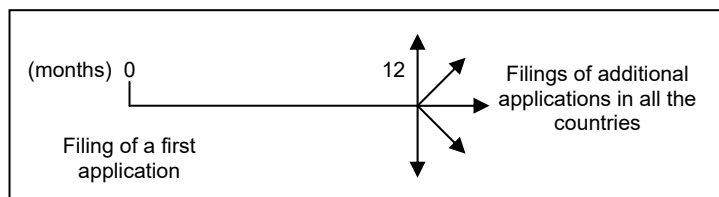


Traditional filings of patent applications



Steps:

Filing of a first patent application in one country (e.g. Canada or USA) followed, within 12 months, by filings of corresponding patent applications in all the countries where patent protection is desired, claiming the priority established by the first application according to Paris Convention, provided that the invention was not publicly disclosed prior to the filing date of the first patent application.

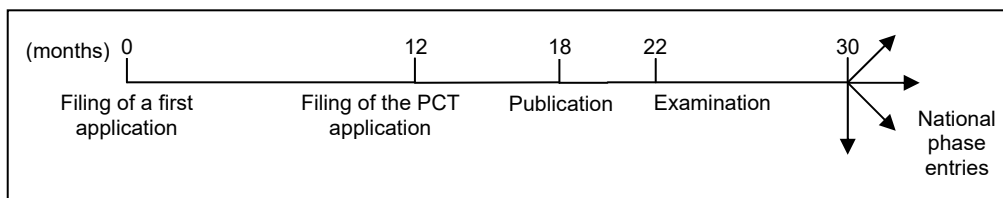
Features:

- multiple formality requirements (e.g. translations of the applications in the official languages of the countries)
- parallel / independent examinations of the applications (possible redundancies)

Option:

- filings of applications in all the desired countries at the beginning (instead of just one)

Filing under the PCT system



Steps:

Filing of a first patent application in one country followed, within 12 months, by the filing of a PCT application claiming the priority established by the first application according to Paris Convention, provided that the invention was not publicly disclosed prior to the filing date of the first patent application.

Features:

- single set of moderated formal requirements at the PCT level
- single international examination of the PCT application, including early search report and written opinion regarding patentability of the invention
- choice of the countries for patent protection deferred until the 30th month from filing date of first application (for national phase entries)
- translations and national official fees required at 30 months (or a bit later in certain cases)

Option:

- filing of a PCT application at the beginning