

Intellectual Property Office of Singapore  
Registry of Patents

Circular No. 5/2021: International Applications filed in Chinese with IPOS as the receiving Office or the International Searching and International Preliminary Examining Authorities

**International Applications filed in Chinese with IPOS as the receiving Office or the International Searching and International Preliminary Examining Authorities**

(Circular No. 5/2021, dated 5 November 2021)

As part of IPOS' continuous efforts to bring convenience to nationals and residents of Singapore filing international applications under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), IPOS, in its capacity as the receiving Office (RO), has accepted Chinese as a language from 1 January 2017 for:

- a) International Applications and
- b) Request Forms (PCT/RO/101)

2 This is aligned with our extension of search and examination services to include international applications filed in the Chinese language as a competent International Searching Authority (ISA) and International Preliminary Examining Authority (IPEA)<sup>1</sup> under the PCT.

3 This business-friendly service is aimed at providing greater convenience to applicants who have filed or will be filing their patent applications in Chinese, by including an option to defer patent translation costs from Chinese into English until the national phase deadline. Applicants may thus gain time by making a conscious decision to translate the application at a later stage, without accruing upfront cost for translation that may be substantial depending on the technology.

4 In view of this, rule 116 of the Patents Rules was amended to introduce Chinese as a language for international applications filed at IPOS as the RO. This was brought into force on 1 January 2017.

5. Please note that this Circular will supersede [Circular No. 6/2016](#) and will be applicable for international applications filed on and after 5 November 2021.

Enquiries and for more information

6 Should you have any enquiries, please direct them to [ipos\\_enquiry@ipos.gov.sg](mailto:ipos_enquiry@ipos.gov.sg) or contact us at 6339 8616.

7 For more information on the relevant form and fees for filling an international application via IPOS as the RO, you may also refer to [www.ipos.gov.sg](http://www.ipos.gov.sg) → About IP → Patents → Forms & Fees → PCT Forms & Fees.

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<sup>1</sup> For International Applications filed in the Chinese language, the final report issued by the ISA and IPEA will be in Chinese.