

Chapter III – Documents forming the basis of the international preliminary examination

1. Substitute sheets and rectified sheets

Replacement pages or sheets, filed in response to an invitation by the receiving Office to correct defects in the international application, are deemed to be part of the international application "as originally filed". These sheets are identified with a stamp "SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)" (see [GL/PCT-EPO H-IV, 1](#)). Also, replacement pages or sheets for rectification of obvious mistakes under [Rule 91](#) are deemed to be part of the international application "as originally filed". These sheets are identified with "RECTIFIED SHEET (RULE 91.1)" (see [GL/PCT-EPO H-IV, 2.2](#)).

[Rule 26](#)
[Rule 91.1](#)
[GL/ISPE 17.16](#)

See [GL/PCT-EPO H-IV, 2](#), for the procedure to follow if the rectified sheets contain added subject-matter.

2. Sheets filed under [Rule 20.6](#) containing missing parts or elements

If an applicant omits to file part(s) of the application and/or (an) entire element(s) thereof (i.e. all of the description and/or all of the claims), it may still furnish it (them) at a later date without affecting the international filing date, subject to the requirements of [Rules 4.18](#) and [20.6\(a\)](#) and provided the missing part(s) and/or element(s) were completely contained in the priority document. Such elements or parts are then considered to have been part of the application as originally filed.

[Rule 20.6](#)

The examiner checks whether the RO's assessment of the "completely contained" criterion was correct (see [GL/PCT-EPO H-II, 2.2.2](#)).

See also [GL/PCT-EPO H-II, 2.2.2.2](#), for the impact on the IPER.

3. Amended sheets

Any change, other than the rectification of obvious mistakes in the claims, the description or the drawings is considered an amendment. Unless withdrawn or superseded by later amendments, any change considered an amendment must be taken into consideration for the purpose of the international preliminary examination.

[Art. 19](#)
[Art. 34\(2\)\(b\)](#)
[Rule 66.5](#)
[GL/ISPE 20.04](#)

See [GL/PCT-EPO H-II](#) and [H-III](#) for details.

4. Added subject-matter

All amended pages (description, claims, drawings) must be examined to see whether they introduce subject-matter not originally disclosed. The same criteria should be used as under [Art. 123\(2\) EPC](#) for the European procedure (see [GL/PCT-EPO H-II](#) and [III](#)).

[GL/ISPE 20.09](#)

Concerning the applicant's obligation to indicate the basis for the amendments in the application as originally filed, see [GL/PCT-EPO H-I, 6](#).

If any newly filed claim, drawing or part of the description contains amendments which are considered to go beyond the disclosure as originally filed, the claim concerned is examined, taking into consideration

[Art. 19\(2\)](#)
[Art. 34\(2\)\(b\)](#)
[Rule 70.2\(c\)](#)