

EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE: REDUCTION OF OFFICIAL FEES

Reductions in official search and designation fees will become effective for all European patent applications whose application date is on or after 1 July 1999.

The application date for a PCT-originating European application is the date of the application before the International Bureau.

There will be a simple reduction of €179 in the European search fee and in the International search fee, where the European Patent Office (EPO) is the searching authority.

The designation fees are individually unchanged, but payment of seven designation fees will be deemed payment for ALL contracting states of the EPO.

Action Recommended

1. For any European application to be filed directly at the EPO and claiming a priority date on or after 1 July 1998, consider whether it is appropriate to defer filing to 1 July 1999 to reduce fees. Obtaining an early filing date may, however, be important and we will not, therefore, defer filing without specific instructions to do so.
2. For the future, when entering the European phase of a PCT application, designate all possible European states, if at least seven designations are required and the PCT filing date is 1 July 1999 or later.

The information in this Newsletter was correct at the date of release. More up to date information is available by contacting Eric Potter Clarkson. All comments contained here are of a general nature and full professional advice should be sought on any specific problem.

Please note that all our Newsletters can be found on our website at www.eric-potter.com.

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