

PCT-EPO Guidelines – list of modifications**MAJOR AMENDMENTS**

<u>GENERAL PART</u>	1.1	New section on relationship between the PCT and EPC
<u>PART A</u>	II, 4.1.1	New section on transmittal of the international application to the ISA and IB
	III, 3	Addition of information about EPO Contingency Upload Service as an exceptional means of filing debit orders
	III, 4.4.1	New section on fee for establishment and transmittal of a certified copy of priority documents to the IB
	IV, 3	New section on applications disclosing nucleotide and/or amino acid sequences
	VI, 1.7 VI, 1.8 VI, 2 VI, 3 VI, 4	New sections on provision of priority document, certified copies of international applications, designation of states and designation of inventors
	VI, 2.1 VI, 3.1 VI, 3.2	New sub-sections on extension states, validation states and non-designation for reasons of national law
	VII, 1.2.4	New sub-section on sequence listings
	VII, 2.3.1 VII, 2.3.2 VII, 2.3.3	New sub-section on language of international applications, amendments and demands
	VIII, 1.13	Update regarding new practice in relation to signing and filing authorisations
<u>PART B</u>	II, 1.1	New sub-section on competences of the EPO as ISA
	IV, 5.3 X, 11.1 X, 12 XII, 9	Update regarding new practice in relation to access to patent literature documents in search and examination proceedings
<u>PART C</u>	II, 1.1 II, 1.1.1	New sub-sections on the time limit for filing the demand and for delaying national phase entry
	II, 13	New section on language requirements
	IV, 1.1	New sub-section on subject-matter which the IPEA is not required to examine
<u>PART E</u>	III	Addition of Chile and New Zealand to list of the EPO's PPH partner offices
	IV	New chapter on time limits in the international phase
	V	New chapter on external complaints
	VI	New chapter on notification of communications

MINOR AMENDMENTS

GENERAL PART	1	Introduction of more consistent abbreviations
	2.5	
	2.1	Addition of reference to the footnote
	2.3	Deletion of outdated information
	2.4	Clarification on "Agreement EPO-WIPO"
	2.6	Addition of reference to missing forms
	3.1	Addition of reference to EPC and PCT rules and articles
PART A	II, 1.1	Update regarding filing with the EPO as receiving Office in the case of two or more applicants
	II, 1.2 VIII, 2.3	Update regarding change in relation to international applications sent by fax (no longer accepted by the EPO)
	II, 1.2.1	Update regarding requirements for documents filed electronically
	II, 1.2.2 VIII, 2.2	Deletion of section to reflect the abolition of fax as a means of filing
	II, 1.2.2	Update regarding sub-offices and non-availability of automatic mailboxes
	II, 1.2.3	Addition of information about legal effect of filing of applications by means other than the means referred to in 1.2.1 and 1.2.2
	II, 1.3	Clarification on priority documents issued in paper form
	II, 1.5 II, 3.1	Deletion of redundant information referring to fax filings and web-form filing
	II, 3.2	Update regarding selection of the EPO as receiving office
	II, 4.1	Update regarding "international filing date"
	II, 6.2	Clarification on calculation of the international filing fee
	III, 4.4.2	New section on fee for a certified copy of priority document
	III, 7.5	Clarification on procedure in the case of absence of a validly filed demand
	III, 8.1.2	Addition of reference to the WIPO website
	III, 8.2	Addition of term "supplementary" in the title, following the deletion of sub-section A-III, 8.2.2.
	III, 8.2.2	Deletion of sub-section concerning reduction of the supplementary search fee
	III, 9	Update regarding further digitalisation of the fee refund procedure
	III, 9.2.1.1	Update regarding refund of the international search fee
	VI, 1.5	Update regarding decision by the RO on a request for restoration of the right of priority
	VI, 1.6	Deletion of redundant information relating to transfer of the priority right
	VII, 2.1	Clarification on language of translation when applications are not filed in a PCT language
VII, 3.1	Clarification on practice concerning the language of proceedings when the EPO did not act as RO	
VII, 3.2	Restructured section – content moved from B-XI, 2.2	
VIII, 1.10	Addition of reference to EPC Guidelines	
VIII, 3.1	Clarification on applicant's signature	
VIII, 3.2	Clarification on signing of power of attorney by the applicant	
PART B	II, 6	Clarification on possible representation of applicants by a person having the right to practise before the receiving office
	III, 2.10 VIII, 3.2 XI, 7	Addition of reference to OJ EPO 2024 A54, A55 regarding applicable version of Standard ST.26
	VII, 1	Clarification on practice regarding possibility of filing a divisional application
	VII, 6.1	Update regarding practice in relation to international preliminary examination
	VIII, 1	Update regarding missing sequence listings and lack of unity of invention

	VIII, 2	Clarification on cases where the EPO is not required to perform an international search
	VIII, 2.2	Clarification on the EPO's practice as ISA with regard to methods of doing business
	VIII, 2.2.1	Deletion of redundant information
	VIII, 3	Clarification on practice regarding unsearchable claims
	VIII, 3.3	Update in view of Article 17(2)(a)(ii) PCT
	XI, 2.2	Restructured section – content moved to A-VII, 3.2
	XI, 8	Clarification on practice regarding form of dialogue between applicants and ISA
	XII, 2	Clarification on practice concerning the provision of the relevant documents in an electronic format complying with Annex C to the Administrative Instructions
<u>PART C</u>	II, 1	Deletion of passage to reflect the abolition of fax as a means of filing
	II, 2	Clarification on the EPO as IPEA
	II, 5	Update regarding representation before the EPO as IPEA
	II, 6	Update regarding information on valid withdrawal of designation
	II, 7	Update regarding practice in relation to missing signatures
	II, 8	Clarification on amendments filed before preliminary examination
	II, 10	Clarification on practice in relation to signature of all applicants
	II, 11	Addition of information regarding the international preliminary examination in the absence of fee payments
	IV, 1	Update regarding “second written opinion”
	IV, 2.1	Update regarding “first written opinion”
	IV, 2.2	Update regarding written opinions during international preliminary examination
	IV, 5	Update regarding the purpose of top-up searches
	VI, 1	Addition of reference to Box No. IV of the PCT demand form PCT/IPEA/401
	VII, 1	Update regarding requests for consultation by telephone
	VIII, 2.1	Restructured section
<u>PART E</u>	II	Clarification on accelerated proceedings in the case of third-party observations
<u>PART F</u>	II, 6 VI, 3.3	Deletion of reference to Euro-PCT Guide
	III, 6.3	Update regarding the availability of biological material (title and content)
<u>PART G</u>	IV, 1 IV, 6	Adaptation to long-standing practice regarding non-written disclosure (PCT Assembly Doc. A/56/2, Annex V, p.3)
<u>PART H</u>	I, 5	Update regarding replacement of claims when amendments are filed
	I, 6	Addition of a list of possible indicated amendments
	II, 2.2.2.2	Clarification on granted request for incorporation by reference of missing element or part
	IV, 1	Clarification on practice concerning procedure for EPO as ISA if substitute sheets under Rule 26 PCT go beyond the disclosure on the filing date
	IV, 2.1	Update regarding language requirements for error corrections (A-VII, 3.1)

EDITORIAL CHANGES

<u>PART A</u>	II, 1.4; II, 4.2; II,6; II, 6.1; III, 4.2; III, 4.3; III, 4.4.1; III, 5.1; III, 5.2; III, 5.3; III, 6.3; III, 7.1; III, 7.2; III, 7.2.1; III, 7.3; III, 7.4; III, 8.1.1.1; III, 8.1.1.2; III, 8.1.1.3; III, 9.1; III, 9.2; III, 9.2.1.2; III, 9.2.1.3; III, 9.3; III, 9.4; III, 9.5; III, 9.7; III, 9.8; IV, 1.1; IV, 1.4; IV, 2.2; IV, 2.3; IV, 2.5; V, 1.1; V, 1.2; V, 7.1; V, 8; V, 10; VI, 1; VI 1.2; VI, 1.3; VI, 1.4; VI, 1.4.1; VI, 1.4.2; VII, 1.2.3.2; VII, 3.4; VII, 5; VIII, 1.2; VIII, 1.4; VIII, 1.5; VIII, 1.7; VIII, 1.8; VIII, 1.11; VIII, 1.12; VIII, 1.13; VIII, 2.4; VIII, 3.3; VIII, 3.4
<u>PART B</u>	II, 4; III, 1.3; III, 1.4; III, 2.1; III, 2.2.1; III, 2.3.1; III, 2.3.2; III, 2.3.3; III, 2.7; III, 2.10; III, 2.11; III, 2.12; IV, 1.1; IV, 1.2; IV, 1.2.1; IV, 1.2.2; IV, 1.3; VI, 1; VI, 2; VI, 4.1; VII, 2; VII, 4; VII, 6.3; VII, 7.1; VII, 7.2; VII, 8; VIII, 2.1; VIII, 3.1; VIII, 3.2; VIII, 3.3.1; VIII, 4; IX, 2.2; X, 1; X, 2; X, 7; X, 8; X, 9.2.4; XI, 2; XI, 2.1; XI,3.2.2; XI, 3.4; XI, 4; XI, 4.1; XI, 4.2; XI, 5; XI, 6; XI, 7; XII, 5; XII, 7; XII, 10.1; XII, 10.2; XII, 10.4; XII, 11
<u>PART C</u>	III, 1; III, 2; III, 3; IV, 2.3; IV, 2.5; IV, 4.1; IV, 4.2; IV, 5.2; IV, 5.4; V, 1; V, 4.3; V, 5.2; VI, 3; VI, 2; VI, 3; VIII, 2; VIII, 3; VIII, 4; IX, 1; IX, 4
<u>PART E</u>	III, 2; III, 3
<u>PART F</u>	II, 4.4; II, 4.13; II, 5.2; II, 6; II, 7.2; II, 7.4; III, 1; III, 3; III, 4; III, 5.1; III, 5.2; III, 7; III, 8; III, 10; III, 11; IV, 1; IV, 2.1; IV, 3.1; IV, 3.2; IV, 3.4; IV, 3.6; IV, 3.8.2; IV, 4.8; IV, 4.10; IV, 4.11; IV, 4.13; IV, 4.19; IV, 4.21; IV, 4.22; IV, 4.23; IV, 5; IV, 6.1; IV, 6.3; IV, 6.4; IV, 6.5; V, 1; V, 2; V, 3; VI, 1; VI, 1.2; VI, 1.3; VI, 2.2; VI, 3.1; VI, 3.7
<u>PART G</u>	II, 1; II, 3.1; II, 3.2; II, 3.3; II, 3.4; II, 3.5; II, 3.6; II, 3.7; II, 4.1; II, 4.2; II, 5.2; II, 5.3; II, 5.4; II, 5.5; IV, 2; IV, 3; IV, 4; IV, 5.1; IV, 6.2; IV, 6.2.2; IV, 6.4; IV, 6.5; IV, 8; VI, 7.1; VI, 8; VII, 2; VII, 3.1; VII, 5.1; VII, 5.2; VII, 5.4; VII, 5.4.1; VII, 5.4.2; VII, 6; VII, 10.1, VII, 10.2; VII, 11
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