

The EPO no longer accepts international applications filed with it as receiving Office using the PCT-SAFE filing software. This has been the case since 1 July 2020.

OJ EPO 2020, A59

Filings using the OLF software may be made online or on electronic data carriers accepted by the EPO. At present, the data carriers accepted are CD-Rs conforming to ISO 9660, DVD-Rs and DVD+Rs.

OJ EPO 2021, A42

All the means of electronic filing, except for the Web-Form Filing service, allow applicants to fill in the PCT request form (PCT/RO/101) directly in the electronic document formats that are accepted by the EPO as receiving Office.

If the documents making up the international application have been prepared by conversion from a different electronic document format (pre-conversion format), the applicant may submit the documents in that format too, preferably together with a statement that the international application in electronic form is a complete and accurate copy of the documents in pre-conversion format. Each pre-conversion document must be in a format that fulfils the requirements stipulated in OJ EPO 2021, A42. It is recommended that pre-conversion documents be submitted as ZIP files.

AI 706

OJ EPO 2021, A42

1.2.4 Filing of applications by other means

International applications may not be filed with the EPO by email or similar means of communication. Any application filed by such means will be considered not to have been received and the applicant will be informed accordingly using Form PCT/RO/142.

OJ EPO 2000, 458

OJ EPO 2019, A18

1.3 Filing of documents subsequent to the application

Documents subsequent to the international application may be filed with the EPO as receiving Office on paper or electronically; see GL/PCT-EPO A-II, 1.2.

OJ EPO 2021, A42

OJ EPO 2019, A18

In the international phase, priority documents and authorisations may not be filed with the EPO as receiving Office by fax or Web-Form Filing. Priority documents may be filed electronically using OLF or Online Filing 2.0, provided they have been digitally signed by the issuing authority and the signature is accepted by the EPO. Priority documents may also be filed with the IB using ePCT.

If a document subsequent to the international application is filed by fax, there is no need to submit a confirmation copy unless the receiving Office invites the applicant to submit one (Form PCT/RO/141). It might do so particularly for substitute sheets under Rule 26 and sheets to be incorporated by reference under Rule 20.6. For such sheets, applicants are therefore advised to submit a confirmation copy on their own initiative directly after sending them by fax. If a confirmation copy is not submitted within the time limit prescribed in the invitation issued by the receiving Office, the document will be treated as not having been received (Form PCT/RO/149).

R. 92.4(g)(ii)

OJ EPO 2019, A18