

Text of the Communication of the Government of Japan Relating to Rules 8(2)(b)
and 9(5)(c) of the Patent Law Treaty (PLT)

[Original: English]

This is a notification under the Regulations under the Patent Law Treaty Rules 8(2)(b) and 9(5)(c) regarding the requirements in Japan for electronic procedures such as electronic applications and signatures in electronic form.

In Japan, the procedures before the Japan Patent Office (JPO) such as patent applications can be taken electronically using the internet under the Article 3(1) of the “Act on Special Provisions to the Procedures concerning Industrial Property Rights”.

Any person who intends to apply for a patent or take the other procedures before the JPO, in advance, is supposed to have an identification number for him/her/the company, which is issued by the JPO, and have an electronic certificate suitable to take any electronic procedure before the JPO, which is issued by one of the prescribed electronic certificate organizations or authorities in Japan. In addition, the combination of identification number and the electronic certificate used have to be registered, in advance, to the JPO using the Internet Application Software provided by the JPO. The electronic procedures can be taken using the software.

The details of the electronic procedures are available at
<http://www.pcinfo.jpo.go.jp/site/>

The Internet Application Software is available at
http://www.pcinfo.jpo.go.jp/site/3_inet/index.html

The information concerning the electronic certificate is available at
<http://www.jpo.go.jp/tetuzuki/pcinfo/preparation/purchase.htm>

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