



C. PCT 1211

April 12, 2010

Madam,  
Sir,

1. This Circular is addressed to your office in its capacity as a receiving Office, International Searching Authority, International Preliminary Examining Authority and/or, designated or elected Office under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT). It is also being sent to interested intergovernmental organizations as well as certain non-governmental organizations representing users of the PCT system.

2. This Circular concerns proposals for change to the Standard for the Electronic Filing and Processing of International Applications under the PCT (Annex F of the Administrative Instructions).

#### DESCRIPTION OF CHANGES

3. Proposed changes to Annex F and its appendices are set out in the following Proposal for Change (PFC) files (see [http://www.wipo.int/pct/efiling\\_standard/en/pfc\\_files.htm](http://www.wipo.int/pct/efiling_standard/en/pfc_files.htm)):

- PCT/EF/PFC 10/001 (*fee-sheet insertion of comments to invite changes in practice*), proposal by the International Bureau
- PCT/EF/PFC 10/002 (*changes to various DTDs with the goal of Annex F and WIPO Standard ST. 36 synchronisation*), proposal by the International Bureau
- PCT/EF/PFC 10/003 (*updates to search-report*), proposal by the International Bureau based on PFR ST.36/2010/001 by the European Patent Office, the Japan Patent Office and the United States Patent and Trademark Office

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4. The changes to Annex F and its appendices are related to ongoing improvements in PCT fee processing at the International Bureau, to WIPO Standard ST.36 Proposals For Revision (PFRs) that have already been processed (PFR ST.36/2009/001 and PFR ST.36/2009/002), and to the search-report element as proposed in PFR ST.36/2010/001, currently being considered by the ST.36 Task Force.

5. Given the nature of these changes, and the current usage of the affected elements, it is believed that there should be no significant technical issues in implementation and, in particular there should be no problems with backwards compatibility. It is proposed that these changes should enter into force on January 1, 2011, noting that other changes to DTDs have been promulgated (see Circular C. PCT 1199) with effect from April 1, 2010.

#### CONSULTATIONS

6. Consultations under PCT Rule 89.2 are being conducted in accordance with the procedure set out in Section 2.5 of Annex F of the PCT Administrative Instructions.

7. The International Bureau would appreciate receiving any comments on the proposals by May 25, 2010. Comments should preferably be made via the "Submit comments" facility on the Website (at [http://www.wipo.int/efiling\\_standard/en/submit\\_comment.htm](http://www.wipo.int/efiling_standard/en/submit_comment.htm)), but may alternatively be made in writing by letter or by fax to +41-22-338 8040. Comments will be included as Annexes to the relevant PFC file. Copies of the proposals on paper are available from the International Bureau on request. Inquiries concerning the proposals should be directed to the International Bureau by email to: [pct.efiling@wipo.int](mailto:pct.efiling@wipo.int).

#### FURTHER PROCESS

8. Once the Consultative Group established under Section 2.5 of Annex F of the PCT Administrative Instructions has made its recommendations, the International Bureau will promulgate any necessary changes to the PCT Administrative Instructions together with information on entry into force of the changes.

Yours sincerely,



Francis Gurry  
Director General