

international search report and written opinion are issued only for the benefit of the applicant and any designated Offices which have given notice under Rule 20.8(b-bis) of an incompatibility. They therefore do not constitute the international search report under Rule 43 and written opinion under Rule 43bis. The applicant thus has no obligation to respond to the non-official written opinion upon entry into the European phase.

Regarding the treatment in the European phase of correct element(s) or part(s) notified after the ISA has begun to draw up the international search report, please see Section C-III, 1.3 in the Guidelines for Examination in the EPO.

2.4 Anticipation of amendments to claims

Rule 33.3(b)
GL/ISPE 15.25

Section B-III, 3.5 in the Guidelines for Examination in the EPO applies *mutatis mutandis*.

2.5 Broad claims

GL/ISPE 15.26

Section B-III, 3.6 in the Guidelines for Examination in the EPO applies *mutatis mutandis*.

2.6 Independent and dependent claims

GL/ISPE 15.27

Section B-III, 3.7 in the Guidelines for Examination in the EPO apply *mutatis mutandis*.

2.7 Search on dependent claims

GL/ISPE 15.28

Section B-III, 3.8 in the Guidelines for Examination in the EPO applies *mutatis mutandis*. See also GL/PCT-EPO F-IV, 3.3.

2.8 Combination of elements in a claim

GL/ISPE 15.31

Section B-III, 3.9 in the Guidelines for Examination in the EPO applies *mutatis mutandis*.

2.9 Different categories

GL/ISPE 15.32

Section B-III, 3.10 in the Guidelines for Examination in the EPO applies *mutatis mutandis*.

2.10 Subject-matter excluded from search

Art. 17(2)(a)
Rule 39
GL/ISPE 15.33

The examiner may exclude certain subject-matter from the search. These exclusions may result from the international application including subject-matter which the EPO as ISA is not required to deal with (see GL/PCT-EPO B-VIII, 2). They may also arise because the description, claims or drawings fail to meet a requirement, such as clarity or support of the claims by the description, to such an extent that no meaningful search can be carried out for all or some of the claims (see GL/PCT-EPO B-VIII, 3).