

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: **United States Patent and Trademark Office
(USPTO)**

on: **08 January 2008**

Date of main report and
any supplemental reports to
which this is a supplement: **Main Report: 21 December 2006
Supplemental Reports: None**

Documents referred to in this report: None

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 organizational structure of the USPTO was slightly modified and, as a result, the area of the Office responsible for patent quality, the Office of Patent Quality Assurance (OPQA), is now under the Deputy Commissioner for Patent Examination Policy (DCPEP). This has necessitated two minor changes to the USPTO's prior QMS Report.

The first sentence in the section of the report titled "Quality Assurance Procedures (Paragraph 21.07)" should now read:

The Office of Patent Quality Assurance (OPQA), under the DCPEP, has primary responsibility for the development and implementation of an effective internal quality assurance program.

The first sentence in the section of the report titled "Feedback arrangements (Paragraph 21.08)" should now read:

Reports setting forth the quality review findings are distributed on a regular basis to the DCPEP, DCPO, OPCTLA and Patents Technology Centers for use in the development of training and quality programs.

[End of report]