

### **3.7 Independent claims containing a reference to another claim or to features from a claim of another category**

Section F-IV, 3.8, in the Guidelines for Examination in the EPO applies *GL/ISPE 5.19 mutatis mutandis*.

### **3.8 Claims directed to computer-implemented inventions**

Section F-IV, 3.9, in the Guidelines for Examination in the EPO applies *mutatis mutandis*.

#### **3.8.1 Cases where all method steps can be fully implemented by generic data processing means**

Section F-IV, 3.9.1, in the Guidelines for Examination in the EPO applies *mutatis mutandis*.

#### **3.8.2 Cases where method steps require specific data processing means and/or require additional technical devices as essential features**

Section F-IV, 3.9.2, in the Guidelines for Examination in the EPO applies *mutatis mutandis*.

#### **3.8.3 Cases where the invention is realised in a distributed computing environment**

Section F-IV, 3.9.3, in the Guidelines for Examination in the EPO applies *mutatis mutandis*.

## **4. Clarity and interpretation of claims**

### **4.1 Clarity**

See *ISPE Guidelines 5.31*.

*Art. 6*

Where it is found that the claims lack clarity, it may be appropriate for the examiner to first invite the applicant to provide informal clarification before the search is carried out (see *GL/PCT-EPO B-VIII, 3.3-3.6*).

### **4.2 Interpretation**

See *ISPE Guidelines 5.20*. The EPO applies option *A5.20[2]* of the Appendix to Chapter 5 of the ISPE Guidelines.

### **4.3 Inconsistencies**

See *ISPE Guidelines 5.29* and *17.70*.

### **4.4 General statements, "spirit" of invention**

See *ISPE Guidelines 5.30*.

### **4.5 Essential features**

#### **4.5.1 Objections arising from missing essential features**

Section F-IV, 4.5.1, in the Guidelines for Examination in the EPO applies *mutatis mutandis*.