

C. PCT 1632

October 29, 2021

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.

This Circular concerns a proposal for changes to Annex F of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT to enable the use of WIPO Standard ST.26 files in the filing of international applications.

DESCRIPTION OF CHANGES

Following the adoption of the amendments to the PCT Regulations by the PCT Assembly relating to sequence listings which will enter into force on July 1, 2022 (see document PCT/A/53/3 and paragraph 51 of document A/62/12), the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) has reviewed both Annex F of the Administrative Instructions, and the DTDs contained in Appendix I with respect to the proposed modifications to PCT Forms (see Circular C. PCT 1627). Consequently, the International Bureau proposes changes to Annex F of the Administrative Instructions and to the DTDs contained in Appendix I of Annex F. These changes enable the use of WIPO Standard ST.26 files in the filing of international applications from July 1, 2022, and continue to allow WIPO Standard ST.25 files to be used in the processing of international applications filed prior to that date.

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

- PCT/EF/PFC 21/003 (Modification of Annex F and Appendix I in respect of ST.26), made available with a new draft of Annex F and draft DTDs.

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CONSULTATIONS

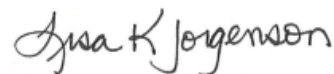
Consultations under PCT Rule 89.2 are being conducted in accordance with the procedure set out in Section 2.5 of Annex F of the Administrative Instructions. The International Bureau has updated the facilities available to the consultative group and has, in addition to the normal process, made this PFC available on the WIPO Wiki (available at: <https://www3.wipo.int/confluence/display/PCTAFCG>) to enable the prompt sharing of comments in a public forum. Existing members of the consultative group have been granted access rights to post comments directly on the WIPO Wiki page; 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 would appreciate receiving any comments on these proposals by December 1, 2021. Comments should preferably be made by posting them directly to 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 to: pctbdd@wipo.int.

FURTHER PROCESS

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

Yours sincerely,



Lisa Jorgenson
Deputy Director General
Patents and Technology Sector