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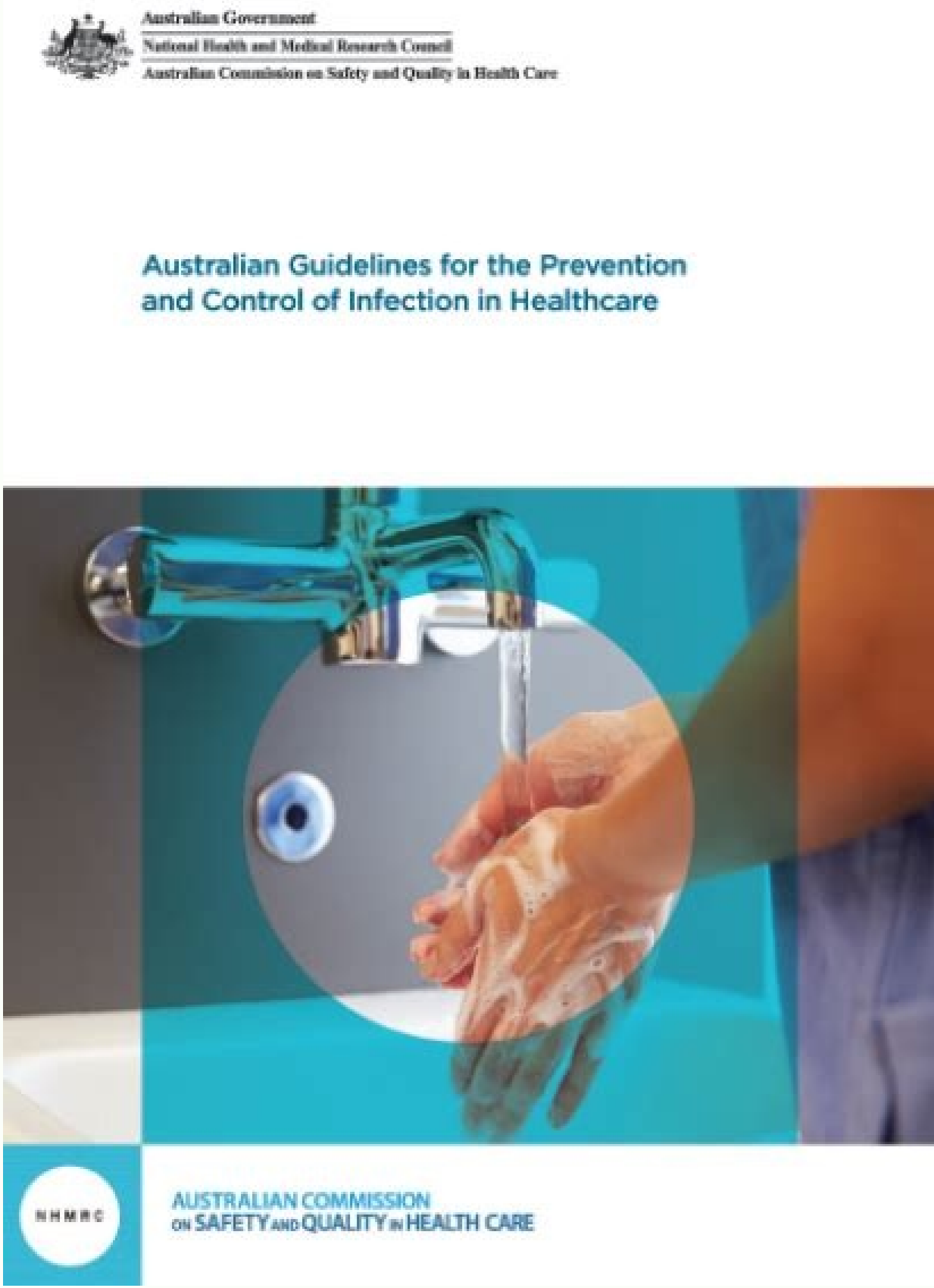
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# Epo guidelines priority document

EPO Guidelines 2017 Modified Sections

Part	Section	Classified scope of the Guidelines	These (the present) Guidelines for examination in the EPO are addressed primarily to examiners and technical officers of the EPO, and are not intended to serve as a model for other patent offices. The EPO is not a party to the proceedings and patent practitioners, and the examination of the European patent system depends on the good cooperation between the various offices of member states and the EPO. The EPO will continue to work closely with the member states to improve the EPO. The Guidelines cannot cover all possible occurrences and exceptions in every detail, but must be regarded as general instructions that may need to be adapted to the individual case. The Guidelines are intended to cover normal occurrences. They should therefore be considered as general instructions. The application of the Guidelines to individual European patent applications is primarily the responsibility of the Examining Divisions and not of the Examining Divisions in national patent offices. In the application of the Guidelines to individual European patent applications, it is primarily the parties' responsibility to act in accordance with the Guidelines and to notify the EPO of any relevant provisions. Any amended Notices concerning such amendments are published in the Official Journal of the EPO and on the EPO website. In case of diverging decisions of the Legal or Technical Boards of Appeal, EPO examiners and technical officers will, as a rule, follow the common practice as described in the Guidelines. Employees of the EPO work with colleagues who not only speak a different language but also come from a different cultural background with different legal systems. Some may also have had experience in their national patent office. It is important that all employees of the EPO are working under a common system as laid down in the EPO. They should all have the same standards and to ensure that the will remain an outstanding professional habit and sense of duty. The Guidelines will support them in applying the same standards. It is also important that the various departments of the EPO and various staff within the same department should not attempt to duplicate and check the same work performed by the Examining Divisions or to duplicate the same work performed by the Examining Divisions. One of the purposes of the Guidelines is to allow staff to make their own decisions in the different departments, e.g. the Examining Divisions or Opposition Divisions, in order to harmonize the working procedures and to avoid duplicate work. It should not be forgotten that the reputation of the EPO will depend directly not only on the quality of its work but also on the speed of its work. The EPO requires various time limits on the parties. The European patent system will be judged a success only when examiners and other employees also operate with full responsibility and speed.
PART A	1.1	Priority hours of the EPO filing offices and updates on automated.	The EPO filing offices in Berlin and Munich (only the Photocopy building, see the Decision of the President of the EPO dated 3 January 2017, OJ EPO 2017, A1) are equipped with automated mail boxes, which



Country of residence of the applicant	2011	Country of residence of the applicant	2011
AD Andorra	5	KE Kenya	1
AE United Arab Emirates	20	KP Korea, Democratic People's Republic of	3
AG Antigua and Barbuda	3	KR Korea, Republic of	4 889
AM Armenia	1	KW Kuwait	1
AN Netherlands Antilles	19	KY Cayman Islands	99
AO Angola	1	KZ Kazakhstan	2
AR Argentina	14	LB Lebanon	4
AU Australia	837	LK Sri Lanka	3
AZ Azerbaijan	1	MA Morocco	3
BB Barbados	101	MU Mauritius	4
BF Burkina Faso	1	MX Mexico	70
BH Bahrain	1	MY Malaysia	79
BM Bermuda	64	NZ New Zealand	168
BN Brunei Darussalam	4	PA Panama	5
BR Brazil	208	PE Peru	2
BS Bahamas	13	PH Philippines	3
BY Belarus	3	PK Pakistan	2
CA Canada	2 348	PR Puerto Rico	4
CL Chile	29	RU Russian Federation	169
CN China, People's Republic of	2 548	SA Saudi Arabia	126
CO Colombia	16	SC Seychelles	13
CR Costa Rica	1	SG Singapore	305
CU Cuba	11	SV El Salvador	1
DM Dominica	1	TD Chad	1
DZ Algeria	2	TH Thailand	7
EC Ecuador	1	TN Tunisia	1
EG Egypt	4	TW Chinese Taipei	1 263
FO Faroe Islands	1	UA Ukraine	13
GE Georgia	1	US United States of America	34 993
GI Gibraltar	2	UY Uruguay	2
GU Guam	1	VC Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	1
HK Hong Kong	33	VE Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of	1
ID Indonesia	5	VG Virgin Islands, British	129
IL Israel	1 051	VI Virgin Islands, U.S.	1
IN India	474	WS Samoa	2
IR Iran, Islamic Republic of	9	ZA South Africa	115
JO Jordan	2	ZW Zimbabwe	1
JP Japan	20 568	not classified	16
<b>Total</b>			<b>70 906</b>

Analysis based on European patent applications filed with the EPO (Direct European applications and international (PCT) applications entering the European phase). Applications have been allocated to the country of residence of the first-named applicant.

Top 50 der Anmelder 2017  
Top 50 applicants in 2017  
Les 50 plus grands déposants 2017

TOP 50

Applications 2017	Change	Applications 2017	Change	Applications 2017	Change
1 Huawei	2 398 +0.3%	18 Procter & Gamble	804 +6.5%	35 Google	527 -16.3%
2 Siemens	2 220 +18.7%	19 Valeo	770 +25.8%	36 Medtronic	527 -8.8%
3 LG	2 056 -11.1%	20 Dow Chemical	734 +13.4%	37 HP	519 +46.6%
4 Samsung	2 036 -13.0%	21 Panasonic	728 +1.3%	38 Technicolor	509 +0.4%
5 Qualcomm	1 814 +8.8%	22 Canon	708 -6.3%	39 ABB	508 -8.1%
6 Royal Philips	1 718 -1.9%	23 Hitachi	707 -12.2%	40 IBM Technology	500 +37.8%
7 United Technologies	1 718 -16.8%	24 Philips Lighting	700 -5.8%	41 Olympus	496 +13.5%
8 Intel	1 435 +13.2%	25 ZTE	679 -0.1%	42 Merck KGAA	488 +13.5%
9 Robert Bosch	1 432 +6.4%	26 IM	675 +13.4%	43 Mitsubishi Heavy Industries	462 +18.7%
10 Ericsson	1 373 +16.1%	27 Hoffmann-La Roche	643 -3.2%	44 Fresenius	460 +8.2%
11 General Electric	1 372 -15.7%	28 Continental	629 +22.6%	45 Nestlé	451 +2.0%
12 BASF	1 365 -20.3%	29 Honeywell	629 +1.0%	46 SAP	436 -6.8%
13 Sony	1 319 +0.2%	30 Boeing	608 +4.6%	47 Fujitsu	435 +16.9%
14 Microsoft	1 259 +17.8%	31 Toshiba	596 +56.4%	48 Unilever	422 -4.3%
15 Nikia	919 -13.2%	32 Mitsubishi Electric	579 +17.2%	49 Vestel Elektronik	408 +84.8%
16 Bayer	880 -0.1%	33 CEA	544 -8.1%	50 DSM	395 +25.0%
17 Johnson & Johnson	874 +22.1%	34 Toyota Motor	535 -38.5%		

	PPO Professional Provider Organization	EPO Technical Provider Organization	POS Point of Service	HMO Health Maintenance Organization
Primary Care Physician (PCP) required	✓	S	✓	✓
Referral required to see a specialist	✗	✗	S	✓
"In-network" benefits	✓	✓	✓	✓
Non-emergency "out-of-network" benefits	✓	✗	✓	✗
Emergency coverage	✓	✓	✓	✓

TIP: Find the most affordable network with your doctors

Epo guidelines description. Epo guidelines prior use.

When the applicant has already provided a copy of the priority document in the context of a request to base parts of the description or drawings of rule 56 (see "II," 5.4 (v)), the applicant does not need to submit it again. In this case, without the priority document being in the file, the application can, when appropriate, be rejected because the claimed subject lacks novelty or inventive step, provided that the relevant state is not an intermediate document or an art. 54 (3) Application. If in the case of a Euro-PCT application, where the EPO is acting as a designated or elected charge, the priority document is not in the file, however, a substantive exam can be initiated. If there are intermediate documents or art. If the language of the previous application was not one of the official languages of the EPO, it may be necessary. Obviously, for example, of the document of the document, that the document is related to the subject of subject quite different from that of the application, the applicant must be informed that it seems that the document submitted is not the relevant document. In that case, it is informs the applicant that the decision to grant will not be taken while the priority document is missing. When the certified copy of the previous application whose priority is claimed (priority document) is not in an official language of the EPO, a translation to one of these languages only need to be presented by invitation from the EPO. This invitation is issued only when the validity of the priority claim is relevant to determine the patentability of Concerned invention If applicants do not provide a certified copy of the priority document within the aforementioned period (Rule 53 (1)), the EPO will invite them to provide it within a period of two months under Rule 59. However, the right of Priority assumes importance if the previous technique must be taken into account, which has been disposed of the public within the meaning of art. 5, § 4, ¶ 3) or if the content of the patent application European is totally or partially identical to the content of another European application within the meaning of Art. The translation can be replaced by a declaration that the European patent application is a complete translation of the previous invention. Priority documents can be presented in the form of a paper or electronically using OLF or CMS online 2.0, provided that this last one is in an accepted document format, has been signed digitally by the emitting authority & €

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