

*The Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH)
fast-track examination to obtain a patent
in the U.S. and Japan*

The Fast Lane for Patent Prosecution

➤ The JPO and USPTO

accepting requests for the PPH

-Pilot program between JPO and USPTO started on July 3, 2006-

➤ Fast-track examination

with a simple procedure

-Application advanced out of turn for examination-

➤ Enhances the **quality** of patents

-Reduces duplicated search and examination-

Detailed information

-JPO Web site

http://www.jpo.go.jp/torikumi_e/t_torikumi_e/highway_pilot_program_e.htm

-USPTO Web site

http://www.uspto.gov/web/patents/pph/pph_index.html



Japan Patent Office



United States Patent and Trademark Office

The JPO and the USPTO started the PPH pilot program on July 3, 2006.

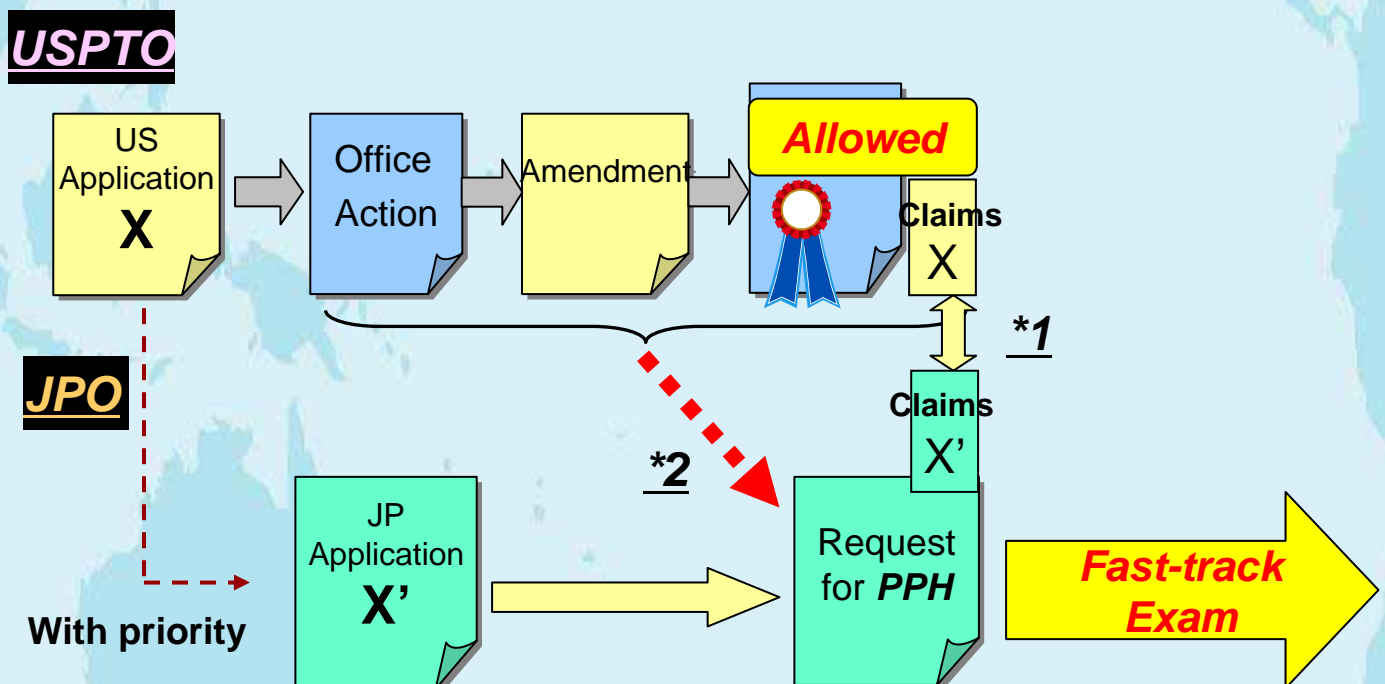
The PPH enables a patent application determined to be patentable in the USPTO or JPO to undergo a fast-track examination in the JPO or USPTO with a simple procedure. It also enhances the quality of patents and reduces duplicated search and examination.

The JPO and USPTO plan to issue a first office action within 9 months, at the latest, from the date of the request for the PPH. Thus, applicants can obtain patents in Japan and the U.S. at an early stage.

Applicants are encouraged to participate in the pilot program to evaluate the PPH.

Example:

An applicant can file a request for the fast-track examination of a Japanese application with the JPO under the PPH after the corresponding US application is determined to be patentable in the USPTO.



*1 Claims must sufficiently correspond to allowable claims in the US.

*2 When the JPO can get the prosecution history documents of the US from the USPTO directly, an applicant does not have to provide them to the JPO.