

electronic document formats that are accepted by the EPO as receiving Office.

If the documents making up the international application have been prepared by conversion from a different electronic document format (pre-conversion format), the applicant may submit the documents in that format too, preferably together with a statement that the international application in electronic form is a complete and accurate copy of the documents in pre-conversion format. Each pre-conversion document must be in a format that fulfils the requirements stipulated in Special edition No. 3 of OJ EPO 2007, A.5. It is recommended that pre-conversion documents be submitted as ZIP files.

AI 706
OJ SE 3/2007, A.5

1.2.4 Filing of applications by other means

International applications may not be filed with the EPO by email or similar means of communication. Any application filed by such means will be considered not to have been received and the applicant will be informed accordingly using Form PCT/RO/142.

OJ EPO 2000, 458
OJ EPO 2019, A18

1.3 Filing of documents subsequent to the application

Documents subsequent to the international application may be filed with the EPO as receiving Office on paper or electronically; see GL/PCT-EPO A-II, 1.2.

OJ EPO 2018, A45,
A46
OJ EPO 2018, A93,
A94
OJ EPO 2019, A18

In the international phase, priority documents may not be filed with the EPO as receiving Office by fax or electronically; they can, however, be filed with the IB direct using ePCT. Authorisations may not be filed with the EPO as receiving Office by fax or Web-Form Filing.

If a document subsequent to the international application is filed by fax, there is no need to submit a confirmation copy unless the receiving Office invites the applicant to submit one (Form PCT/RO/141). It might do so particularly for substitute sheets under Rule 26 and sheets to be incorporated by reference under Rule 20.6. For such sheets, applicants are therefore advised to submit a confirmation copy on their own initiative directly after sending them by fax. If a confirmation copy is not submitted within the time limit prescribed in the invitation issued by the receiving Office, the document will be treated as not having been received (Form PCT/RO/149).

R. 92.4(g)(ii)
OJ EPO 2019, A18

1.4 Debit orders for deposit accounts held with the EPO

An international application may be accompanied by a debit order for the fees due on filing. For the electronic means of filing accepted for debit orders, see GL/PCT-EPO A-III, 3.

1.5 Application numbering system

At the EPO, the number range starting at 000001 (PCT/EPyyyy/000001) is used for paper filings (including faxes). The number range starting at 025000 (PCT/EPyyyy/025000) is used for filings made via Web-Form Filing. The number range starting at 050000 (PCT/EPyyyy/050000) is assigned to electronic filings made using CMS, OLF or ePCT.

AI 307