

### 1.4 Debit orders for deposit accounts held with the EPO

An international application may be accompanied by a debit order for the fees due on filing. For the electronic means of filing accepted for debit orders, see GL/PCT-EPO A-III, 3.

### 1.5 Application numbering system

*AI 307*

At the EPO, the number range starting at 000001 (PCT/EPyyyy/000001) is used for paper filings (including faxes). The number range starting at 025000 (PCT/EPyyyy/025000) is used for filings made via Web-Form Filing. The number range starting at 050000 (PCT/EPyyyy/050000) is assigned to electronic filings made using CMS, OLF or ePCT.

## 2. Competence of the EPO to act as receiving Office

The EPO is competent to act as the receiving Office for an international application provided that:

*R. 19.1-19.2*  
*R. 157(1) EPC*  
*OJ EPO 2014, A33*

- The applicant is a **national or resident** of an EPC contracting state which is also a PCT contracting state (currently the case for all EPC contracting states). If there are two or more applicants, at least one must be a resident or national of an EPC contracting state. A person mentioned only as an inventor does not qualify as an applicant. Hence, the nationality or residence of a person mentioned only as an inventor is irrelevant for determining whether the EPO is competent to act as receiving Office.

*R. 12.1(a)*  
*Art. 14(1), R. 157(2)*  
*EPC*  
*R. 19.4(b)*  
*R. 19.4(c)*  
*GL/RO 274*

- The international application is filed in one of the **EPO's official languages** (English, French or German).

Where the applicant is not a national or resident of an EPC contracting state or the application is in a language other than English, French or German, the EPO is not the competent receiving Office and the EPO will transmit the purported international application to the IB. The applicant will be informed accordingly (Form PCT/RO/151). For the purpose of the international filing date, the application will nevertheless be considered to have been received by the IB as receiving Office on the date that the EPO received it. In such cases, the EPO does not charge the transmittal fee for the transmittal of the documents to the IB. Any fees paid to the EPO will be refunded.

## 3. Procedure on filing

### 3.1 Acknowledgement of receipt

*OJ EPO 2019, A19*

For international applications filed online using OLF, CMS or Web-Form Filing, receipt is acknowledged electronically following successful submission. The acknowledgement contains the identity of the receiving Office, the date and time of receipt, a reference or application number, a list of the files transmitted and, for online filings using OLF or CMS, a message digest, i.e. the message in compressed form.

The EPO as receiving Office will acknowledge receipt of a purported international application filed on paper or by fax using EPO Form 1031, which will be sent by post, as a rule within four working days. In it, the EPO