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March 30, 2007

Madam,
Sir,

Changes in PCT Publication Format

As from April 2007, new regulations under the Patent Cooperation Treaty come into force and require that the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) change its publication product formats. Some other minor changes are also to be introduced at the same time. The purpose of this circular is to inform you of the implementation of changes in the technical format of future PCT publications.

With effect from October 2007, the International Bureau will publish international applications using a revised publication format based on version 1.5 of *wo-published-application.dtd*, as promulgated in document PCT/AI/DTD/4, dated March 23, 2007.

This will affect the following WIPO products:

- (a) publications on the PatentScope website;
- (b) the Article 20 and Rule 87 DVDs;
- (c) Communication On Request (COR) downloads of international publication information; and
- (d) downloads from the FTP services utilized by offices and subscribers.

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These changes will apply from the first publication of October 2007, that is on Thursday, October 4, 2007. It should be noted that when requesting documents through PatentScope and the COR service, published PCT international applications created prior to this date will be provided in the format in which they were originally produced. Those documents are available at the following URLs: <http://www.wipo.int/patentscope> and <https://pctcor.wipo.int/epct>.

The revised *wo-published-application.dtd* will contain the following changes from the version used in production today and it may be necessary for you to adapt your system to comply with these amendments:

1. changes to allow for the transmission of information related to any request for restoration of priority rights;
2. changes to allow for the transmission of information related to any request for incorporation by reference;
3. changes to allow the transmission of information of rectification of obvious mistakes;
4. changes to the format of declarations under Sections 211 to 215 of the Administrative Instructions to remove potentially misleading information relating to designations;
5. changes to details of the types of request made, to allow improved handling where requests for some types of protection are withdrawn;
6. minor changes to possible element and attribute contents for consistency with changes to elements permitted for filing applications in XML format; and
7. changes to permit a more flexible address format.

These changes in the content are implemented both in changes to the XML content in instances of *wo-published-application.xml* and in rendered views of the information, notably in the front page information.

It should also be noted that for international applications published in the period from January 2006, in the case where there are amended claims, the publication was created in compliance with a DTD that retained the previous (version 1.3) definitions for amended claims. This DTD has been posted on the informational web-page referenced in the final paragraph of this circular.

This circular, as well as revised *wo-published-application.dtd*, the guidance notes relating to changes implemented and the set of sample PCT published international application front pages are available from the WIPO website at: http://www.wipo.int/pct/edi/en/wo_publication_information/index.html. We draw your attention to the guidance notes, and the fully populated XML sample, as WIPO may not initially use all the elements specified in the DTD and certain new values may appear in existing attributes to address new possibilities.

Yours sincerely,

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

Francis Gurry
Deputy Director General