

# 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

# Technical and Accessibility Requirements

## Annex H of PCT Administrative Instructions

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

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## Authority File

Text-Searchable Indicators  
ST.37 version 2.2 compliant

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Assessed by International Bureau

2

## Patent Documents

Full-Text  
Annex H compliant

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Reviewed by one or more other  
International Searching Authorities

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## Bulk Download

Full-Text Patent Documents  
Sequence Listings

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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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# Thank you!

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