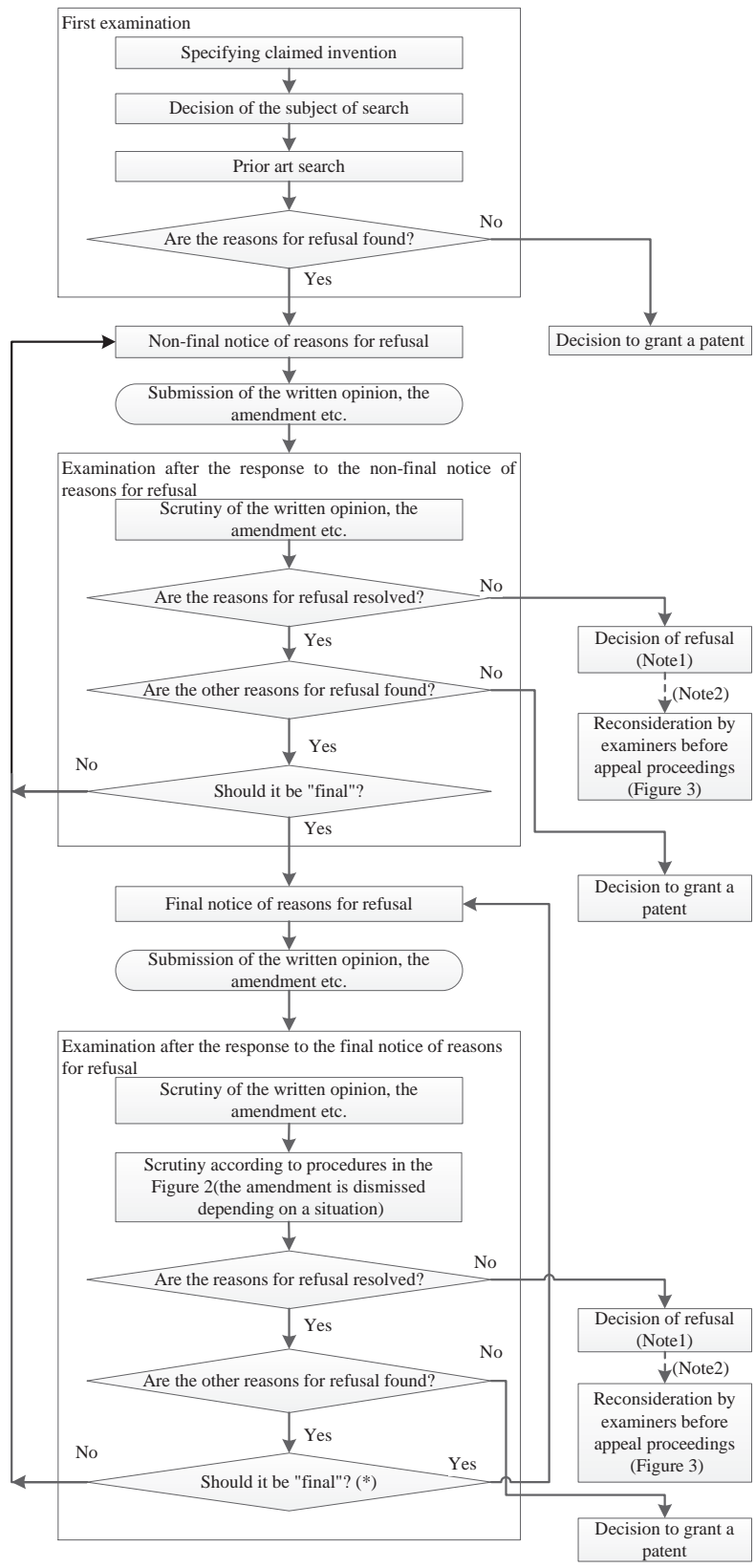


Note: When any ambiguity of interpretation is found in this provisional translation, the Japanese text shall prevail.

Part I Outline of Examination

Figure 1. Flow of the Examination



Related parts to "Chapter 2 Procedures of Examination"

Section 1 Specifying Claimed Invention

Section 2 Prior Art Search and Determination of Novelty, Inventive Step, etc.

- 2. Subject of Prior Art Search
- 3. Prior Art Search
- 4. Determination of Novelty, Inventive Step, etc.

Section 3 Notice of Reasons for Refusal

- 2. Types of notice of reasons for refusal
- 3.1 First notice of reasons for refusal
- 3.2 Second or later notice of reasons for refusal

Section 4 Handling of Written Opinion, Written Amendment, etc.

Section 5 Decision

- 2. Decision to Grant Patent
- 3. Decision of Refusal

Section 6 Decision of Dismissal of Amendment

- 2. Consider Whether or not Sending the Final Notice of Reasons for Refusal was Appropriate
- 3. Consider of Dismissal of Amendment
- 4. Handling of the Application when the Amendment is Dismissed
- 5. Handling of the Application when the Amendment is not Dismissed

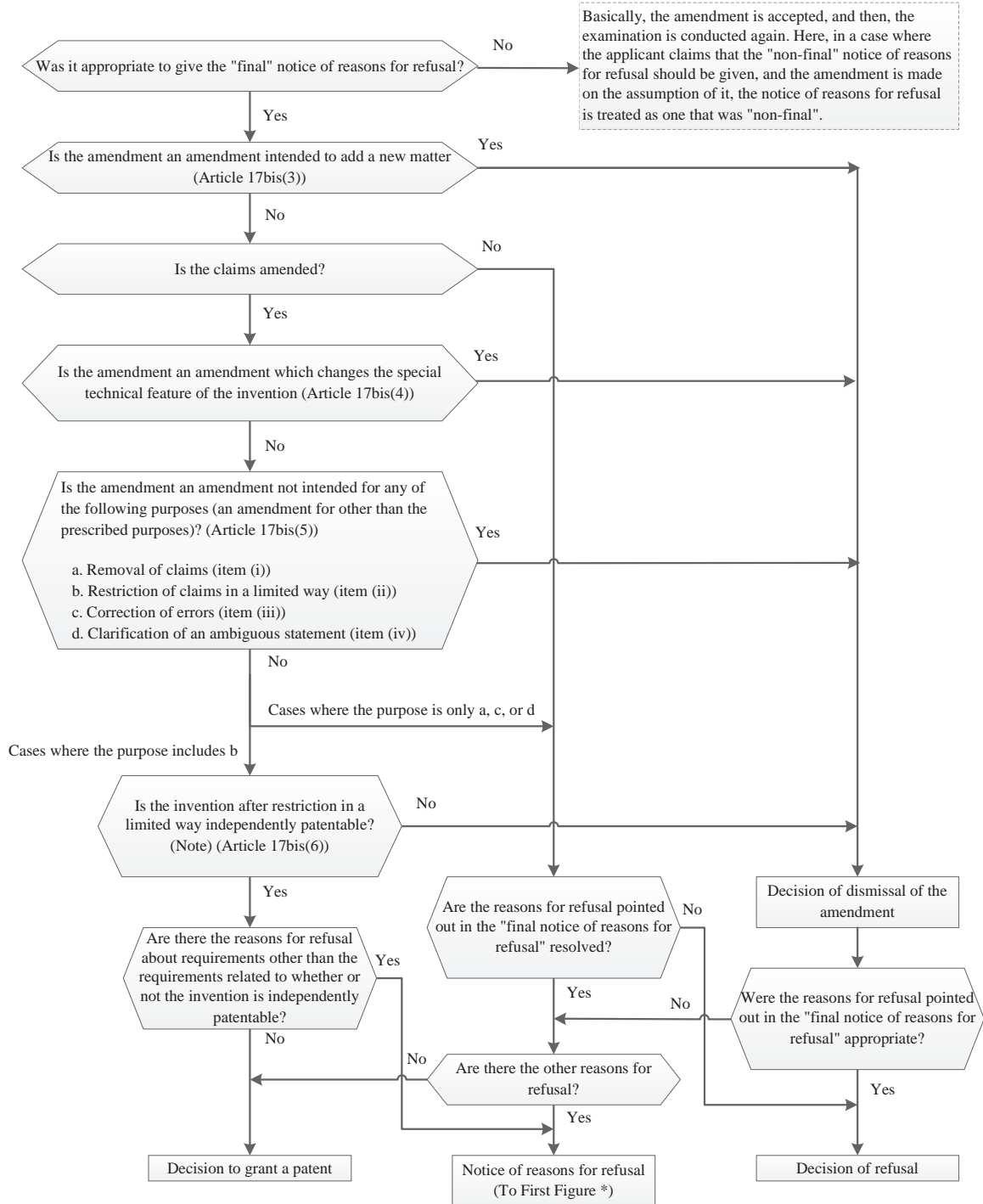
Section 7 Reconsideration by Examiners before Appeal Proceedings

Section 8 Communication with Applicant and Request for Documents etc. Required for the Examination

(Note1) Even in a case where the notified reasons for refusal are not resolved, when the examiner can show a response that can be taken by the applicant for the purpose of resolving the reasons for refusal, and when it is determined that establishment of the agreement with the applicant about taking the response is estimated, communication with the applicant is attempted. If the agreement is established, "the final notice of reasons for refusal" is notified.

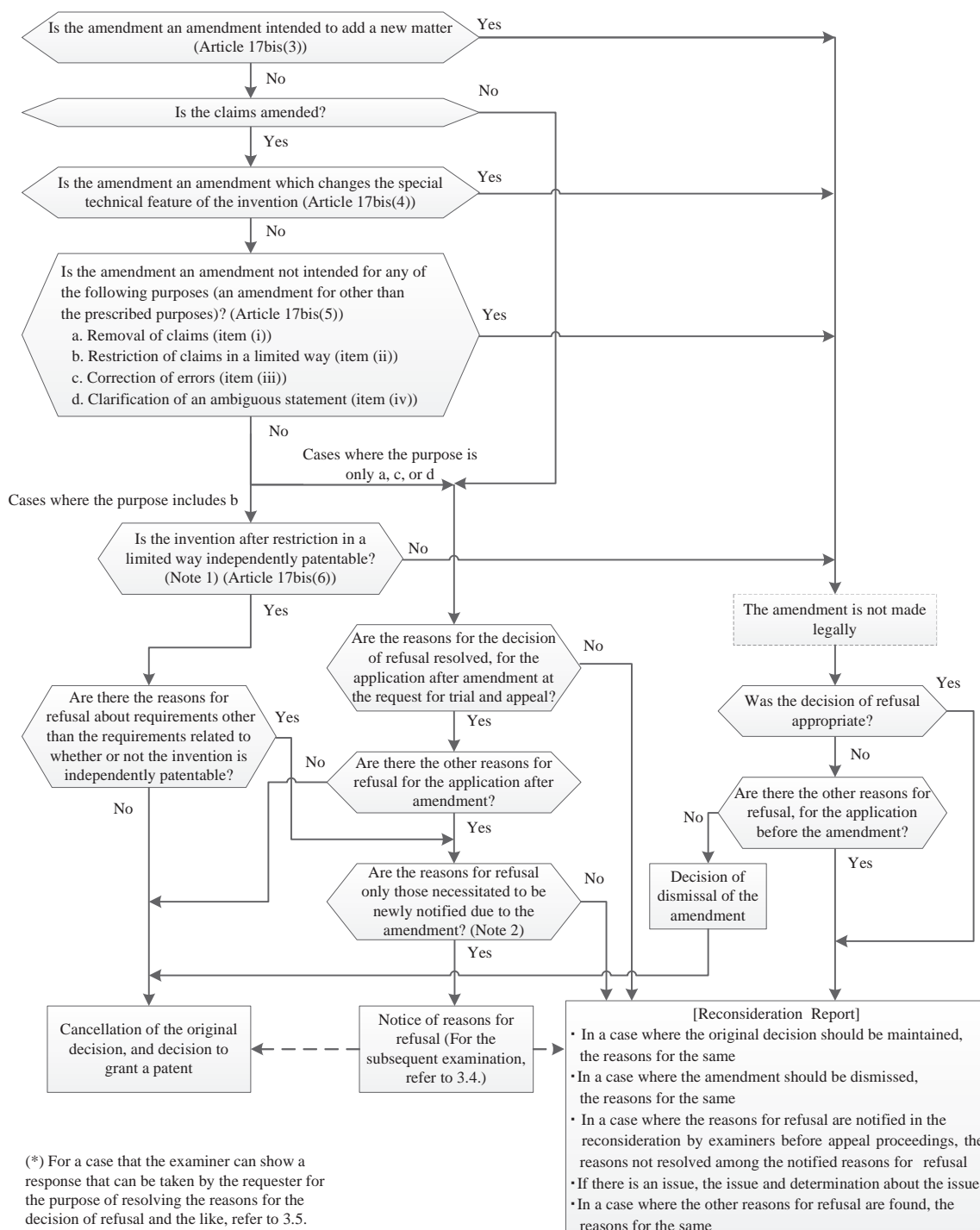
(Note2) In the case, those in which the descriptions, etc. were amended in the request for appeal

Figure 2. Flow of the Examination in a Case Where an Amendment is made as a Response to the "Final Notice of Reasons for Refusal"



(Note) Whether or not the invention after the amendment is independently patentable is determined on the basis of the following requirements: Article 29, Article 29bis, Article 32, Article 36(4)(i) and (6)(i)-(iii), and Article 39(1)-(4).

Figure 3. Flow of Reconsideration by Examiners before Appeal Proceedings



(*) For a case that the examiner can show a response that can be taken by the requester for the purpose of resolving the reasons for the decision of refusal and the like, refer to 3.5.

(Note 1) Whether or not the invention after the amendment is independently patentable is determined on the basis of the following requirements: Article 29, Article 29bis, Article 32, Article 36(4)(i) and (6)(i)-(iii), and Article 39(1)-(4).

(Note 2) The reasons for refusal necessitated to be newly notified due to the amendment, are reasons for refusal applicable to the following (i) or (ii).
 (i) New reasons for refusal raised by the amendment at the request for trial and appeal
 (ii) Reasons for refusal, which have been raised by the decision of refusal but which have not been needed to be determined to the decision of refusal, and that are found as a result of occurrence of necessity of determination due to the amendment at the request for trial and appeal