



C.PCT 1147
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May 15, 2008

Madam,
Sir,

The purpose of this circular is to announce a modification in the publication codes ("kind codes") used in order to distinguish PCT international applications published by the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), taking effect from January 1, 2009. Subsequent to this change, PCT international applications republished with alterations, amendments, corrections or supplements will be specifically distinguished from other documents by additional publication codes not previously used. The purpose of this change is to improve the usability of published PCT data and documents by more clearly identifying reasons for republication of PCT international applications. The change will affect all users of PCT publication data and documents including PCT Authorities, PCT applicants and users of patent information.

In compliance with WIPO Standard ST.16, the following publication codes will be used (additional codes denoted by *italics*):

Code	Publication details
A1	International application published with ISR
A2	International application published without ISR
A2	International application published with declaration under Article 17(2)(a)
A3	Later publication of ISR with revised front page
A4	Later publication of amended claims and/or statement (Article 19) with revised front page
A8	International application republished with corrections to front page bibliographic data
A9	International application or ISR republished with corrections, alterations or supplements (see also WIPO Standard ST.50) ¹

Example: Under the present system, an international application published with ISR would retain the publication code A1 after republication for any reason. Under the new system, the application would be assigned the publication code A4 if republished with amended claims.

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¹ Supplements may include declarations under Article 17(2)(a) published separately from the corresponding international application or supplementary ISRs.

A detailed key describing the changes can be found in the Annex.

Changes in publication codes will be reflected in all PCT international applications published or republished by the International Bureau on or after January 1, 2009. PCT international applications published or republished before that date will not be affected and will retain their original publication codes.

The following PCT publication products will be affected by the changes outlined above:

- (a) publication of international applications on the PATENTSCOPE[®] Search Service;
- (b) PCT Rule 87 and PCT Article 20 DVDs;
- (c) communication on request (COR) downloads of international publication information; and
- (d) downloads from the FTP services utilized by Offices and data subscribers.

Comments on this change may be addressed to Mr. William Meredith, Head, Patent Information and IP Statistics Service (email: william.meredith@wipo.int or by fax: (41 22) 733 54 28).

Yours sincerely,



Francis Gurry
Deputy Director General

Annex to Circular C.PCT 1147

[Key to changes in letter codes]

	Republication reason	Former system	New system
International application published with ISR	Amended claims and/or statement	A1	A4
	Corrections to front page bibliographic data	A1	A8
	Corrections, alterations or supplements	A1	A9

	Republication reason	Former system	New system
International application published without ISR	Amended claims and/or statement	A2	A4
	Corrections to front page bibliographic data	A2	A8
	Corrections, alterations or supplements	A2	A9

	Republication reason	Former system	New system
ISR (published separately from corresponding international application)	Corrections to front page bibliographic data	A3	A8
	Corrections, alterations or supplements	A3	A9

[End of Annex]