

4.4 Fee for establishment and transmittal to the IB of a certified copy of the priority document

*Rule 17.1(b) and
(b-bis)
Art. 3(1) RFees
OJ EPO 2019, A14
and A15
OJ EPO 2019, A27
AI 715 and 716
PCT AG I 5.070
PCT Newsletter
4/2019*

The fee for establishment and transmittal to the IB of a certified copy of the priority document is paid for the benefit of the RO/EP and applies only if the RO/EP is requested by the applicant to prepare and transmit such a copy (e.g. by checking the corresponding box in Box VI of the PCT request form, PCT/RO/101) and if the earlier priority application was filed before the EPO (EP applications or earlier PCT applications filed at the EPO). Its amount is fixed by the EPO. It is not due if the applicant requests the IB to obtain a certified copy of the priority application from a digital library and indicates the Digital Access Service (DAS) access code on the PCT request form (PCT/RO/101, Box VI).

OJ EPO 2020, A57

The procedure whereby the EPO includes, free of charge, a copy of the earlier application from which priority is claimed in the file of a European patent application (cf. GL/EPO A-III, 6.7) does not apply in respect of an international application processed by the RO/EP.

4.5 Late payment fee

*Rule 16bis.2
OJ EPO 1992, 383*

If the transmittal fee, the international filing fee and the search fee are not paid within the prescribed time limits, or if the amounts paid are not sufficient to cover the fees due, the RO/EP invites the applicant to pay the missing amount together with a late payment fee for its own benefit (Form PCT/RO/133). Such payment has to be made within one month from the date of the invitation.

The late payment fee is equal to 50% of the amount of the unpaid fee or, if the resulting amount is less than the transmittal fee, to an amount equal to the transmittal fee. The late payment fee may however not exceed the amount of 50% of the international filing fee as specified in the PCT Schedule of Fees (without taking into account any fee due for each page of the international application in excess of 30 pages).

If the applicant complies with the invitation (Form PCT/RO/133) within the indicated time limit, payment is deemed to have been made in due time.

If the applicant pays the fees after the time limit for payment expires but before the invitation is issued by the RO/EP (Form PCT/RO/133), the payment is considered to have been received in time.

Art. 14(3)(a)

Failure to pay the missing amount with the late payment fee within the one-month time limit set in the invitation (Form PCT/RO/133) will result in the international application being considered withdrawn. The RO/EP will so declare (Form PCT/RO/117).

Rule 16bis.1(e)

Nevertheless, if the applicant pays the fees after the time limit set in the invitation expires (Form PCT/RO/133) but before the RO/EP has despatched the notification of withdrawal of the international application (Form PCT/RO/117), the payment is considered to have been received in time and the application will not be considered withdrawn.