

Fees paid by mistake or without cause (e.g. because the EPO is not the competent RO or IPEA) will be refunded. Any amount paid in excess of the amount due is likewise refunded.

Art. 13(2), (3) RFees  
OJ EPO 2018, A37

Rights for the refunding of fees paid in excess extinguish after four years from the end of the calendar year in which the right originally arose, unless a written reasoned claim is filed.

In addition, the following refunds may apply:

### **9.1 Refund of the international filing fee**

The international filing fee is refunded where

Rule 15.4

- no date of filing can be accorded; or
- the application is withdrawn or considered withdrawn before its transmittal to the IB.

### **9.2 Refund of the (additional) international search fee**

The international search fee is refunded where

Rule 16.2 and 16.3  
Rule 41

- no date of filing can be accorded; or
- the international application is withdrawn or considered withdrawn before its transmittal to the ISA; or
- the international application is withdrawn or considered withdrawn before the start of the international search; or
- the EPO can base the ISR partly or entirely on an earlier search that it has performed on an application whose priority is validly claimed for the international application. The (additional) search fee paid will be refunded in part or in full depending upon the extent to which the EPO benefits from the earlier search. See also GL/PCT-EPO B:IV.1.1.

OJ EPO 2019, A5  
OJ EPO 2009, 99  
PCT AG I 5.073  
Agreement EPO-  
WIPO, Annex D-II,  
OJ EPO 2017, A115  
OJ EPO 2018, A35

The EPO acting as ISA decides whether the requirements are met and, where applicable, refunds the applicable amount. No refund is made for any search other than a search carried out by the EPO on an earlier application from which the right of priority is validly claimed.

The cases referred to below are intended to illustrate the most common situations:

#### **9.2.1 Examples of refunds**

##### **9.2.1.1 Full refund**

The "full refund" level applies where the EPO can make full use of the earlier search report for drawing up the international search report.

OJ EPO 2009, 99, 2.1  
OJ EPO 2019, A5

This occurs, in particular, where the claims of the earlier and the later application are identical or where the claims of the later application are