

List of Contents

General Part

Contents	a
1. Preliminary remarks	1
2. Explanatory notes	1
2.1 Overview	1
2.2 Abbreviations	3
3. General remarks	4
4. Work at the EPO	5
5. Survey of the processing of applications and patents at the EPO	6
6. Contracting States to the EPC	8
7. Extension to states not party to the EPC	9

Part A – Guidelines for Formalities Examination

Contents	a
Chapter I Introduction	I-1
Chapter II Filing of applications and examination on filing	II-1
Chapter III Examination of formal requirements	III-1
Chapter IV Special provisions	IV-1
Chapter V Communicating the formalities report; amendment of application; correction of errors	V-1
Chapter VI Publication of application; request for examination and transmission of the dossier to Examining Division	VI-1
Chapter VII Languages	VII-1
Chapter VIII Common provisions	VIII-1

Chapter IX	Drawings	IX-1
Chapter X	Fees	X-1
Chapter XI	Inspection of files; communication of information contained in files; consultation of the Register of European Patents; issuance of certified copies	XI-1

Part B – Guidelines for Search

Contents	a	
Chapter I	Introduction	I-1
Chapter II	General	II-1
Chapter III	Characteristics of the search	III-1
Chapter IV	Search procedure and strategy	IV-1
Chapter V	Preclassification (routing) and official classification of European patent applications	V-1
Chapter VI	The state of the art at the search stage	VI-1
Chapter VII	Unity of invention	VII-1
Chapter VIII	Subject-matter to be excluded from the search	VIII-1
Chapter IX	Search documentation	IX-1
Chapter X	Search report	X-1
Chapter XI	The search opinion	XI-1

Part C – Guidelines for Procedural Aspects of Substantive Examination

Contents	a	
Chapter I	Introduction	I-1
Chapter II	Formal requirements to be met before the Division starts substantive examination	II-1
Chapter III	The first stage of examination	III-1

Chapter IV	Examination of replies and further stages of examination	IV-1
Chapter V	The final stage of examination	V-1
Chapter VI	Time limits and acceleration of examination	VI-1
Chapter VII	Other procedures in examination	VII-1
Chapter VIII	Work within the Examining Division	VIII-1
Chapter IX	Special applications	IX-1

Part D – Guidelines for Opposition and Limitation/Revocation Procedures

Contents	a	
Chapter I	General remarks	I-1
Chapter II	The Opposition Division	II-1
Chapter III	Opposition	III-1
Chapter IV	Procedure up to substantive examination	IV-1
Chapter V	Substantive examination of opposition	V-1
Chapter VI	Procedure for the examination of the opposition	VI-1
Chapter VII	Details and special features of the proceedings	VII-1
Chapter VIII	Decisions of the Opposition Division	VIII-1
Chapter IX	Costs	IX-1
Chapter X	Limitation and revocation procedure	X-1

Part E – Guidelines on General Procedural Matters

Contents	a	
Introduction	1	
Chapter I	Communications and notifications	I-1
Chapter II	Oral proceedings	II-1

Chapter III	Taking and conservation of evidence	III-1
Chapter IV	Derogations from the language of the proceedings in oral proceedings	IV-1
Chapter V	Examination by the EPO of its own motion; facts, evidence or grounds not submitted in due time; observations by third parties	V-1
Chapter VI	Interruption and stay of the proceedings	VI-1
Chapter VII	Time limits, loss of rights, further and accelerated processing and re-establishment of rights	VII-1
Chapter VIII	Applications under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)	VIII-1
Chapter IX	Decisions	IX-1
Chapter X	Appeals	X-1
Chapter XI	Request from a national court for a technical opinion concerning a European patent	XI-1
Chapter XII	Registering transfers, licences, other rights, etc.	XII-1

Part F – The European Patent Application

Contents	a	
Chapter I	Introduction	I-1
Chapter II	Content of a European patent application (other than claims)	II-1
Annex 1	Checklist for considering the abstract (see F-II, 2.5)	II-13
Annex 2	Units recognised in international practice and complying with Rule 49(10) (see F-II, 4.13)	II-14
Chapter III	Sufficiency of disclosure	III-1
Chapter IV	Claims (Art. 84 and formal requirements)	IV-1
Annex	Examples concerning essential features	IV-27

Chapter V	Unity of invention	V-1
Chapter VI	Priority	VI-1

Part G – Patentability

Contents	a	
Chapter I	Patentability	I-1
Chapter II	Inventions	II-1
Chapter III	Industrial application	III-1
Chapter IV	State of the art	IV-1
Chapter V	Non-prejudicial disclosures	V-1
Chapter VI	Novelty	VI-1
Chapter VII	Inventive Step	VII-1
Annex	Examples relating to the requirement of inventive step – indicators	VII-13

Part H – Amendments and Corrections

Contents	a	
Chapter I	The right to amend	I-1
Chapter II	Admissibility of amendments - general rules	II-1
Chapter III	Admissibility of amendments - other procedural matters	III-1
Chapter IV	Allowability of amendments - Art. 123(2) and Art. 123(3)	IV-1
Chapter V	Allowability of amendments - examples	V-1
Chapter VI	Correction of errors	VI-1