

Notes on EPA/EPO/OEB Form 1200 for entry into the European phase (EPO as designated or elected Office)

I. General instructions

These notes explain how to complete EPA/EPO/OEB Form 1200. To file international applications under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) Form PCT/RO/101 should be used. The appropriate form to request the grant of a European patent is EPA/EPO/OEB Form 1001.

The requirements for entry into the European phase are laid down in the European Patent Convention (EPC) and its Implementing Regulations. Further information on entry into the European phase can be obtained from the Euro-PCT Guide, Chapter 5: Euro-PCT procedure before the EPO as a designated (PCT Chapter I) or elected (PCT Chapter II) Office.

Forms and brochures

Forms, brochures, schedules of fees and legal texts can be downloaded from the EPO's website at epo.org.

Accelerated prosecution

For those seeking faster search or examination for their applications, the "PACE" programme for accelerated prosecution of European patent applications ([OJ EPO 2015, A93](#)) offers effective options for shortening the processing time.

However, PACE requests filed before the end of the international phase will not be effective unless accompanied by an express request for early processing under Article 23(2) or 40(2) PCT (see point 12.1).

For other ways to expedite the European grant procedure, see the notice from the EPO dated 30 November 2015 ([OJ EPO 2015, A94](#)) and point 12.

Entry into the European phase – Form 1200

Under Rule 159(1) EPC, on entry into the European phase before the EPO as designated or elected Office applicants must perform the acts specified in Rules 159(1)(a) to (h) and 162(1) EPC within 31 months of the filing date or, if priority has been claimed, the (earliest) priority date.

Use of EPA/EPO/OEB Form 1200 is recommended. The form should be typewritten or

printed (Rule 50(2) EPC) to ensure that it is machine-readable.

If there is not enough space for the required information, an additional sheet should be filed, indicating the number and heading (e.g. "2 - Additional representative(s)"; "6 - Documents intended for proceedings before the EPO") of each section continued in this way.

Applicants should indicate their internal reference in the box above section 1 and in the corresponding box at the bottom of each page.

Filing of documents

EPA/EPO/OEB Form 1200 and attachments must be filed direct with the EPO.

(a) Online

EPA/EPO/OEB Form 1200, attached translations and amendments to the application documents may be filed in electronic form (OJ EPO 2023, A48), i.e. via EPO Online Filing, EPO Online Filing 2.0, the EPO Web-Form Filing service or the EPO Contingency Upload Service. For more details go to epo.org. The online filing fee is less than the fee for filing on paper.

(b) By fax

The above documents may also be filed by fax. Confirmation on paper is required only if the EPO specifically requests it (see OJ EPO 2019, A18).

(c) By post or in person

EPA/EPO/OEB Form 1200 need only be filed in one copy. The same applies to attached translations and amendments to the application documents. Special rules apply to sequence listings (see II.9).

II. Filling in the form

The numbering below corresponds to the sections of the form.

1. Applicant

If on entry into the European phase the address, nationality, or country of residence or of place of business is missing for any applicant (as may occur under Rule 26.2bis(b) PCT), this information must be filed on a separate sheet.

An address for correspondence may be given only by applicants who are not obliged to appoint a professional representative authorised to act before the EPO (Article 133 EPC) and have not appointed one. It must be the applicant's own address, and in an EPC contracting state.

Addresses for correspondence accepted for proceedings in the international phase but which do not fulfil those conditions will not be accepted in proceedings before the EPO in the European phase (see OJ EPO 2014, A99).

2. Representative (Articles 133 and 134 EPC)

Applicants not having their residence or principal place of business in an EPC contracting state must be represented by a professional representative and act through him in all proceedings established by the EPC (Article 133(2) EPC). Section 2 must always be completed if a professional representative or a legal practitioner entitled to act as such (Article 134(1) and (8)) is appointed.

3. Authorisation (Rule 152 EPC)

Under Rule 152(1) to (3) EPC in conjunction with the decision of the President of the EPO dated 12 July 2007, professional representatives who identify themselves as such are required to file a signed authorisation only in particular circumstances (see Special edition No. 3, OJ EPO 2007, L.1). However, a legal practitioner entitled to act as a professional representative under Article 134(8) EPC or an employee acting for an applicant under Article 133(3), first sentence, EPC who is not a professional representative must file a signed authorisation unless an authorisation which expressly empowers him to act in proceedings established by the EPC has previously been filed with the EPO as receiving Office.

If an association registered with the EPO is appointed as representative (Rule 152(11) EPC) (see OJ EPO 2013, 535), the association's registered name and registration number must be indicated.

If an authorisation is required, the use of EPA/EPO/OEB Form 1003 is recommended for individual authorisations and EPA/EPO/OEB Form 1004 for general authorisations.

4. Request for examination (Articles 150(2) and 94 and Rule 70 EPC)

4.1 First check box

The request for examination is not deemed to be filed until the examination fee has been paid (Article 94(1) and Rule 70(1) EPC). The box for the request is pre-crossed in section 4.1.

Persons having their residence or principal place of business in an EPC contracting state with an

official language other than English, French or German, and nationals of that state who are resident abroad, may file the request for examination in an admissible non-EPO language (Article 14(4) EPC), using the space provided.

4.1 Second check box

For applicants who file the request for examination in an admissible non-EPO language in addition to the (pre-crossed) request in the language of the proceedings, the examination fee is reduced by 30% provided they are an SME, a natural person, a non-profit organisation, a university or a public research organisation (Rule 6(4) EPC, Article 14(1) RFEes).

Under Rule 6(6) EPC, applicants wishing to benefit from the reduction of the examination fee must declare that they are an entity or natural person covered by Rule 6(4) EPC. They must file this declaration at the latest by the time of payment of the fee in question, either by crossing this box or separately (e.g. using EPA/EPO/OEB Form 1011 available for download from epo.org). If there are multiple applicants, for the reduction to apply, each one must be an entity or a natural person within the meaning of Rule 6(4) EPC. In such cases, it is however sufficient for only one of them to be entitled to file documents in an admissible non-EPO language (Article 14(4), Rule 6(3) EPC). For more details see OJ EPO 2014, A23.

The request for examination is available in all admissible non-EPO languages at epo.org.

The request for examination (i.e. written request plus payment of the examination fee) must be filed either up to six months from the date on which the international search report (or the declaration under Article 17(2)(a) PCT) was published (Article 153(6) EPC) or within 31 months from the filing date or, where applicable, the (earliest) priority date, whichever period ends later. In practice this means that the request for examination must be submitted within the 31-month period (Rule 159(1)(f) EPC), unless the international search report was published late.

5. Additional copies of the documents cited in the supplementary European search report

One or more additional sets of copies of the documents cited in the supplementary European search report (see Rule 65 EPC) can be ordered against payment of the flat-rate fee(s).

6. Documents intended for proceedings before the EPO (Rule 159(1)(b) EPC) and response to the written opinion established by the EPO (Rule 161(1) EPC)

When an application enters the European phase applicants must specify the application documents, as originally filed or as amended, on

which the European grant procedure is to be based (Rule 159(1)(b) EPC). Section 6 allows them to clarify whether they wish to proceed with

- the **published documents**, whereby any amended claims filed with the International Bureau under Article 19 PCT replace the originally filed claims, unless expressly stated to the contrary – in proceedings before the EPO as **designated Office** without PCT Chapter II (section 6.1), or
- the documents on which the **international preliminary examination report is based** – in proceedings before the EPO as **elected Office** under PCT Chapter II (section 6.2).

Sections 6.1 and 6.2 also provide the possibility to indicate that amended documents filed on entry into the European phase are to form the basis for the grant procedure.

For Euro-PCT applications where a supplementary European search report will not be prepared, the following applies (see Guidelines for Examination in the EPO, E-IX, 3.2, for details):

Where the EPO has acted as the International Searching Authority (ISA) and, if a demand under Article 31 PCT was filed, also as the International Preliminary Examining Authority (IPEA), or as the Supplementary International Searching Authority (SISA), the applicant will be required to respond to any negative written opinion (WO-ISA) prepared by the EPO as ISA, or, where applicable, to the negative international preliminary examination report (IPER) prepared by the EPO as IPEA, or to the objections raised in the explanations given in the Supplementary International Search Report (SISR) under Rule 45bis.7(e) PCT, as the case may be. The time limit for response is six months from the invitation under Rule 161(1) EPC. Failure to respond in due time will lead to the application being deemed to be withdrawn (Rule 161(1) EPC).

New amendments (Articles 28 and 41 PCT) and/or comments which are filed on entry into the European phase will be considered to constitute a response to the WO-ISA, or to the IPER or the explanations given in the SISR, as the case may be, if the applicant indicates on EPA/EPO/OEB Form 1200 that such amendments and/or comments are to form the basis for further prosecution of the application. Similarly, amendments under Article 19 and/or 34 PCT filed in the international phase and maintained on entry into the European phase by making the appropriate entries on EPA/EPO/OEB Form 1200 may constitute a response, subject to certain requirements (see Guidelines for Examination in the EPO, C-III, 2.2, and E-IX, 3, for details).

The applicant must therefore clearly indicate the documents which are to form the basis for further prosecution of the application by crossing the appropriate boxes in section 6.1 or 6.2 as applicable.

In all cases, the applicant should specify in the **table on page 8** of EPA/EPO/OEB Form 1200 the documents which are to be used for the European phase and therefore form the basis for calculation of any additional fee. Any exceptional circumstances which may need further explanation must be clarified on an **additional sheet**.

The applicant can also amend the application at any time within a non-extendable period of six months from the communication (EPA/EPO/OEB Forms 1226AA, 1226BB, 1226CC) under Rule 161(1) and (2) EPC, which is issued shortly after effective entry into the European phase.

Pages of amendments filed during the six-month period under Rule 161 EPC are not taken into account in the calculation of the additional fee as part of the filing fee. Consequently, if amendments are filed at this stage which reduce the number of pages already paid for, no refund of the additional fee will be made.

Whenever amendments are filed, the applicant must identify them and indicate the basis for them in the application as filed (Rule 137(4) EPC) (see Guidelines for Examination in the EPO, E-IX, 3.4, and H-III, 2.1 and 2.1.1). If they fail to do so, the examining division may issue a communication under Rule 137(4) EPC requesting the correction of the deficiency within a non-extendable period of one month. If the applicant then fails to reply within that period, the application will be deemed to be withdrawn under Article 94(4) EPC.

If the applicant has supplied **test reports** in proceedings before the EPO as International Preliminary Examining Authority, the EPO assumes that it may also use them in the European grant proceedings.

6.3 Copies of the search results (Rule 141(1) EPC)

For each of the previous applications whose priority is claimed, a copy of the search results produced by the authority with which the application was filed (Rule 141(1) EPC) has to be supplied.

This box is to be crossed only if the copies of the documents are indeed supplied when filing the form for entry into the European phase. If, however, a copy of the search results is included in the file by the EPO (Rule 141(2) EPC), no action is required on the part of the applicant (see Guidelines for Examination in the EPO, A-III, 6.12).

7. Translations

7.1 Translation of the international application

If the international application was **not** published in an EPO official language, the applicant must furnish the EPO with a translation of that application in such a language within 31 months of the filing date or, where applicable, the (earliest) priority date.

The proceedings in the European phase will be conducted in the language of the translation. The translation must include the description, the claims as originally filed, any text in the drawings, and the abstract. It must also include any indications under Rule 13*bis*.3 and 13*bis*.4 PCT in the case of inventions relating to biological material and any published request for rectification (Rule 91.3(d) PCT). For a complete list of possible translation items, see Guidelines for Examination in the EPO, E-IX, 2.1.3.

7.2 Translation of the priority application

Under Rule 53(3) EPC, applicants may be invited by the EPO to file a translation of the previous (priority) application (see also OJ EPO 2013, 150).

Alternatively, they can submit a declaration under Rule 53(3) that the European patent application is a complete translation of the previous application. They can do this by crossing the box in section 7.3. In this case, no invitation to file a translation of the priority application will be issued.

7.4 Claims amended under Article 19 PCT

If the applicant wishes the subsequent proceedings to be based on the claims as amended under Article 19 PCT, the translation must also include those claims, together with any explanatory statement (Rule 49.5(a)(ii), 49.5(c) and (c-*bis*) PCT) and, in any event, the accompanying letter under Rule 46.5(b) PCT.

7.5 Translation of annexes

Where **PCT Chapter II** applies, applicants must prepare and file translations of all annexes to the international preliminary examination report (Article 36(2)(b) and (3)(b), Rule 70.16(a) PCT, Rule 74.1 PCT), regardless of whether they are seeking patent protection for the same version of the application documents as was the subject of that report.

8. Biological material

To enable the EPO to check compliance with the requirements under Rule 13*bis* PCT in conjunction with Rule 31(1)(c) EPC, applicants should indicate the name and address of the depositary institution and the accession number of the deposited biological material in section 8. In

addition, the identification reference of the biological material can be specified.

Applicants should also indicate where in the description the information required under Rule 31(1)(c) EPC (depositary institution and the deposit accession number) or the depositor's identification reference can be found.

To further enable the EPO to check compliance with Rule 31 EPC, the deposit receipt issued by the depositary institution is to be submitted to the EPO. Applicants are strongly advised to submit the deposit receipt when filing this form.

Waiver under Rule 33(1) and (2) EPC

Applicants may waive their right under Rule 33(1) and (2) EPC to an undertaking from the requester to issue a sample of the biological material, provided that they are the depositor of the biological material concerned. This waiver must be expressly declared to the EPO in the form of a separate, signed statement. It must specify the biological material concerned (depositary institution and accession number or depositor's reference number as shown in the application documents). It may be submitted at any time.

9. Nucleotide and amino acid sequences

9.1 If the application discloses one or more nucleotide and/or amino acid sequences, a sequence listing in electronic form complying with the applicable WIPO standard and the Administrative Instructions under the PCT is normally available to the EPO as designated/elected Office if such sequence listing was contained in the international application in accordance with Rule 5.2(a) PCT, furnished to the EPO as International Authority under Rule 13*ter*.1(a) PCT, or otherwise made available to it, e.g. by WIPO.

9.2 If the application discloses one or more nucleotide and/or amino acid sequences and a sequence listing in electronic form complying with the Administrative Instructions under the PCT, i.e. WIPO Standard ST.25 or ST.26, depending on the international date of filing, is not available to the EPO as designated/elected Office, a standardised electronic sequence listing must be filed on entry into the European phase. Otherwise, the EPO will invite the applicant to file the sequence listing (Rule 163(3) EPC). In this case, a late furnishing fee is payable. For further information, see Rules 163(3) and 30(3) EPC, as well as the decision of the President of the EPO and the notice from the EPO dated 9 December 2021 concerning the filing of sequence listings (OJ EPO 2021, A96 and A97).

If the standardised sequence listing is submitted on entry into the European phase, the applicant must declare that the subsequently filed sequence listing does not include matter which goes beyond the content of the application as originally filed.

The declaration can be made by crossing the relevant box in section 9.2.

10. Designation of contracting states

All the contracting states designated in the international patent application and party to the EPC at the time of its filing are deemed to be designated (see Article 79(1) EPC). Thus the EPC contracting states that can be validly designated on entry into the European phase are already specified in the international phase (Rule 4.9(a) PCT). Payment of the flat-rate designation fee covers all the EPC contracting states, unless individual designations are expressly withdrawn (Article 2, item 3, RFees) (see OJ EPO 2009, 118).

11. Extension/validation

The application and the European patent granted in respect of it are extended or validated to or in those non-EPC contracting states designated for a national patent in the international application with which extension or validation agreements were in force on the date of filing of the international application.

The request for extension or validation for a state is deemed withdrawn if the extension/validation fee is not paid to the EPO within the time limit laid down in the EPC for paying the designation fee (Rule 159(1)(d) EPC) (see Guidelines for Examination in the EPO, A-III, 12).

11.1 Extension of European patent applications and the resulting European patents may be requested for countries with which the EPO has extension agreements (as at January 2024: Bosnia and Herzegovina).

11.2 Validation of European patent applications and the resulting European patents may be requested for countries with which the EPO has validation agreements (as at January 2024: Morocco, the Republic of Moldova, Tunisia, Cambodia and Georgia). The EPO publishes the necessary information about such agreements on its website and in its Official Journal in good time before their entry into force. With regard to Cambodia, please note that pharmaceutical products are excluded from patent protection until 2033 (OJ EPO 2018, A16).

12. Acceleration of procedure

The ways in which the European grant procedure can be expedited in addition to the "PACE" request are listed in the notice from the EPO dated 30 November 2015 (OJ EPO 2015, A94). The options available on entry into the European phase are gathered together in this section for ease of selection.

12.1 Early processing

Request for the early start of processing in the European phase ("early entry")

Applicants who wish the EPO as designated or elected Office to start processing an application before expiry of the 31-month time limit under Rule 159(1) EPC must file an express request for early processing. The request can be made by crossing box 12.1.

A request for early processing is effective on the date of its filing only if the requirements of Rule 159(1) EPC applicable on that date have been complied with. The nature of the requirements to be met depends on the date on which the request for early processing is filed (see the notice from the EPO dated 21 February 2013 concerning the request for early processing, [OJ EPO 2013, 156](#), II.7 and 8).

Applicants must take note of the **consequences** of an effective request for early processing (see OJ EPO 2013, 156, III.9 and 10). Crossing box 12.1 must therefore be carefully considered.

An effective request for early processing **terminates the international phase** in respect of the EPO as designated/elected Office. This means that the application will be processed as a European application as from the date the request for early processing is effective, and reversion to the 31-month time limit is excluded. This implies, for instance, that the time limits for filing the request for examination and paying the examination fee, the designation fee and the third renewal fee are those applying to a European application, and are no longer deferred to expiry of the 31-month time limit under Rule 159(1) EPC.

Please note that automatic debiting can only be performed if the documents referred to in Article 20 PCT are available to the EPO, so that it can establish whether or not a page fee for the 36th and each subsequent page must be debited. These documents are normally available to the EPO if

- the international application has already been published,
- the EPO is the receiving Office, or
- the EPO acts as (S)ISA or IPEA.

In all other cases, if they want the request to take effect immediately, applicants must pay the relevant fees due on filing the request for early processing by a means of payment other than automatic debiting. Otherwise the request will only take effect on the day on which the EPO receives the documents referred to in Article 20 PCT from the IB in accordance with Rule 47.4 PCT.

Applicants are recommended to read the notice from the EPO dated 21 February 2013 concerning the request for early processing (OJ EPO 2013, 156). Further information is available in the Guidelines for Examination in the EPO, E-IX, 2.8, and the Euro-PCT Guide.

12.2 Waivers

Waiver of communication pursuant to Rules 161 and 162 EPC

The time limit under Rules 161 and 162 EPC is **six months**.

In order to accelerate the European grant procedure applicants can, in addition to filing a "PACE" request, expressly **waive their right to the communication under Rules 161(1) or (2) and 162 EPC** by crossing the first box in section 12.2.

The EPO will not issue a communication under Rules 161(1) or (2) and 162 EPC only if, in addition to the "waiver", on entry into the European phase the applicant has also fulfilled all the requirements of Rules 161 and 162 EPC (i.e. payment of any claims fees due and, where required, submission of a response under Rule 161(1) EPC) for the application to proceed directly to the supplementary European search or to examination. To accelerate the processing of the application further, the applicant can request accelerated search or examination under the PACE programme (see OJ EPO 2015, A93).

Where the right to the communication under Rules 161(1) or (2) and 162 EPC has not been validly waived, the communication will be issued and the application will be processed only after expiry of the six-month period provided for under those rules, even if a request under the PACE programme has been filed.

See also OJ EPO 2015, A94.

Waiver of the invitation under Rule 70(2) EPC

Applicants who file the request for examination before receiving the supplementary European search report are asked by the EPO, after the search report has been sent, to confirm within a six-month period that they wish to proceed further with the application (Rule 70(2) EPC). Where they also have to respond to the search opinion, their response is required within this same period (Rule 70a(2) EPC). To accelerate the procedure, they can waive their right to be asked for such confirmation by crossing the second box in section 12.2, in which case confirmation is deemed to be given when the supplementary European search report is transmitted to them. With regard to the legal consequences, see Guidelines for Examination in the EPO, C-VI, 3.

13. Payment

Fees due in respect of a patent application can be paid by debiting a deposit account held with the EPO, by credit card or by bank transfer. For more information, including information on how to claim refunds, see "[Fee payments and refunds](#)" at [epo.org](#).

Debiting a deposit account/automatic debiting

The procedure for paying by debiting a deposit account or by automatic debiting is set out in detail in the Arrangements for deposit accounts (ADA), the Arrangements for the automatic debiting procedure (AAD, Annex A.1 to the ADA) and the Information from the EPO concerning the automatic debiting procedure (Annex A.2 to the ADA) published in the supplementary publication to the EPO's Official Journal.

Careful attention should be paid to the conditions applicable to the filing of debit orders.

Payment by credit card

Payments by credit card must be made via the Central Fee Payment service available at [epo.org](#), using a credit card accepted by the EPO (American Express, Master Card and VISA).

Bank transfers

Payments by bank transfer can be prepared using the Central Fee Payment service available at [epo.org](#). The procedure is set out in detail in OJ EPO 2022, A81.

Payments by bank transfer must be made to the following account with the Commerzbank in Germany:

Account No. 3 338 800 00 / Sort code 700 800 00

IBAN DE20 7008 0000 0333 8800 00

BIC DRESDEFF700

Commerzbank AG
Leopoldstrasse 230
80807 Munich
Germany

For fee information, see "Guidance for the payment of fees, expenses and prices", which is published regularly in the EPO's Official Journal.

For the fee amounts, see the publication "Schedule of fees and expenses" or the "Interactive schedule of fees" available at [epo.org](#) under "Applying for a patent -> Fees -> European fees (EPC)".

III. Table for section 6 of Form 1200.3 – Documents intended for proceedings before the EPO

The table is used for calculating the additional fee for applications comprising more than 35 pages (Article 2, item 1a, RFees).