

**ELECTRONIC FILING AND PROCESSING OF INTERNATIONAL APPLICATIONS:
NOTIFICATION BY RECEIVING OFFICES****IB International Bureau (as receiving Office)**

Following the coming into effect on 7 January 2002 of new Part 7 and new Annex F of the Administrative Instructions containing, respectively, the legal framework and technical standard necessary to enable the implementation of electronic filing and processing of international applications under the PCT, as provided for by Rule 89*bis*.1, any receiving Office having the necessary technical systems in place is able to decide to accept the filing of international applications in electronic form in accordance with Part 7 and Annex F.

On 21 August 2003, the International Bureau as receiving Office announced that it was prepared to receive international applications in electronic form as from 25 August 2003, *provided that* they were filed by users already registered with the International Bureau as receiving Office for that purpose under the PCT-SAFE pilot, and also announced that electronic filing would be introduced on a wider basis when electronic systems so permitted (see PCT Gazette No. 34/2003, page 19248).

The International Bureau as receiving Office now announces that the PCT-SAFE pilot program will end on 12 February 2004 and that, with effect from that date, it is prepared to receive any international application in electronic form that complies with the necessary requirements. The restriction to filings by registered pilot users only will no longer apply.

More detailed information about how to file international applications in electronic form with the International Bureau as receiving Office is available on WIPO's Website at www.wipo.int/pct-safe.

In accordance with Section 710(b) of the Administrative Instructions, the International Bureau hereby notifies its requirements and practices with regard to the filing of international applications in electronic form with it as receiving Office. Those requirements and practices are the same as those already notified in PCT Gazette No. 34/2003, with the exception of the part relating to the certification authorities which are accepted by the International Bureau as receiving Office, which has been modified.

“As to electronic document formats (Section 710(a)(i)):

- XML (in general; see Annex F, section 3.1.1.1)
- WIPO Standard ST.25 (for sequence listings; see Annex F, section 3.1.1.2 and Annex C)
- PDF (for files that are referenced by XML files within the international application; see Annex F, section 3.1.2)
- TIFF (for files that are referenced by XML files within the international application; see Annex F, section 3.1.3.1)

As to means of transmittal (Section 710(a)(i)):

- on-line filing (see Annex F, section 5.1 and Appendix III, section 2(d))
- filing on one of the following physical media: 3.5 inch diskette, CD-R or DVD-R (see Annex F, section 5.2.1, Appendix III, section 2(e) and Appendix IV, sections 4.1, 4.3 and 4.5)

As to electronic document packaging:

- WASP (Wrapped and Signed Package; see Annex F, section 4.2.1)
- WAD (Wrapped Application Document; see Annex F, section 4.1.1) but only for filing on a physical medium

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NOTIFICATION BY RECEIVING OFFICES (Cont'd)****IB International Bureau (as receiving Office) (Cont'd)****As to electronic filing software (Section 710(a)(i)):**

- PCT-SAFE and *epoline*® software

As to types of electronic signatures (Section 710(a)(i)):

- facsimile, text string and click wrap types of signatures (see Annex F, sections 3.3.1 to 3.3.3)
- enhanced electronic signature (see Annex F, section 3.3.4)

As to conditions, rules and procedures relating to electronic receipt (Section 710(a)(ii)):

The acknowledgement of receipt of any purported international application filed in electronic form with the International Bureau as receiving Office will contain the information required under Section 704(a)(i) to (iv).

The International Bureau as receiving Office will make every effort to accept an international application in electronic form. Only if the application is not sent in accordance with the E-filing interoperability protocol (see Annex F, section 5.1) will a notification or confirmation of receipt not be generated. Where it appears that the notification of receipt sent to the applicant by electronic means of transmittal was not successfully transmitted, the International Bureau will promptly retransmit the notification of receipt by the same or another means (see Section 709(b)).

As to methods of online payment (Section 710(a)(ii)):

Payment online is not available at this stage: only currently available methods of payment are allowed.

As to details concerning help desks (Section 710(a)(ii)):

The PCT-SAFE Help Desk is available from 8:30 am until 4:00 pm Central European time and can be contacted as follows:

via e-mail: pctsafe.help@wipo.int
by telephone: (+41-22) 338 9523
by facsimile: (+41-22) 338 8040

Every attempt will be made to respond to e-mail questions within 24 hours.

As to the kinds of documents which may be transmitted to the Office on-line (Section 710(a)(iii)):

- international applications

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The International Bureau as receiving Office will accept the filing with it of a backup copy of the international application on paper or on one of the physical media accepted under Section 710(a)(i) (see above).

As to procedures for notifying applicants of the procedures to follow as alternatives when electronic systems of the Office are not available (see Section 710(a)(v)):

In case of failure of electronic systems when an international application is filed with it, the International Bureau as receiving Office will use all means available to it, such as e-mail or fax, to inform the applicant about procedures to follow as alternatives.

The International Bureau as receiving Office will provide, on the PCT-SAFE web site (see <http://www.wipo.int/pct-safe>), information concerning the availability of on-line filing systems and backup filing procedures.

As to certification authorities accepted by the Office and the electronic address of a listing of the certificate policies under which certificates are issued (Section 710(a)(vi)):

- WIPO customer CA (see www.wipo.int/pct-safe/en/certificates)
- The International Bureau as receiving Office will also accept certificates issued by certification authorities which are accepted by other PCT receiving Offices and which have been notified accordingly to the International Bureau under Section 710, *provided that* such certificates are permitted, under the relevant certificate policy, to be used for filing with the International Bureau as receiving Office.

As to procedures relating to access to files of international applications filed or stored in electronic form (Section 710(a)(vii)):

No on-line file inspection by applicants is provided at present.”