



C. PCT 1456

June 12, 2015

Madam,
Sir,

Proposed modifications to the PCT Receiving Office Guidelines

This Circular is addressed to your Office in its capacity as a receiving Office for the purpose of consultation on proposed modifications to the PCT Receiving Office Guidelines (ROGLs). It is also addressed to certain non-governmental organizations representing users of the PCT System.

At the eighth session of the PCT Working Group, held in Geneva from May 26 to 29, 2015, it was agreed that the International Bureau would consult with Offices on proposed modifications to the ROGLs relating to a service offered by certain International Searching Authorities (ISAs) which permits applicants who file a PCT application claiming priority of an earlier application already searched by the same Office to submit comments on the earlier search results. These comments would then be taken into account by the ISAs when carrying out the international search (see documents PCT/WG/8/17 and PCT/WG/8/25 paragraph 57). The proposed modifications provide guidance to receiving Offices on how to process such comments.

./ The paragraphs of the ROGLs which are proposed to be modified are set out in the Annex to this Circular.

/...

Comments on the proposed modifications of the PCT ROGLs

Your Office is invited to provide comments, if any, to the International Bureau by July 15, 2015, by e-mail to: pct.legal@wipo.int.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Sandage", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Sandage
Deputy Director General

Enclosure: Annex — Proposed modified paragraphs of the PCT ROGLs
(modified paragraphs only)

Receiving Office Guidelines

Chapter VI – Article 14 Check and Other Formal Requirements

“Comments on Earlier Search Results

116E. *Comments on Earlier Search Results.* Where a PCT application claims the priority of an earlier application in relation to which a search had already been carried out by the same Office that acts as International Searching Authority, some International Searching Authorities have indicated that they would, when carrying out the international search, consider comments made by applicants in response to the earlier search results relating to the priority application. Applicants who wish to have such comments taken into account will submit them to the receiving Office together with the PCT application, typically by checking Box No. IX of the request, sub-box “Other”, and indicating “Comments on earlier search results” or similar appropriate wording.

116F. Based on the indications made in Box No. IX, the receiving Office checks whether the applicant in fact submitted comments on earlier search results and transmits a copy of any such comments to the International Bureau and the International Searching Authority, together with the record copy and the search copy respectively.”