

C. PCT 1621

April 26, 2021

Madam,  
Sir,

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.

This Circular concerns the conclusion of consultations, notified in PCT Circular C. PCT 1615, regarding 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*

Proposed changes to Annex F and its appendices are set out in the following Proposal for Change (PFC) files (see

[https://www.wipo.int/efiling\\_standard/en/pfc\\_files\\_already\\_processed.htm](https://www.wipo.int/efiling_standard/en/pfc_files_already_processed.htm)):

- PCT/EF/PFC 20/002 (Modification of the DTD for the written opinion components DTD), changing the application documents group to allow the possibility of multiple top-up searches);
- PCT/EF/PFC 20/003 (Modification of the package data DTD, changing the package-data element to allow the inclusion of earlier search letters for “PCT Direct”);
- PCT/EF/PFC 20/004 (Modification of the DTDs for IB publication and amendment request, changing the statement element to allow the author to break the statement into sections);
- PCT/EF/PFC 20/005 (Modification of the package data and IB publication DTDs, changing the sequence listing element to allow the attachment of WIPO ST.26 sequence listing files);
- PCT/EF/PFC 20/006 (Modification of the international search report and data and IB publication DTDs, changing the relevant passage element to allow the inclusion of additional information regarding the citation and passage).

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*Conclusion of consultations*

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

The International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), in light of the comments received regarding the modification of the DTDs referenced in the PFC files, has concluded that there were no comments regarding the proposals that required changes to be made.

*Further process*

The modifications to Annex F of the PCT Administrative Instructions are hereby promulgated with effect from July 1, 2021.

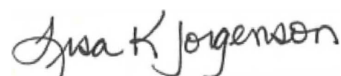
A consolidated, revised Appendix I to Annex F of the PCT Administrative Instructions can be found on the WIPO website at: [https://www.wipo.int/pct/en/texts/pdf/ai\\_dtd\\_15.pdf](https://www.wipo.int/pct/en/texts/pdf/ai_dtd_15.pdf).

The International Bureau requests that receiving Offices that provide electronic filing client software and receiving Offices operating electronic filing servers update the relevant software installations to use the latest DTDs and stylesheets made available by the International Bureau. While these revised DTDs provide for the inclusion of sequence listings in WIPO Standard ST.26 format in electronic filing in preparation for the expected start date for filing sequence listings in this format, a further update is likely to be required in respect of the stylesheet, and possibly the DTD, for the PCT request form.

Furthermore, the International Bureau advises that International Authorities may take advantage of the additional features in the search report and written opinion DTDs as their systems development schedules permit.

Implementation coordination information and any further requests for information should be sent, preferably by e-mail, to Mr. Peter Waring, Senior Counselor, PCT Business Development Division, at: [pctbdd@wipo.int](mailto:pctbdd@wipo.int).

Yours sincerely,



Lisa Jorgenson  
Deputy Director General