

## **Procedures to file a request with the JPO (Japan Patent Office) for the Patent Prosecution Highway Pilot Program between the JPO and the INPI (National Institute of Industrial Property of France)**

Amended on January 1, 2025

Under the JPO-INPI Patent Prosecution Highway pilot program, applicants can request accelerated examination for an application which is filed with the JPO and satisfies the following requirements based on an INPI application by prescribed procedures including submission of relevant documents.

When filing a request for the PPH pilot program, applicants must submit a PPH request form presented in “Example form for on-line procedures” of these guidelines.

The offices may terminate the PPH pilot program if the volume of participation exceeds a manageable level, or for any other reason. An ex-ante notice will be published if the PPH pilot program is terminated.

The PPH pilot program will be in effect from January 1, 2025 and will end on December 31, 2029. However, the program may be extended after a joint INPI-JPO review and assessment of the program implementation.

### **1. Requirements**

***(a) Both the JPO application for which the PPH is requested and the INPI application(s) forming the basis of the PPH request shall have the same earliest date (whether this be a priority date or a filing date).***

***For example, the JPO application (including PCT national phase application) is either:***

(Case I) an application which validly claims priority under the Paris Convention to the INPI application(s) (examples are provided in ANNEX I, Figures A, B, C, D and E);

(Case II) an application which is the basis of a valid priority claim under the Paris Convention for the INPI application(s) (examples are provided in ANNEX I, Figures F and G); or

(Case III) an application which shares a common priority document with the INPI application(s) (examples are provided in ANNEX I, Figures H, I and J).

**(note) Note that the INPI application(s) does not include a PCT national phase application(s) .**

***(b) At least one corresponding application exists in the INPI and has one or more claims that are determined to be patentable by the INPI.***

Claims are “determined to be patentable” when the INPI clearly identifies the claims to be patentable in the latest office action, even if the application is not granted for patent yet. If the PPH request to the JPO is based on an application filed with the INPI before May 22, 2020, only (i) preliminary search report or (ii) written opinion is regarded as such an office action.

The office action includes one of the following:

- (i) Preliminary search report
- (ii) Written opinion
- (iii) "B" publication
- (iv) Search report (attached to "B" publication)
- (v) Draft Rejection Decision ("Projet de décision de rejet")
- (vi) Rejection Decision ("Décision de rejet")
- (vii) Decision after opposition procedure ("Décision statuant sur l'opposition")

***(c) All claims on file, as originally filed or as amended, for examination under the PPH must sufficiently correspond to one or more of those claims indicated as patentable in the INPI.***

Claims are considered to "sufficiently correspond" where, accounting for differences due to translations and claim format, the claims in the JPO are of the same or similar scope as the claims indicated as patentable in the INPI, or the claims in the JPO are narrower in scope than the claims indicated as patentable in the INPI. In this regard, a claim that is narrower in scope occurs when a claim indicated as patentable in the INPI is amended to be further limited by an additional feature that is supported in the specification (description and/or claims).

A claim in the JPO which introduces a new/different category of claims to those claims indicated as patentable in the INPI is not considered to sufficiently correspond. For example, where the claims indicated as patentable in the INPI only contain claims to a process of manufacturing a product, then the claims in the JPO are not considered to sufficiently correspond if the JPO claims introduce product claims that are dependent on the corresponding process claims.

If the PPH request is granted, any claims amended or added after a first office action need not to sufficiently correspond to the claims indicated as patentable in the INPI application.

***(d) The JPO has not begun examination of the application at the time of request for***

*the PPH (an example is provided in ANNEX I, Figure K).*

***(e) A “Request for Substantive Examination” must have been filed with the JPO either at the time of the PPH request or previously.***

## **2. Documents to be submitted**

Documents (a) to (d) below must be submitted as attachment to “The Explanation of Circumstances Concerning Accelerated Examination”.

Some of the documents may not be required in certain cases. Please note that the name of the documents omitted from submission still have to be listed in “The Explanation of Circumstances Concerning Accelerated Examination” (Please refer to the Example form for details).

***(a) Copies of all office actions (which are relevant to substantial examination for patentability in the INPI), which were issued for the corresponding application by the INPI, and their translations<sup>1</sup>.***

Either Japanese or English is acceptable as translation language. The applicant does not have to submit copies of all office actions if they are available via the INPI Patent Database, but has to attach their Japanese or English translations by him/herself.

***(b) Copies of all claims determined to be patentable by the INPI, and their translations<sup>1</sup>.***

Either Japanese or English is acceptable as translation language. The applicant does not have to submit a copy of the claims if they are available via the INPI Patent Database or EPO dossier access system regardless of language. Besides, if the claims are in English, the applicant does not have to submit their Japanese or English translations by him/herself.

***(c) Copies of references cited by the INPI***

If the references are patent documents, the applicant doesn't have to submit them because the JPO usually possesses them. When the JPO does not possess any patent document, the applicant has to submit the patent document at the examiner's request. Non-patent literature must always be submitted.

The translations of the references are unnecessary.

***(d) Claim correspondence table***

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<sup>1</sup> Machine translations will be admissible, but if it is impossible for the examiner to understand the outline of the translated office action or claims due to insufficient translation, the applicant may be requested to resubmit translations.

The applicant requesting PPH must submit a claim correspondence table, which indicates how all claims in the JPO application sufficiently correspond to the patentable claims in the INPI application.

When claims are just literal translation, the applicant can just write down that “they are the same” in the table. When claims are not just literal translation, it is necessary to explain the sufficient correspondence of each claim based on above requirement 1. (c) (Please refer to the Example form).

When the applicant has already submitted above documents (a) to (d) to the JPO through simultaneous or past procedures, the applicant may incorporate the documents by reference and does not have to attach them.

### **3. Example of “The Explanation of Circumstances Concerning Accelerated Examination” for requesting an accelerated examination under the PPH pilot program**

#### **(1) Circumstances**

When filing a request for an accelerated examination under the PPH pilot program to the JPO, the applicant must submit a request form “The Explanation of Circumstances Concerning Accelerated Examination” based on the procedure prescribed in the “Guidelines for Accelerated Examination and Appeal”<sup>2</sup>.

The applicant must indicate that the application meets above requirement 1. (a), and that the accelerated examination is requested under the PPH pilot program. The application number, publication number, or patent number of the corresponding INPI application(s) must also be provided.

\*In the case that the application which has one or more claims that are determined to be patentable is different from the INPI application(s) included in (Case I) to (Case III) of 1. (a) (for example, a divisional application of the basic application), the application number, publication number, or patent number of the application(s) which has claims determined to be patentable and the relationship between those applications must also be provided.

#### **(2) Documents to be submitted**

The applicant must list all the required documents mentioned in above 2. in an identifiable way, even when omitting certain documents from submission.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.jpo.go.jp/e/system/patent/shinsa/jp-soki/document/index/guideline.pdf>

**(3) Notice**

Forms of “The Explanation of Circumstances Concerning Accelerated Examination” are different between the on-line procedures and the paper procedures. Please refer to the “Guidelines for Accelerated Examination and Appeal” for examples of respective forms (“Form 1 for Accelerated Examination” for on-line procedures, and “Form 2 for Accelerated Examination” for paper procedures).

### Example Form for the on-line PPH filing procedures

(Example of the request based on the claims indicated patentable in the written opinion of the report on the state of the art)

<p>【書類名】 早期審査に関する事情説明書                  -----                  The name of this paper</p>	<p>Bibliographical items</p>	
<p>【提出日】 令和00年00月00日                  -----                  Date of filing</p>		
<p>【あて先】 特許庁長官殿                  -----                  Destination</p>		
<p>【事件の表示】                  【出願番号】 特願 0000-000000                  -----                  Application number</p>		
<p>【提出者】                  【識別番号】 000000000                  【住所又は居所】 〇〇県〇〇市〇丁目                  【氏名又は名称】 〇〇〇〇〇                  -----                  The name and address of who submit this</p>		
<p>【代理人】                  【識別番号】 000000000                  【住所又は居所】 〇〇県〇〇市〇丁目                  【氏名又は名称】 〇〇 〇〇                  -----                  The name and address of the attorney</p>		
<p>【早期審査に関する事情説明】                  -----                  The explanation of circumstances concerning accelerated examination</p>		
<p>1. 事情                  特許審査ハイウェイに基づく早期審査の申請を行う。                  本出願はフランス産業財産庁への出願(特許出願番号00000000)をパリ条約に基づく優先権の基礎出願とする出願である。当該フランス出願に対しては、フランス産業財産庁により特許査定が発行されている。</p>		
<p>1. Circumstances                  The accelerated examination is requested under the PPH program.                  This application is an application validly claiming the priority under the Paris Convention to the corresponding INPI application (the application number is 000000000), and the Decision to Grant a Patent has been issued by the INPI.</p>		
<p>以下において、「引用非特許文献1」とは、「村岡洋一著、「コンピュータサイエンス大学講座(第11巻)コンピュータ・アーキテクチャ」、第2版、株式会社近代科学者、1985年11月、p.123-127」である。</p>		
<p>In what follows, “non-patent literature1” is “Yoichi Muraoka, Lecture of Computer Science (vol.11) computer architecture, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Scientist com, Nov. 1985, p.123-127.”</p>		

If the name of the document is long (more than 50 letters), it is impossible to write it down directly to the column “【物件名】.” Please write down the full name of the document in the column “【早期審査に関する事情説明】” and name it properly. Then write the name in the column “【物件名】.”

【提出物件の目録】

The list of submitted documents

List up the documents to be submitted

- 【物件名】 PPH 申請書 1
- 【物件名】 \*\*年\*\*月\*\*日付の拒絶理由通知書の写し及びその翻訳文 1
- 【物件名】 \*\*年\*\*月\*\*日付の特許査定書の写し及びその翻訳文 1
- 【物件名】 特許可能と判断された請求項の写し及びその翻訳文 1
- 【物件名】 引用非特許文献1 1

(The name of the document) PPH request form 1  
(The name of the document) Copy and translation of Notification of Reasons for Refusal in the INPI on (date) 1  
(The name of the document) Copy and translation of grant in the INPI on (date) 1  
(The name of the document) Copy and translation of the claims indicated patentable in the report on the state of the art and written opinion in the INPI on (date) 1  
(The name of the document) Cited non patent literature1 1

Use the same name as “【物件名】” under “【提出物件の目録】.”

Attach the document here as image file or text.

【添付物件】

The list of attached documents

- 【物件名】 PPH 申請書
- PPH request form

【内容】

<p><b>PPH申請書</b> (REQUEST FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE PATENT PROSECUTION HIGHWAY (PPH) (PILOT) PROGRAM)</p>					
<p><b>A. 書誌事項 (Bibliographic Data)</b></p>					
出願番号 (Application Number)	特願0000-000000				
<p><b>B. 必要事項 (Request)</b></p>					
<p>出願人による以下に基づく特許審査ハイウェイの申請: (Applicant requests participation in the Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) (pilot) program based on:)</p>					
<p>先行庁 (国際調査機関又は国際予備審査機関を含む) (Office of Earlier Examination (OEE))</p>	<p><b>フランス産業財産庁 (INPI)</b></p>				
<p>先行庁の審査書類形式 (OEE Work Products Type)</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 国内出願の審査結果を利用 (PPH又はPPH MOTTAINAI) (National/Regional Office Action(s))				
	<input type="checkbox"/> PCT国際段階成果物を利用 (PCT-PPH) (WO-ISA, WO-IPEA or IPER)				
<p>先行庁の対応出願番号(国際出願番号含む) (OEE Application Number) (Incl. PCT Application Number)</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50px; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="width: 50px; text-align: center;">00000000</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 50px; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="width: 50px; text-align: center;"></td> </tr> </table>		00000000		
	00000000				
<p><b>C. 必要書類 (Required Documents)</b></p>					
<p><b>I. 先行庁のオフィスアクションの写し、及び、その翻訳文 (OEE Work Products and, if required, Translations)</b></p>					
<p>1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 先行庁のオフィスアクションの写しを添付する (A copy of OEE work products is attached; or) <input type="checkbox"/> ドシエ・アクセス・システム又はPATENTSCOPEにおいて、オフィスアクションの情報が提供されている (The office is requested to retrieve documents via the Dossier Access System or PATENTSCOPE)</p>					
<p>2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 上記1. の日本語又は英語の翻訳文を添付する (A translation of documents in 1 in a language accepted by the Office is attached; or) <input type="checkbox"/> ドシエ・アクセス・システム又はPATENTSCOPEにおいて、上記1. の英語翻訳が提供されている (The office is requested to retrieve documents via the Dossier Access System or PATENTSCOPE)</p>					
<p><b>II. 先行庁における特許可能な請求項、及び、その翻訳文 (Patentable/Allowable Claims Determined by OEE and, if required, Translations)</b></p>					
<p>3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 先行庁出願において特許可能と判断された全請求項の写しを添付する (A copy of all claims determined to be patentable/allowable by OEE is attached; or) <input type="checkbox"/> ドシエ・アクセス・システム又はPATENTSCOPEにおいて、特許可能と判断された全請求項の情報が提供されている (The office is requested to retrieve documents via the Dossier Access System or PATENTSCOPE)</p>					
<p>4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 上記3. の日本語又は英語の翻訳文を添付する (A translation of documents in 3 in a language accepted by the Office is attached; or) <input type="checkbox"/> ドシエ・アクセス・システム又はPATENTSCOPEにおいて、上記3. の英語翻訳が提供されている (The office is requested to retrieve documents via the Dossier Access System or PATENTSCOPE)</p>					
<p><b>III. 引用文献 (Documents Cited in OEE Work Products (if required))</b></p>					
<p>5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 引用非特許文献を添付する (A copy of all documents cited in OEE work products is attached (excluding patent documents); or) <input type="checkbox"/> 引用非特許文献も引用特許文献もなし (No references cited)</p>					



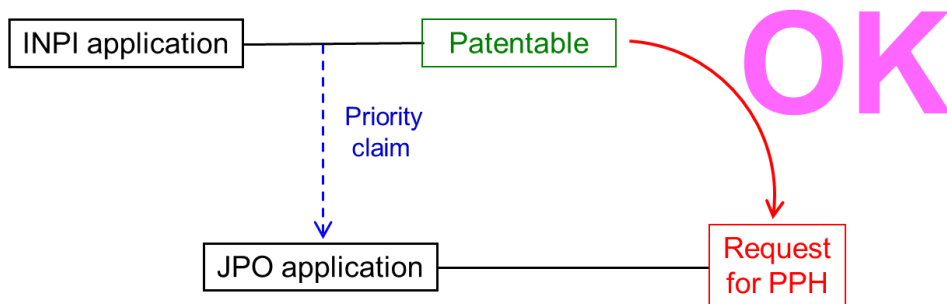
<b>IV. 先の提出書類の援用の表示 (Previously submitted documents)</b>			
6. <input type="checkbox"/> 上記において「添付する」とチェックした書類のうち、先に提出した書類を援用する (If any of the above mentioned documents have been submitted before, please specify:)			
		(先行庁のオフィアクションの写し、及び、その翻訳文)	
		<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	
		(先行庁における特許可能な請求項、及び、その翻訳文)	
		<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	
		(引用非特許文献)	
		<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	
<b>V. 提出物件(援用する物件は除く)(List of names of documents submitted)</b> 早期審査に関する事情説明書に記載のとおり。			
<b>VI. 提出を省略する物件 (List of names of documents omitted for submission)</b>			
		(先行庁のオフィアクションの写し、及び、その翻訳文)	
		<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	
		(先行庁における特許可能な請求項、及び、その翻訳文)	
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		(引用特許文献)	
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		<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	
<b>D. 請求項の対応関係 (Claims Correspondence)</b>			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 先行庁の特許可能な全請求項と完全に一致する (請求項の削除、追加、並び替えが無く、請求項の文言が完全に一致する) (All the claims in the application sufficiently correspond to the patentable/allowable claims in the OEE application; or)			
<input type="checkbox"/> 請求項の対応関係は、以下の表に記載 (Claims correspondence is explained in the following table)			
	本出願の請求項 (Application Claims)	先行庁の対応請求項 (Corresponding OEE claims)	対応関係に関するコメント(複数の出願と対応する場合は、コメント欄に対応する出願番号も記載して下さい。) (Explanation regarding the correspondence)
	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>
<b>E. 見解書、予備審査報告の第Ⅷ欄(国際出願に対する意見)に対する釈明</b> (explaining any Box VIII observations of WO/ISA, WO/IPEA or IPER)			
<input style="width: 100%; height: 100%;" type="text"/>			
出願人又は代理人 (Name(s) of applicant(s) or representative(s)) 早期審査に関する事情説明書に記載のとおり。			
提出日 (Date) 早期審査に関する事情説明書に記載のとおり。			
提出者 (Signature(e) of the applicant/representative) 早期審査に関する事情説明書に記載のとおり。			

<p>【物件名】 **年**月**日付の拒絶理由通知書及びその翻訳文</p> <p>Copy and translation of Notification of Reasons for Refusal in the INPI on (date)</p>	
<p>【内容】 Attach the copy of the document.</p>	<p>Use the same name as “【物件名】” under “【提出物件の目録】.”</p>
<p>【物件名】 **年**月**日付の特許査定およびその翻訳文</p> <p>Copy and translation of grant in the INPI on (date)</p>	
<p>【内容】 Attach the copy of the document.</p>	
<p>【物件名】 特許可能と判断された請求項の写し及びその翻訳文</p> <p>Copy and translation of the claims indicated patentable in the report on the state of the art and written opinion in the INPI on (date)</p>	
<p>【内容】 Attach the copy of the document.</p>	
<p>【物件名】 引用非特許文献1</p> <p>Cited non-patent literature1</p>	
<p>【内容】 Attach the copy of the document.</p>	

Note that in the case of the paper procedures, the pendency period (the period between the request for PPH and the first office action) tends to be longer than in the on-line procedures.

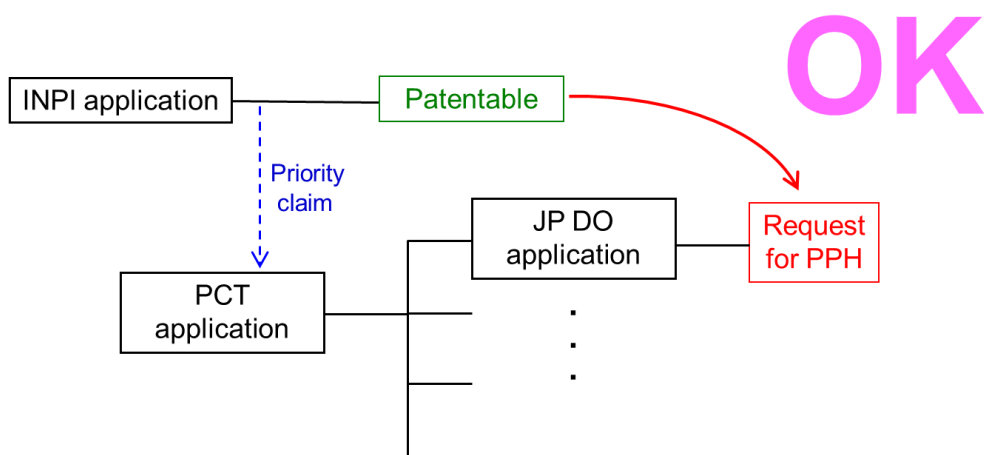
A

(Case I)  
- Paris route -

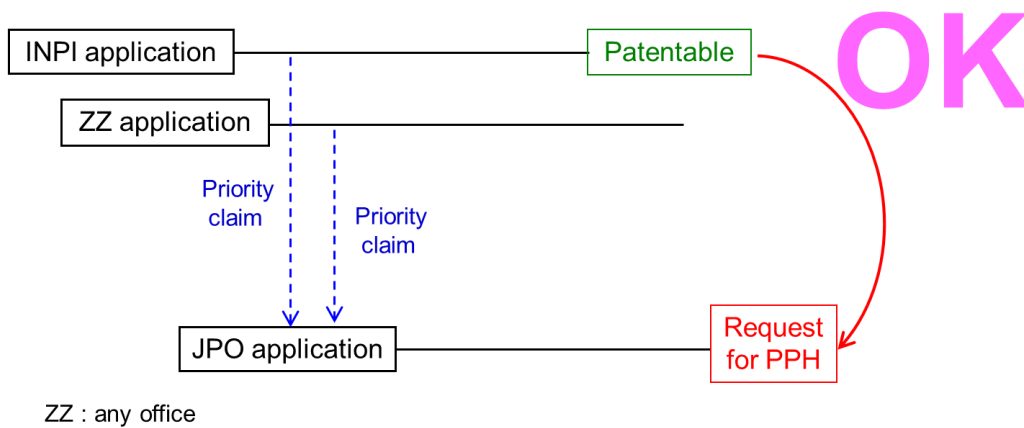


B

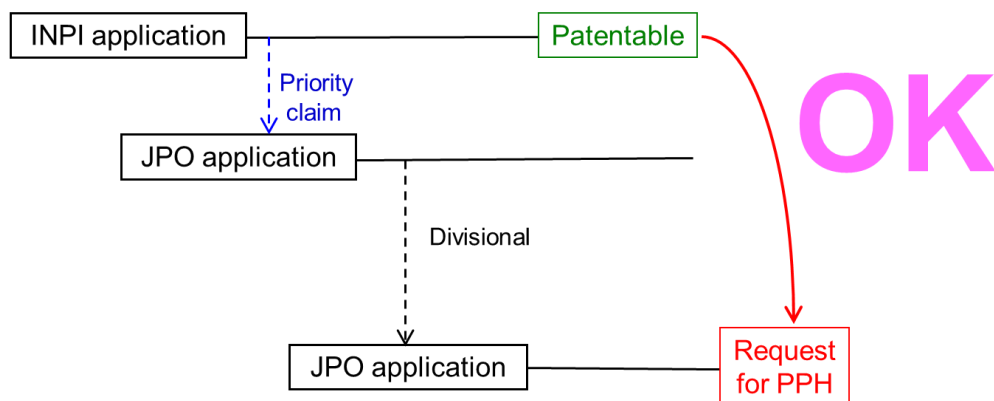
(Case I)  
- PCT route -



**C** (Case I)  
- Paris route & Complex priority -

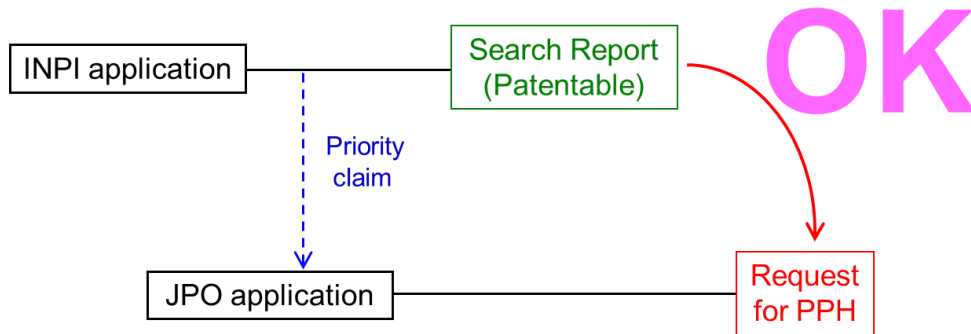


**D** (Case I)  
- Paris route & divisional application -

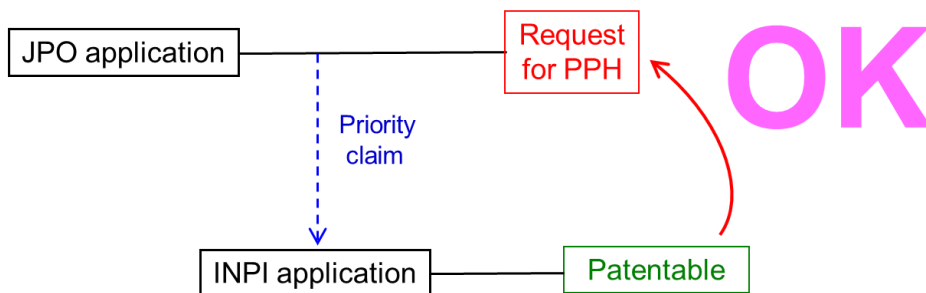


**E**

(Case I)  
- Search Report -

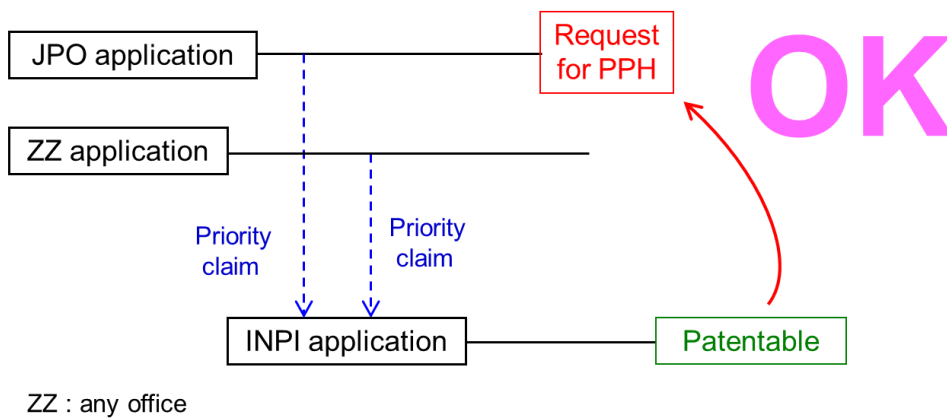
**F**

(Case II)  
- Paris route -



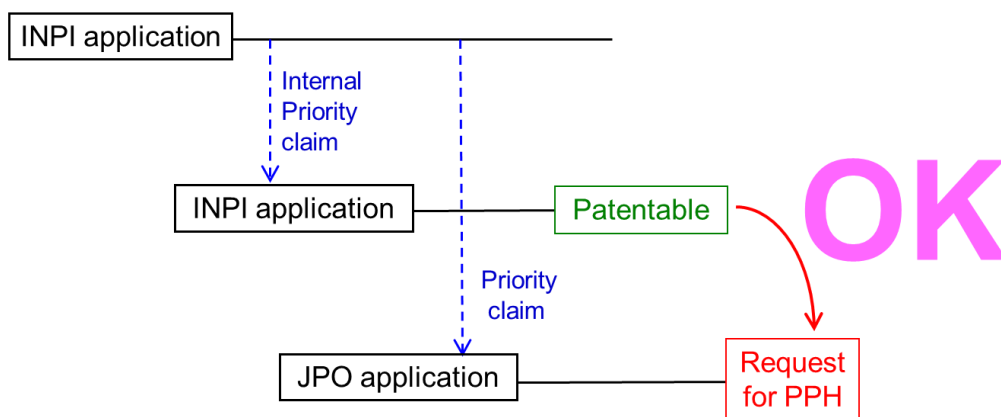
G

(Case II)  
- Paris route & Complex priority -



H

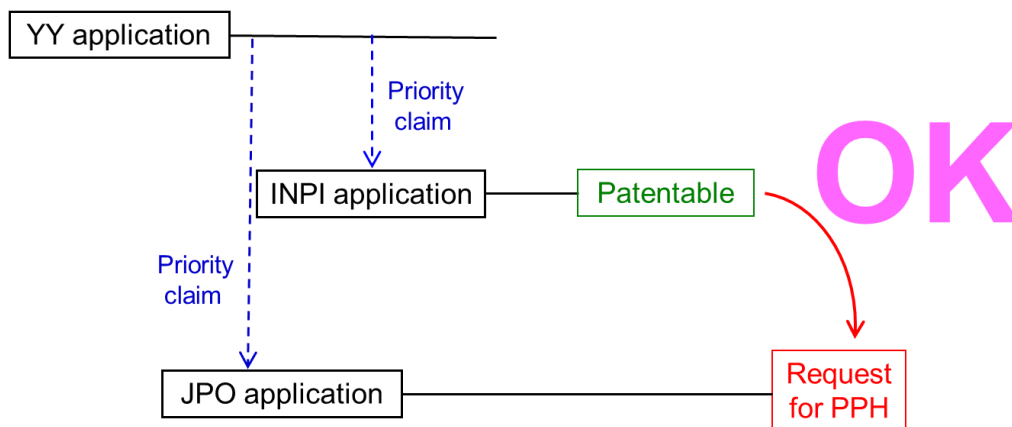
(Case III)  
- Paris route, Internal priority-



I

(Case III)

- Paris route, but the first application is from the third country -

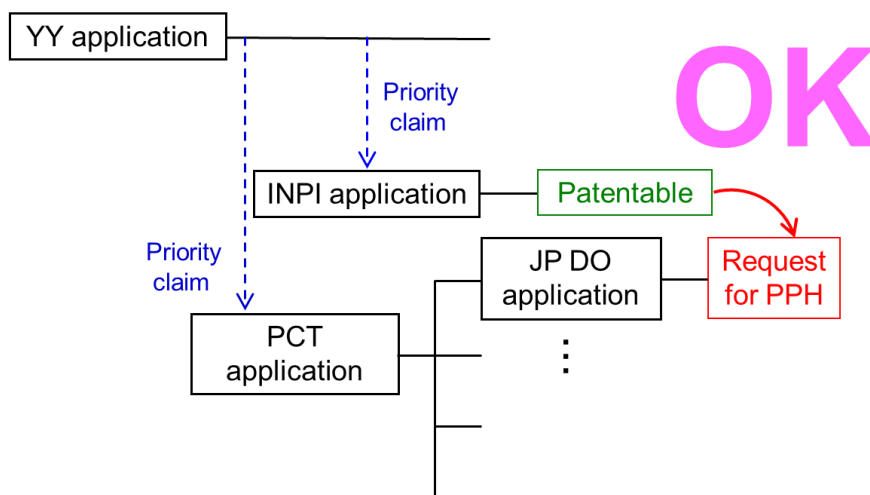


YY : the office other than the INPI and the JPO

J

(Case III)

- PCT route, but the first application is from the third country -



YY : the office other than the INPI and the JPO

**K** A case not meeting requirement (d)  
- Examination has begun before a request for PPH -

