

complying with the criteria under point 5(a) PCT Schedule of Fees (an updated list can be found in the Euro-PCT Guide, point 42.24.015).

If the application is filed with the RO/EP by more than one applicant, only one of them needs to be a national and resident of one of the EPC contracting states in question, but each applicant must fulfil the criteria mentioned under point 5 of the PCT Schedule of Fees.

The 90% reduction is calculated after deduction of the electronic filing reduction, if applicable (see GL/PCT-EPO A-III, 8.1.1).

8.2 Reduction of the international search fee

OJ EPO 2008, 521
PCT AG I 5.190

The fee for the international search on an international application is reduced by 75% where the applicant or, if there are two or more applicants, each applicant is a natural person who is a national and resident of a state not party to the EPC which on the date of filing of the application is classified as a low-income or lower-middle-income economy by the World Bank.

The list of these states can be found on the EPO website (www.epo.org, under *Applying for a patent* → *Fees* → *International (PCT) fees* → *Decisions and notices relating to PCT fees* → *Reduction in international search and preliminary examination fees*).

8.2.1 Reduction of the additional search fee

If the applicant fulfils the requirements for reduction of the international search fee, any additional search fee is validly paid upon payment of the reduced amount.

8.3 Reduction of the (supplementary search) handling fee

The handling fee is reduced by 90% under the same conditions as for the international filing fee (see GL/PCT-EPO A-III, 8.1.2). This principle also applies to the supplementary search handling fee due under Rule 45bis.2.

8.4 Reduction of the preliminary examination fee

OJ EPO 2008, 521

The fee for international preliminary examination is reduced by 75% under the same conditions as for the reduction of the international search fee (GL/PCT-EPO A-III, 8.2).

8.4.1 Reduction of the additional preliminary examination fee

If the applicant fulfils the requirements for reduction of the preliminary examination fee, any additional preliminary examination fee is validly paid upon payment of the reduced amount.

9. Refund of fees

OJ EPO 2017, A73
OJ EPO 2019, A26

Refunds are made to a deposit account held with the EPO or to a bank account. Since 1 April 2019 the EPO has no longer made refunds by cheque, and the EPO does not make refunds to credit cards. Detailed guidance on how and when to file refund instructions is provided in OJ EPO 2019, A26.