

invention mentioned in the invitation to pay additional fees (Form 405) and for which the search fee has been paid. Section IV is filled out and the reasons for lack of unity are given on the separate sheet.

If, in reply to the invitation in Form 405, the applicant restricted the claims, the examiner has to check whether the restricted set of claims is unitary and whether all claims relate to searched subject-matter.

If this is the case, the WO-IPEA/IPER is established on the restricted set of claims, and Section IV is not filled out.

If this is not the case, the WO-IPEA/IPER is established on the main or first invention mentioned in Form 405 and for which the search fee has been paid; Section IV is filled out, and any claims relating to non-searched subject-matter are indicated in Section III.

4.2 Payment of additional examination fees without protest

If, in reply to the invitation in Form 405, the applicant pays additional preliminary examination fees without protest, the WO-IPEA/IPER is established on the basis of those inventions for which examination fees have been paid. Section IV is filled out and the reasons for lack of unity are given on the separate sheet.

If, in reply to the invitation in Form 405, the applicant restricted the claims and paid additional fees, the examiner has to verify that the restricted set of claims does not contain more inventions than those for which additional fees have been paid and that the restricted claims relate to subject-matter that has been searched.

If this is the case, the WO-IPEA/IPER is established on the restricted set of claims, and Section IV is filled out.

If this is not the case, the WO-IPEA/IPER is established on as many inventions mentioned in Form 405 as additional fees have been paid for. Section IV is filled out and any claims relating to unsearched subject-matter are indicated in Section III.

In both cases the reasons for the lack of unity are given on the separate sheet.

4.3 Payment of additional examination fees under protest

In reply to Form 405, the applicant may pay some or all of the additional fees under protest. If he does, then this triggers the protest procedure for determining whether the request for payment of the additional fees was justified (see also GL/PCT-EPO C-V, 5).

Rule 68.3(c) and (e)
GL/ISPE 10.78

5. Protest procedure

The protest procedure consists of a review within the IPEA first by the formalities officer and then by a Review Panel.

Rule 68.3(c), (d)