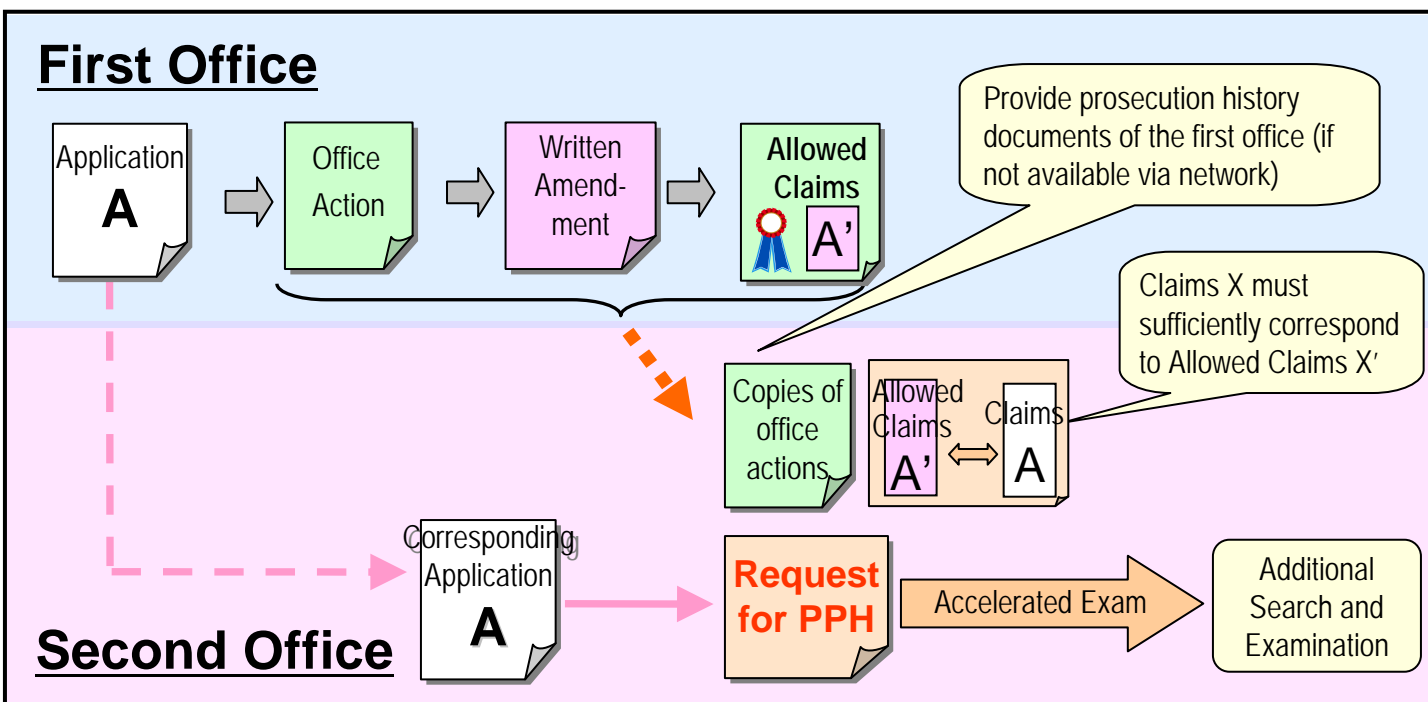


Patent Prosecution Highway

1. OUTLINE

The purpose of PPH is to facilitate an applicant's acquisition of a patent at an early stage worldwide and to enhance the utilization of search and examination results among the world's major IP Offices so as to reduce the burden of examination and to enhance the quality of examination worldwide.

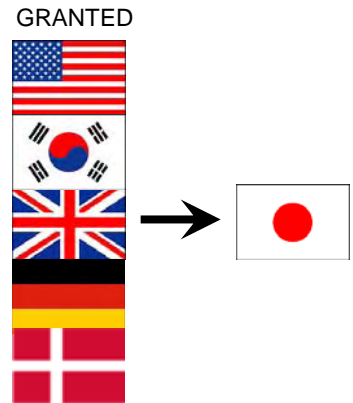
PPH enables an application with claims determined to be patentable in the Office of First Filing (OFF) to undergo an accelerated examination in the Office of Second Filing (OSF) with a simple procedure upon request for PPH by an applicant.



Patent Prosecution Highway

2. FILING A REQUEST FOR PPH

To file a request for PPH with the JPO, there are 4 requirements and 4 required documents.



(1) 4 requirements

- a. The application in the OSF validly claims priority from an application in the OFF*.
- b. The application in the OFF has at least one claim already determined to be patentable.
- c. All claims in the OSF application sufficiently correspond to the claims already determined to be patentable in the OFF.
- d. The application in the OSF has not yet been examined**.

* In the case of the USPTO, the UK-IPO or the DKPTO, national stage application of PCT without priority claim is also eligible.

** In the case of the KIPO or the DKPTO as the OSF, an application which has already been examined is also eligible.

(2) 4 required documents

1. A table listing and containing an explanation of the sufficiently corresponding claims
2. A copy of the claims already determined to be patentable in the OFF
3. Copies of all office actions of the OFF
4. Copies of references cited by the OFF examiner

Patent Prosecution Highway

(3) Documents which the applicant need *not* submit

* If file wrapper information is provided to the JPO through a network between the Offices, an applicant does not have to submit the documents in items 2 and 3 below.

* If the documents in item 4 below are patent documents, an applicant does not have to submit them in most cases.

If an application fulfills the two conditions above, in most cases, the applicant only has to submit the document listed in item 1 below.

Required Documents

- 1. A table listing and containing an explanation of the sufficiently corresponding claims**
2. A copy of the claims already determined to be patentable in the OFF
3. Copies of all office actions of the OFF
4. Copies of references cited by the OFF examiner

Patent Prosecution Highway

3. ADVANTAGE OF PPH

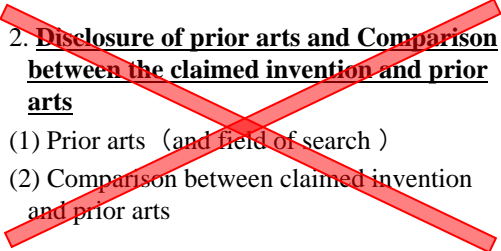
(1) Reduces procedural burden to file a request for the accelerated examination

The Explanation of Circumstances
Concerning Accelerated Examination

(Bibliographic data)
【The Explanation of Circumstances
Concerning Accelerated Examination】

1. Circumstances
2. Disclosure of prior arts and Comparison
between the claimed invention and prior
arts

(1) Prior arts (and field of search)
(2) Comparison between claimed invention
and prior arts



If the application satisfies the 4 requirements and if the required document(s) are submitted to the JPO, an applicant is not required to fill out the section 2 of this form for the accelerated examination.

(2) Enables applicants to receive FA more quickly

FA period in the JPO

Average period from PPH request to FA : 2-3 months

cf. Average period from request for examination to FA

: approx. 26 months