

2. No payment of additional search fees

If, in reply to the objection to lack of unity at the search stage, the applicant has not paid additional search fees, the WO-IPEA/IPER is based on the claims for which the search report and the WO-ISA have been drafted, taking amendments and arguments from the applicant into account. Section IV is not filled out.

3. Searched claims did not comply with unity of invention

3.1 Payment of additional search fees without protest

If, in reply to the objection to lack of unity at the search stage, the applicant has paid additional search fees without protest, and the application still lacks unity, the objection indicated on Form 206 and in the WO-ISA will normally be confirmed, where necessary adapted to the amendments/arguments filed by the applicant.

Art. 34(3)(a)
Rule 68.2

Form 405 is sent out, requesting additional examination fees only for those inventions which have been searched and which are still present in the claims.

3.2 Payment of additional search fees under protest

Rule 68.3(c)
GL/ISPE 10.78

If, in reply to the objection to lack of unity at the search stage, the applicant has paid additional search fees under protest and

- (a) the Review Panel decided that the protest was fully justified, no invitation to pay additional fees (Form 405) is sent. The Review Panel's decision is followed and the WO-IPEA/IPER is established for all searched inventions;
- (b) the Review Panel decided that the protest was partly justified, an invitation to pay additional fees (Form 405) is sent, with the reasoning and the number of inventions adapted to the Review Panel's decision.

The examiner should ensure that the lack of unity objection raised at the search stage is still valid for the newly filed claims.

3.3 No request for payment of additional search fees

Rule 68.1
GL/ISPE 10.76

If, at the search stage, an objection of lack of unity was raised but exceptionally it was chosen not to request the applicant to pay additional search fees, the examination is carried out on the entire application. No invitation to pay additional fees (Form 405) is sent; instead, the WO-IPEA/IPER is established for all searched inventions. Under Section IV, it is indicated that the requirement of unity is not fulfilled.

4. Applicant's reply to the invitation to pay additional fees (Form 405)

4.1 No payment of additional examination fees or failure to reply

Art. 34(3)(c)
Rule 68.4-68.5
GL/ISPE 10.75

If, in reply to the invitation in Form 405, the applicant neither restricts the claims nor pays additional examination fees, or if the applicant does not reply, the WO-IPEA/IPER is established on the basis of the main or first