

**AMENDMENTS TO THE REGULATIONS  
UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)**

Adopted on October 2, 2018, by the Assembly of the International Patent Cooperation Union (PCT Union) at its Fiftieth (29<sup>st</sup> Extraordinary) Session held from September 24 to October 2, 2018, with effect from July 1, 2019

**Rule 69  
Start of and Time Limit for International Preliminary Examination**

69.1 *Start of International Preliminary Examination*

- (a) Subject to paragraphs (b) to (e), the International Preliminary Examining Authority shall start the international preliminary examination when it is in possession of all of the following:
- (i) the demand;
  - (ii) the amount due (in full) for the handling fee and the preliminary examination fee, including, where applicable, the late payment fee under Rule 58*bis*.2; and
  - (iii) either the international search report or the declaration by the International Searching Authority under Article 17(2)(a) that no international search report will be established, and the written opinion established under Rule 43*bis*.1;

unless the applicant expressly requests to postpone the start of the international preliminary examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit under Rule 54*bis*.1(a).

(b) to (e) *[No change]*

69.2 *[No change]*