



C. PCT 830  
– 07.2

April 4, 2002

Madam,  
Sir,

*Standard for the electronic filing and processing of  
international applications: Proposals for change*

*Proposed modifications of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT*

1. This circular concerns proposals for change to the standard for the electronic filing and processing of international applications under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) which will, if adopted, result in modifications of Part 7 and Annex F of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT. It is being sent, for the purposes of consultation pursuant to Rule 89.2(b) of the Regulations under the PCT, to the national and regional patent Offices of, or acting for, all PCT Contracting States, including all receiving Offices, International Searching Authorities, International Preliminary Examining Authorities, and designated and elected Offices, and to interested intergovernmental organizations, as well as to certain non-governmental organizations representing users of the PCT system.
2. The International Bureau has received a number of proposals for change to the standard for the electronic filing and processing of international applications which, if adopted, would result in modifications of Annex F of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT, together with related proposals for amendment to certain provisions of Part 7 of the Administrative Instructions.
3. The proposals are available on WIPO's Web site (see [http://www.wipo.int/pct/efiling\\_standard/en](http://www.wipo.int/pct/efiling_standard/en)) as annexes to the following "Proposal for Change" (PFC) files:

- PCT/EF/PFC 02/001 relating to Part 7, Section 709 "Means of Communication" (proposal by the Japan Patent Office);

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- PCT/EF/PFC 02/002 relating to Annex F, section 4 “IA Documents Packaging” (proposal by the Japan Patent Office);
- PCT/EF/PFC 02/003 relating to Annex F, section 5 “Transmission” (proposal by the Japan Patent Office);
- PCT/EF/PFC 02/004 relating to Annex F, Appendix I, section 4.1 “Package header” (proposal by the Japan Patent Office);
- PCT/EF/PFC 02/005 relating to Annex F, Appendix I, section 3 “DTDs for new PCT applications (E-PCT)” (proposal by the United States Patent and Trademark Office);
- PCT/EF/PFC 02/006 relating to Annex F would add a recommendation on a file naming convention (proposal by the United States Patent and Trademark Office);
- PCT/EF/PFC 02/007 relating to Annex F, Appendix I, section 4.1 “Package header” (proposal by the United States Patent and Trademark Office);
- PCT/EF/PFC 02/008 relating to Part 7, Section 703 “Filing Requirements; Basic Common Standard” (proposal by the United States Patent and Trademark Office).

4. The International Bureau would appreciate receiving any comments on the proposed modifications by May 15, 2002. Comments should preferably be made by e-mail via the “Submit comments” facility on the Web site, but may alternatively be made in writing by letter or by fax to +41 (22) 338 8040. Comments will be included as Annexes to the relevant PFCs. Copies of the proposals on paper are available from the International Bureau on request. Inquiries concerning the proposals should be directed to Mr. Thiam Ming Song (e-mail: [song@wipo.int](mailto:song@wipo.int); phone: 41 (22) 338 9640; fax: 41 (22) 338 8040).

5. In Circular C. PCT 827, which is also dated April 4, 2002, the International Bureau proposes other modifications of the Administrative Instructions which would add to Annex F a new section 2.5 “Change procedure” dealing with special procedures for the proposal, consideration and implementation of future modifications of the standard for electronic filing and processing of international applications. It is intended that consideration of the proposals referred to in the present Circular will proceed independently of those other proposals.

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6. The International Bureau intends to promulgate by June 30, 2002, the modifications proposed in the present Circular, revised if necessary in the light of comments received. It is envisaged that the modifications would enter into force on January 1, 2003.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Francis Gurry', written in a cursive style.

Francis Gurry  
Assistant Director General