

68.5 *Main Invention*

In case of doubt which invention is the main invention for the purposes of Article 34(3)(c), the invention first mentioned in the claims shall be considered the main invention.

Rule 69

Time Limit for International Preliminary Examination

69.1 *Time Limit for International Preliminary Examination*

(a) The time limit for establishing the international preliminary examination report shall be:

(i) 28 months from the priority date if the demand was filed prior to the expiration of 19 months from the priority date;

(ii) nine months from the start of the international preliminary examination if the demand was filed after the expiration of 19 months from the priority date.

(b) International preliminary examination shall start upon receipt, by the International Preliminary Examining Authority:

(i) under Rule 62.2(a), of the claims as amended under Article 19, or

(ii) under Rule 62.2(b), of a notice from the International Bureau that no amendments under Article 19 have been filed within the prescribed time limit or that the applicant has declared that he does not wish to make such amendments, or

(iii) of a notice, after the international search report is in the possession of the International Preliminary Examining Authority, from the applicant expressing the wish that the international preliminary examination should start and be directed to the claims as specified in such notice, or

(iv) of a notice of the declaration by the International Searching Authority that no international search report will be established (Article 17(2)(a)).

(c) If the competent International Preliminary Examining Authority is part of the same national Office or intergovernmental organization as the competent International Searching Authority, the international preliminary examination may, if the International Preliminary Examining Authority so wishes, start at the same time as the international search. In such a case, the international preliminary examination report shall be established, notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (a), no later than six months after the expiration of the time limit allowed under Article 19 for amending the claims.