

C. PCT 1511

June 6, 2017

Madam,  
Sir,

In accordance with Rule 89.2(a) of the Regulations under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), modifications to the Administrative Instructions under the PCT (AIs), certain PCT forms relating to the receiving Office (RO), the International Bureau (IB), the International Searching Authority (ISA), the Authority specified for Supplementary International Search (SISA) and the International Preliminary Examining Authority (IPEA), as well as modifications to the PCT Receiving Office Guidelines (ROGLs) and to the PCT International Search and Preliminary Examination Guidelines (ISPEGLs) are hereby promulgated with effect from July 1, 2017.

The promulgation follows consultation under Rule 89.2(b) of the Regulations under the PCT with your Office in its capacity as RO, ISA, SISA and IPEA and/or designated/elected Office (DO/EO) and also with certain intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

The modifications are as proposed in Circular C. PCT 1498, dated February 10, 2017, except where further changes have been made as a result of the consultation, as indicated below (editorial and minor drafting changes are not specifically mentioned).

*Modifications of certain forms relating to the RO, the ISA, the SISA, the IB and the IPEA*

Forms PCT/RO/102, PCT/ISA/238, PCT/IB/375, PCT/IB/379 and PCT/ISA/220 and Form PCT/IB/372 are modified as proposed in Circular C. PCT 1498.

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As a result of the consultation, Form PCT/RO/101 (Request form) has been further modified based on comments made by several Offices. In particular, the wording, layout and numbering of Box "Continuation of Box No. VII" has been further modified.

As a result of the consultation, Form PCT/RO/118 has been further modified by adding a reference to copies of classification results in item 11.

Following the suggestion of an ISA, a mistake in the rule reference underneath the title in Form PCT/ISA/233 has been corrected.

Furthermore, the occasion of this Circular is also used to delete a reference in Form PCT/RO/102 to Section 102*bis*(c) which was deleted with effect from 1 July 2015, to slightly modify the wording in Form PCT/IB/311 and to make certain minor editorial changes in the Spanish version of Form PCT/RO/110.

Offices which use languages other than English, French and Spanish are requested to prepare the Forms needed by them, in such other languages, with due regard to the provisions of Section 102 of the AIs. The IB encourages Offices to make such translations available to the IB so that they can be accessed by all Offices from the WIPO website.

#### *Modifications of certain AIs*

Section 337 has been deleted and Section 407 has been modified as proposed in Circular C. PCT 1498.

#### *Modifications of certain paragraphs of the ROGLs*

Paragraphs 116 and 166 of the ROGLs have been modified as proposed in Circular C. PCT 1498.

As a result of the consultation, paragraphs 116A, 116B, 116C, 116D and 116E of the ROGLS have been further modified to reflect most of the modifications proposed by several Offices and align their wording, to the extent necessary, to the further modifications made to the request form.

In paragraphs 205F and 205G further modifications have been made to align paragraph 205G(b) with the practice of the respective Offices concerned together with some minor editorial changes in the rest of the paragraphs.

Further, ROs and DOs/EOs are invited to communicate to the IB what their respective practice is/will be under the options presented in paragraph 205G(a) and (b), both as ROs and as DOs/EOs, for inclusion in the *PCT Applicant's Guide*. ROs are also invited to communicate to the IB if they will accept to transfer international applications under PCT Rule 19.4(a)(iii) in such incorporation scenarios.

#### *Modifications of certain paragraphs of the ISPEGLs*

Paragraphs 2.20, 9.41 to 9.41A, 15.69, 15.78, 16.64, 16.78A to 16.78C, and 17.43 of the ISPEGLs are modified as proposed in Circular C. PCT 1498.

As a result of the consultation, paragraphs 9.41B, 15.15, 15.17B and 15.17C have been further modified to provide more clarity and/or to correct certain Rule references, and paragraph 16.73 has been further modified in line with the recommendations of WIPO Standard ST.14 (the word "should" in the last sentence of the paragraph has been changed to "may").

Furthermore, as a result of the consultation, the “Flowchart of Typical International Application Processing” following paragraph 1.15 has been modified to reflect the amended time limit for requesting supplementary international search of 22 months (Rule 45*bis*.1).

*Availability of Modified Forms, AIs, ROGLs and ISPEGLs*

The consolidated versions of the modified AIs, ROGLs and ISPEGLs (*as in force from July 1, 2017*), respectively, are available on the WIPO website at: [www.wipo.int/pct/en/texts/](http://www.wipo.int/pct/en/texts/).

The modified forms are available from the WIPO website under “Forms in force from July 1, 2017” at: [www.wipo.int/pct/en/forms/](http://www.wipo.int/pct/en/forms/).

Offices requiring marked-up copies and/or electronic files of the AIs or Forms should contact the PCT Legal Division at [pct.legal@wipo.int](mailto:pct.legal@wipo.int).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Sandage", is written over a light gray horizontal band.

John Sandage  
Deputy Director General