

WIPO Standard ST.37 and PCT Minimum Documentation

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PCT Rule 34

Minimum Documentation



To December 31, 2025

Regional patent and PCT applications

Patent documents from specified national Offices

Patent documents published in English, French, German or Spanish if at disposal of each International Searching Authority

From January 1, 2026

Regional patent and PCT applications

Patent documents and utility model documents notified to IB by national Office

Technical and Accessibility Requirements specified in Annex H of PCT Administrative Instructions

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Full text in XML (ST.36 or ST.96) or in plain text for documents (abstract, description claims) published after January 1, 2026

From January 1, 2036, full text required for documents published on or after January 1, 1991

Accessible for bulk download by International Searching Authorities in secure repository

Authority File Requirements in Annex H

Provided at least annually to International Bureau (PCT Rule 34.1(d)(iii))

Compliant with WIPO Standard ST.37

Indicators (language code or “N”) for text-searchable abstract, description and claims (patent publications after January 1, 2026)

Definition file preferred

Minimum Requirements for International Authorities

PCT Rules 36 and 63

- Making available patent collections for PCT minimum documentation (**NEW**)
- Access to PCT minimum documentation
- Relevant for extensions of appointment in 2026
- Reactivation of Authority File Task Force

Preparations for New Requirements in PCT Minimum Documentation Task Force

1

Authority File

Text-Searchable Indicators
ST.37 version 2.2 compliant

Assessed by International Bureau

2

Patent Documents

Full-Text
Annex H compliant

Reviewed by one or more other
International Searching Authorities

3

Bulk Download

Full-Text Patent Documents
Sequence Listings

Reviewed by one or more other
International Searching Authorities

PCT Minimum Documentation Current State

Notifications from 33 Offices under PCT Rule 34.1(d)(i)
(details of documents published in PCT Gazette)

34 patent collections in PCT minimum documentation from 2026
including all International Authorities (up from 20 collections)

Advice on Extension of Appointments of International Authorities at
PCT Committee for Technical Cooperation in February 2026

Digitization of back file up to January 1, 1991 (by end of 2035)

Authority File and PCT Minimum Documentation

- Authority file should include all patent documents published by Office to validate completeness of collections
- Revisions to WIPO Standard ST.37 from PCT Minimum Documentation Task Force
- Improvements to both Authority File and PCT minimum documentation

Authority File should be
“gold standard”



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