



C. PCT 992
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June 8, 2004

Madam,
Sir,

*Proposed modifications of Annex F
of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT*

*Standard for the electronic filing and processing of international applications:
Proposals for change (files PCT/EF/PFC 04/001 to 005)*

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 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, and under the change procedure provided for in section 2.5.5 of Annex F (expedited consideration of proposals for change), 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 and prepared a number of proposals for change to the standard for the electronic filing and processing of international applications relating to modifications to certain DTDs (Annex F, Appendix I) and to provisions relating to SSL authentication (Annex F) with a view to their entering into force on January 1, 2005. Those proposals are available on WIPO's Website as annexes to the following proposal for change (PFC) files (see http://www.wipo.int/pct/efiling_standard/en):

- PCT/EF/PFC 04/001 SSL Authentication (Annex F, section 5.1.2.1) (proposal by the European Patent Office, the United States Patent and Trademark Office and the Japan Patent Office);

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- PCT/EF/PFC 04/002 Changes to various DTDs (Annex F, Appendix I) and to the recommended file naming convention (Annex F, section 4.3) (proposal by the Japan Patent Office);
- PCT/EF/PFC 04/003 Support for more transaction types in the package-data DTD for the Applicant-Office sector (Annex F, Appendix I, section 3.1) (proposal by IP Australia);
- PCT/EF/PFC 04/004 Changes to certain DTDs (Annex F, Appendix I) (proposal by the European Patent Office, the International Bureau, the Japan Patent Office and the United States Patent and Trademark Office);
- PCT/EF/PFC 04/005 New DTDs relating to the ISR and the IPER (Annex F, Appendix I) (proposal by the European Patent Office, the International Bureau, the Japan Patent Office and the United States Patent and Trademark Office).

3. The International Bureau would appreciate receiving any comments on the proposals by July 20, 2004. Comments should preferably be made via the “Submit comments” facility on the Website (at http://www.wipo.int/pct/efiling_standard/en/submit_comment.htm), 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 PFC files. 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: thiamming.song@wipo.int; phone: 41-22-338 9640; fax: 41-22-338 8040). Please note that, in order for Offices to update their electronic filing systems in view of the entry into force of the modifications on January 1, 2005, members of the Consultative Group have also been asked to make their recommendations on the proposals contained in PCT/EF/PFC 04/002 to 005 files by July 20, 2004. Members of the Consultative Group may make recommendations on the proposal contained in the PCT/EF/PFC 04/001 file until August 31, 2004.

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4. The International Bureau intends to promulgate the modifications made on the basis of the proposals contained in the PCT/EF/PFC 04/002 to 005 files, revised if necessary in the light of any comments received, by August 5, 2004, with effect from January 1, 2005. The International Bureau intends to promulgate the modifications made on the basis of the proposal contained in the PCT/EF/PFC 04/001 file, revised if necessary in the light of any comments received, by September 16, 2004, with effect from January 1, 2005.

Sincerely yours,



Francis Gurry
Deputy Director General