

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

Common Quality Framework for International Search and Preliminary Examination Supplemental Report Under Paragraph 21.18 of the PCT International Search and Preliminary Examination Guidelines	
by:	<i>Israeli Patent Office</i>
on:	<i>2010-10-06</i>
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As a result of our most recent internal review under PCT/GL/ISPE paragraphs 21.10-21.15, this Authority has made modifications to its Quality Management System (QMS) as discussed below.

The modifications are given with reference to the sections of the revised template for responses to PCT/GL/ISPE Paragraph 21.17 to which the changes relate.

21.03 The ILPO has been granted its QMS ISO 9001:2008 certification. This certification covers all stages of the patent process, from application receipt until patent grant or refusal. The ILPO examiners hold periodic group quality issue review meetings.

21.05 a) The ILPO will increase the number of examiners by 25 (from 92 to 117) by the onset of 2011.

c) ILPO is developing a modern and efficient system to electronically handle administration, processing and prosecution of international applications. The system will have automated import/export facilities to permit Electronic Data Interchange with WIPO.

21:07 In its ongoing quest to improve the quality of the formal as well as the substantive examination process towards becoming an ISA/IPE, the ILPO has instituted an International Search & Examination Pilot (ISEP) dealing with examination of Israeli PCT applications (received in the ILPO receiving office) in accordance with PCT rules, articles and guidelines. ILPO is in the process of an in-depth analysis of the PCT guidelines. ILPO examiners prepare a search report which is then compared to the report prepared by search authority designated by the applicant. All reports are also subjected to a quality review by a team of senior examiners. As a result, ILPO will be able to take the appropriate measures to eliminate any structured discrepancies identified during the course of ISEP.

The ILPO's PCT division's staff has also been trained to facilitate the international search and examination process and are actively involved in ISEP. This training covers all stages of international search and examination procedures.

The ILPO conducts a longitudinal satisfaction survey of customers which is intended to be deployed on an annual basis. This survey addresses quality and other customer satisfaction parameters for patents and PCT international applications. The results of customer surveys and complaints are evaluated and taken into consideration for future changes to the internal guidelines.

21:08 Examiner guidelines were recently updated, including the ILPO's handling of overlapping applications, approach to multiple independent claims, approach to limiting the number of claims per application.

[End of report]