

**NOW EVEN CHAPTER I PCT APPLICATIONS CAN ENTER THE  
EPO AT 31 MONTHS FROM PRIORITY**

With effect from 2 January 2002, PCT applications can be validly entered into the EPO up to 31 months from filing (or, if an earlier priority has been claimed, 31 months from the priority date) even if a Chapter II Demand was not filed by the 19 month deadline (or, indeed, at all).

Please note this affects only entry into the EPO. The time limits for national processing into other regional or national offices are not affected.

The change in practice cannot be used to rescue applications for which the existing 21 month Chapter I deadline had expired by 2 January 2002 without the necessary national processing having been done.

The full EPO press release can be viewed at [www.european-patent-office.org/news/pressrel/2001\\_12\\_01-3e.htm](http://www.european-patent-office.org/news/pressrel/2001_12_01-3e.htm) although, at the time of going to press with this newsletter, the new Rule 108 that is referred to in the press release had not been published.

Please contact Ray Charig for further information.

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](http://www.eric-potter.com).