

Chapter X – Search report

1. General

The results of the search will be recorded in an international search report. A number of different possible limitations of the scope of the search report exist. These are:

- (i) a declaration issued instead of the search report according to Art. 17(2)(a) (see GL/PCT-EPO B-VIII);
- (ii) an incomplete search report according to Art. 17(2)(b) (see GL/PCT-EPO B-VIII);
- (iii) a partial international search report due to a finding of a lack of unity according to Art. 17(3)(a) and Rule 13; and
- (iv) an incomplete search report due to missing sequence listings (see GL/PCT-EPO B-VIII, 3.2).

The Search Division is responsible for drawing up the international search report (see GL/PCT-EPO B-I, 2 and subsections).

This chapter contains the information which is necessary to enable the examiner to correctly prepare the search report.

A search report must contain no matter, in particular no expressions of opinion, reasoning, arguments or explanations, other than that required by the Form or referred to in GL/PCT-EPO B-X, 9.2.8. However, this does not apply to the written opinion (see GL/PCT-EPO B-XI, 3).

Rule 43.9
GL/ISPE 16.07

2. Different types of search reports drawn up by the EPO as ISA

The EPO in its capacity as ISA will draw up the following types of search reports:

- (i) international search reports under the PCT; Art. 16(1)
- (ii) international-type search reports. For details, reference is made to GL/EPO B-II, 4.5. Art. 15(5)
GL/ISPE 2.22, 16.04

3. Form and language of the search report

3.1 Form

See ISPE Guidelines 16.08 and 16.09.

Rule 43.10

3.2 Language

See ISPE Guidelines 16.11.

Rule 43.4

3.3 Account of the search

Section B-X, 3.3, in the Guidelines for Examination in the EPO applies *mutatis mutandis*.