

# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

Common Quality Framework for  
International Search and Preliminary Examination

## **Supplemental Report Under Paragraph 21.18 of the PCT International Search and Preliminary Examination Guidelines**

by: *Nordic Patent Institute*

on: *12 February 2009*

Date of main report and  
any supplemental reports to  
which this is a supplement: *25 January 2008*

Documents referred to in this report:

*Quality Management System Manual of Nordic Patent Institute- Level 1 of the Manual is available on  
[http://www.npi.int/upload/files/QM\\_manual\\_level\\_1\\_02feb2009.pdf](http://www.npi.int/upload/files/QM_manual_level_1_02feb2009.pdf)*

As a result of our most recent internal review under PCT/GL/ISPE paragraphs 21.10-21.15, this Authority has made modifications to its Quality Management System (QMS) as discussed below.

The modifications are given with reference to the sections of the revised template for responses to PCT/GL/ISPE Paragraph 21.17 to which the changes relate.

*The QMS Manual- Level 1 (policy level) has been reviewed and updated.*

*NPI's activity scope is extended with Supplementary International Search activity which is now also covered by the QMS. The scope of search is the PCT minimum documentation, as well as documents in Swedish, Danish, Finnish and Norwegian held by the Authority.*

*The Level 2 (system level) procedures are under a review process. An action plan for acquiring the certification of the NPI is established, with the goal to be certified during 2009 or early 2010.*

*The Norwegian and Danish patent offices (NIPO; DKPTO) perform the PCT work for NPI under service Agreements between the offices. The Services agreements with NIPO and DKPTO have been reviewed and updated.*

*Internal quality audits have been performed at NIPO and DKPTO.*

*External quality audits have been performed by accredited certification bodies both for NIPO and DKPTO with good results which prove compliance with the requirements in ISO 9001:2000.*

*NIPO:*

*Internal audits have been carried out for the different areas of the patent processes: filing, minimum documentation and completion of search report, problem-and-solution approach for evaluation of the inventive step. In addition, a review of the system procedures was performed, including the quality policy and objectives and the management responsibility. Agreed improving actions were implemented during the period of time assigned.*

*DKPTO:*

*In 2008 two external - and seven internal audits of the patent process have been carried out at the Danish Patent and Trademark Office. The audits have covered education and competences, filling, examination, quality measurements and management of quality assurance. All observations from these audits have been evaluated and the necessary improvements have been carried out.*

*In 2008 we have also improved the measurement of our quality level. DKPTO now use inspection by attributes according to the ISO 2859-1 standard and our quality measurements are carried out lot-by-lot every month. Earlier, the measurements were ad hoc samplings including inspections of a fixed percentage four times per year.*

*A set of procedures and guidance documentation has been established at both NIPO and DKPTO for working with applications from NPI.*

[End of report]