

documents in support of them. Any document(s) provided to the examiner with the observations will either have been received from the IB or obtained by the formalities officer.

Third-party observations will normally not reach the examiner at the international search stage if the ISR is established and received by the IB on time, namely before publication of the application. However, this may happen when the international search is performed after an A2 publication.

If the third-party observations are relevant, the documents will be cited in the ISR and in section V of the WO-ISA. The examiner will take the third-party observations and the applicant's comments, if present, into account when drafting the WO-ISA. GL/ISPE 15.68

If the third-party observations are not relevant or not sufficiently understandable, the documents will not be included in the ISR. The examiner will insert a comment in section V of the WO-ISA indicating that the third-party observations have been taken into account and found not to be relevant or that the third-party observations could not be taken into account, together with the reasons.

1.4 Documents cited in the application

See ISPE Guidelines 15.37.

2. Search strategy

2.1 Subject of the search; restrictions

See ISPE Guidelines 15.41.

2.2 Formulating a search strategy

Section B-IV, 2.2, in the Guidelines for Examination in the EPO applies *mutatis mutandis*. GL/ISPE 15.47

2.3 Carrying out the search; types of documents

Section B-IV, 2.3, in the Guidelines for Examination in the EPO applies *mutatis mutandis*. GL/ISPE 15.52

2.4 Reformulation of the subject of the search

Section B-IV, 2.4, in the Guidelines for Examination in the EPO applies *mutatis mutandis*. GL/ISPE 15.53

2.5 Closest prior art and its effects on the search

Paragraphs 1 to 3 of section B-IV, 2.5, in the Guidelines for Examination in the EPO apply *mutatis mutandis*.

See also ISPE Guidelines 15.60.

2.6 End of search

Section B-IV, 2.6, in the Guidelines for Examination in the EPO applies *mutatis mutandis*. GL/ISPE 15.61