



C. PCT 1487

December 22, 2016

Madam,  
Sir,

*Notification of information concerning events at the designated and elected Offices*

This Circular is addressed to your Office in its capacity as a designated or elected Office under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT).

This Circular concerns the technical requirements to enable the implementation of the notification to the International Bureau of information concerning events at designated and elected Offices related to the national phase entry of international applications, following the adoption by the PCT Assembly, in October 2015, of amendments to PCT Rule 95.1 that will enter into force on July 1, 2017.

Specifically, under Rule 95.1 amended, designated and elected Offices will be required to send to the International Bureau at least the following information concerning events related to the national phase entry of international applications:

(i) following the performance by the applicant of the acts referred to in PCT Article 22 or Article 39, the date of performance of those acts and any national application number which has been assigned to the international application;

(ii) where the designated or elected Office explicitly publishes the international application under its national law or practice, the number and date of that national publication; and,

(iii) where a patent is granted, the date of grant of the patent and, where the designated or elected Office explicitly publishes the international application in the form in which it is granted under its national law, the number and date of that national publication.

*Existing national phase entry information data collection*

Currently a number of designated and elected Offices voluntarily provide information concerning events at the designated and elected Offices in the form of “National phase entry information” as requested by the International Bureau in 2006 (C.PCT 1087) and according to the “PCT data format specifications for the collection of PCT national phase information version 3.0”. The information, currently provided, is available via the Patentscope website, and through associated bulk data services. The International Bureau will replace the existing data collection with data collected using a revised specification, outlined below, and will review with each Office the status of the data currently held to determine a data replacement or migration process.

*ePCT national phase entry function*

For Offices unable to automate the preparation of CSV or XML files, the ePCT system offers a method of entering the relevant information manually as an interim measure. However, it is strongly preferred that this data be provided as an automatic part of the processing and publication of national phase applications and grants. Offices which require assistance with such automation are invited to contact the International Bureau to discuss the use of appropriate modules provided through the WIPO Technical Assistance program to IP Offices.

*Offices that use IPAS*

Offices that use IPAS for national patent administration, working with WIPO’s Global Infrastructure Sector, will have the opportunity to install the “WIPO Publish module”, provided by WIPO, that when enabled will meet the requirements of Rule 95.1.

*Legal Status Task Force*

The International Bureau recognizes that the data requested overlaps with the data under discussion in the Legal Status Task Force; the International Bureau is taking note of developments in this Task Force and will, should it be required in the future, update these specifications as needed.

*Specification of revised data format*

To meet the requirements for the data submission under Rule 95.1 as amended, the specification of the data files has been revised; a draft of the revised specification is available on the WIPO website as the “PCT data format specifications for the collection of PCT national phase information version 4.0”.

In anticipation of receiving information according to the revised specification, the International Bureau will update its systems that make available, via the Patentscope Search Service under the “National Phase” tab for each PCT application, the information concerning events related to national phase entry at the designated and elected Offices that is provided by Offices according to the revised specification.

*Provision of information concerning events at the designated and elected Offices in the revised format*

Once the revised specification for the data transmission under Rule 95.1 as amended has been finalized, your Office will be invited to transmit an initial notification file, according to the revised format, that provides the most complete back file of notifications possible, to enable the International Bureau to make an as complete record as possible available to the public via the Patentscope website. Following the transmission of those initial notification files, the International Bureau will further invite your Office to provide, on a monthly basis or more frequently, update files containing the incremental sets of information concerning events related to national phase entry at your Office.

Information supplied to the International Bureau in this format for the purposes of Rule 95.1, will also automatically be added to appropriate records in Patentscope and will continue to be available through the Patentscope website.

Offices supplying national collection data to Patentscope must supply the information for the purposes of Rule 95.1 in addition to any information provided for Patentscope national collection data, as the requirements of Rule 95.1 will not be considered to be met due to the wide variety of formats making it impractical to load the data in a reliable and timely fashion.

Noting that the amended to Rule 95.1 will enter into force on July 1, 2017, the International Bureau would welcome the use of the revised specification to transmit notification files already from May 1, 2017, and would be grateful if all Offices would transition to using the revised specification by August 1, 2017 at the latest.

The procedure is detailed on WIPO's web site at the following address:

<http://www.wipo.int/patentscope/en/data/index.html#ipos>

*Responses to this Circular*

At this stage, the International Bureau invites your Office to provide comments on the revised specification to transmit notification files under Rule 95.1 as amended. Responses should be sent, preferably by e mail, to Mr. Peter Waring, Head, Technical Cooperation Section, PCT International Cooperation Division, e-mail: [pcticd@wipo.int](mailto:pcticd@wipo.int); fax: (+4122) 338 7160, by February 8, 2017. Thereafter, the International Bureau will make available a final version of the specification, taking into account any comments received by this date.

Yours sincerely,



John Sandage  
Deputy Director General