

which will be sent by post, as a rule within four working days. In it, the EPO will explicitly confirm the receipt of each document making up the international application and each accompanying item. However, the EPO does not verify the number of sheets making up a given document. EPO Form 1031 is also sent for international applications filed using Web-Form Filing, in addition to the electronic acknowledgement of receipt generated for such applications.

The same procedure applies to international applications filed on electronic data carriers.

OJ EPO 2021, A42

Upon receipt of paper documents purporting to be an international application, the EPO as receiving Office proceeds according to GL/RO, Chapter IV, paragraph 35.

For general information on the receipt of documents at the EPO and for information on acknowledgement of receipt by fax, see GL/EPO A-II, 3.1, which applies *mutatis mutandis* to international applications.

3.2 Filing via a competent national authority

The national law of an EPC contracting state may stipulate that, for national security reasons, an international application must be filed with the EPO as receiving Office via a competent authority of that state.

Art. 75(2), 151 EPC
R. 157(1), (3) EPC
R. 19.1(b)
GL/RO Chapter III

In such cases, the national authority will act as the "filing office" for the EPO acting as receiving Office. The date of receipt of the application by the national authority will be considered to be the international filing date, provided that the application meets the PCT requirements for a filing date to be accorded (see GL/PCT-EPO A-II, 4.1).

The national authority must ensure that the application reaches the EPO not later than two weeks before the end of the 13th month from filing or, if priority is claimed, from the earliest date of priority. For further details, see GL/RO Chapter III.

4. Examination on filing

4.1 Minimum requirements for according an international filing date

The international filing date of an international application is the date on which it is received at one of the EPO's filing offices, or at a national authority in an EPC contracting state (see GL/PCT-EPO A-II, 3.2), provided that the following minimum requirements are fulfilled at the time of receipt:

Art. 11
GL/RO 39-44

- The applicant is a resident or national of an EPC contracting state.
- The application (description and claim(s)) is in English, French or German.