

Notice Concerning the Israel Patent Office's Action
as an International Searching Authority and
International Preliminary Examining Authority for
International Applications Received by the United
States Patent and Trademark Office

The conditions under which the Israel Patent Office (ILPO) will act as an International Searching Authority (ISA) and an International Preliminary Examining Authority (IPEA) under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) for international applications filed with the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) as a Receiving Office (RO/US) have changed effective April 10, 2016. The condition that the ILPO will not act as an ISA for applications with one or more claims directed to a business method as defined by specified areas of the International Patent Classification System has been removed. Additionally, the condition that the ILPO will not act as an ISA where it has received more than 75 international applications from the USPTO during a fiscal quarter has been changed; the number has been increased from 75 to 100.

This change is the result of a new "Arrangement between the Israel Patent Office and the United States Patent and Trademark Office Concerning Action of the Israel Patent Office as an International Searching Authority and Preliminary Examining Authority under the Patent Cooperation International Treaty for Certain International Application Received by the United States Patent and Trademark Office" signed on April 5, 2016 by the Under Secretary for Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO and on April 10, 2016 by the Director of the ILPO and Commissioner of Patents, Designs and Trademarks. The signed Arrangement became effective on April 10, 2016.

Under the new Arrangement, the ILPO may act as an ISA under the PCT for international applications filed with the RO/US provided that: (1) the applications are submitted in the English language; (2) the ILPO has not received more than 100 international applications from the USPTO during a fiscal quarter; and (3) the ILPO is chosen as a competent authority by the applicants of said applications. The ILPO will also act as an IPEA if these three requirements are met, and the ILPO acted as the ISA.

The USPTO will continue to collect the search fees from the applicants, and will transmit the search fees to the ILPO. The search fee for the ILPO acting as an ISA for international applications received by the USPTO is \$912 (USD) effective March 22, 2016. Any other fees necessary for search or examination or incidental thereto will continue to be paid by applicants directly to the ILPO.

The new Arrangement between the USPTO and the ILPO follows. Notice is provided now due to the inadvertent omission to do so at the time of signing.

OCT 31 2016

Date



Michelle K. Lee

Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property
and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office