct bold and non-bold characters, the indication “i” or “n” be inserted instead at the end of each IPC symbol after the validity date, so that the International Bureau can clearly distinguish between invention (“i”) and non-invention (“n”) information and be able to subsequently publish the IPC symbols in either bold or normal characters in the international publication, as shown in the following:

“B28B 5/02 (2006.01)i” shall be published by the IB as **B28B 5/02 (2006.01)**

“H05B 31/08 (2007.01)n” shall be published by the IB as *H05B 31/08 (2007.01)*.

Comments, if any, are invited to be provided by October 31, 2005, preferably by fax to (+41 22) 910 00 30 or by e-mail to [pct.legal@wipo.int](mailto:pct.legal@wipo.int).

Sincerely yours,



Francis Gurry  
Deputy Director General

Enclosure: Annex I– Sample pages of Form PCT/ISA/210

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.
  See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

Date of mailing of the international search report

Name and mailing address of the ISA/

Authorized officer

Facsimile No.

Telephone No.

International application No.

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