



C. PCT 1140  
– 07.2

April 15, 2008

Madam,  
Sir,

1. 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.

2. This Circular concerns 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

3. Proposed changes to Annex F and its appendices are set out in the following Proposal for Change (PFC) file (see [http://www.wipo.int/pct/efiling\\_standard/en/pfc\\_files.htm](http://www.wipo.int/pct/efiling_standard/en/pfc_files.htm)):

- PCT/EF/PFC 08/009 (*transmission protocol and formatting requirements*) Proposal by the European Patent Office, the Japan Patent Office and the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

4. The changes to Annex F and its appendices are related to the relaxation of the requirements for the utilization of the transmission protocol and formats based on the formats and security measures implemented at the United States Patent and Trademark Office in relation to their electronic filing system (EFS-Web).

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## CONSULTATIONS

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

6. The International Bureau would appreciate receiving any comments on the proposals in PCT/EF/PFC 08/009 by May 30, 2008. Comments should preferably be made via the "Submit comments" facility on the website (at [http://www.wipo.int/efiling\\_standard/en/submit\\_comment.htm](http://www.wipo.int/efiling_standard/en/submit_comment.htm)), but may alternatively be made in writing by letter or by fax to +41-22-338 8040. Comments will be included as Annexes to the relevant PFC file. Copies of the proposals on paper are available from the International Bureau on request. Inquiries concerning the proposals should be directed to the International Bureau via a mailbox: [pct.efiling@wipo.int](mailto:pct.efiling@wipo.int).

## FURTHER PROCESS

7. Once the Consultative Group established under Section 2.5 of Annex F of the PCT Administrative Instructions has made its recommendations, the International Bureau will promulgate any necessary changes to the PCT Administrative Instructions together with information on entry into force of the changes.

Yours sincerely,



Francis Gurry  
Deputy Director General