

Chapter V – Drawings

This chapter summarises the requirements for drawings in international applications.

An international application must contain drawings where they are necessary to understand the invention. Where they are not, but the nature of the invention admits of illustration by drawings, they are optional.

Art. 3(2), 7
PCT AG I 5.128

1. Graphic forms of presentation considered to be drawings

1.1 Technical drawings

Perspectives, exploded views, sections and cross-sections and details on a different scale are all considered to be drawings. So too are flow sheets and diagrams, such as functional diagrams and graphic representations of a given phenomenon which express the relationship between two or more parameters.

R. 7.1
PCT AG I 5.129

Where tables or chemical or mathematical formulae are included in the description, claims or abstract, they are not considered to be drawings and are thus not subject to the requirements for drawings. However, such graphic forms may be submitted as drawings, in which case they are.

R. 11.10
PCT AG I 5.130-5.133

Where such graphic forms of presentation are not submitted as drawings, see GL/PCT-EPO A-V, 11.

1.2 Photographs or coloured drawings

The PCT makes no express provision for photographs or coloured drawings and, furthermore, according to Rule 11.13, drawings must be executed in durable, black, sufficiently dense and dark, uniformly thick and well-defined lines and strokes without colourings. Photographs and coloured drawings may, however, exceptionally be submitted where it is impossible to present in a black-and-white drawing what is to be shown. If colours are necessary to discern details, note that these details may be lost when the image is made available in black and white in the publication and via file inspection.

PCT AG I 5.159
GL/RO 146

For further details see GL/EPO A-IX, 1.2.

2. Presentation of drawings

2.1 Grouping of drawings

Drawings must be presented on one or more separate sheets. All the figures constituting the drawings must be grouped together on a sheet or sheets without waste of space, but clearly separated from each other. Figures should not be separated by lines. The request, the description, the claims and the abstract must not contain drawings.

R. 11.10(a), 11.13(j)
PCT AG I 5.131-5.134