Patent Prosecution Highway Programme between the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore and the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property

1. Background

1.1 To obtain patent protection for an invention in several countries usually requires the invention to be searched and examined in each of the countries. If the patent authorities in these countries were to share the results of their search and/or examination with each other, the opportunity for a patent office to make reference to earlier work done could have several potential benefits:

- Reduced work – Reference to the earlier work done could reduce or even eliminate the need for subsequent search and examination work.
- Accelerated examination – The reduced work could generally lead to a faster examination of the patent application.
- Better search and examination – The other patent authorities might have access to databases unavailable (e.g. specific technical databases, local databases, databases in other languages) to the examiner, therefore the opportunity to refer to these search and examination results could provide the examiner with information on and assessment of prior art that he or she would otherwise not have access to.

2. Patent Prosecution Highway Programme

2.1 The Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) programme between the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS) and the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property (SAIP) is one way for the two offices to share their search and examination results with each other.

2.2 Where IPOS is the Office of Earlier Examination (OEE) and the IPOS application contains claims that are determined to be allowable/patentable, the applicant may request accelerated examination at the SAIP for the corresponding application filed with the SAIP as the Office of Later Examination (OLE). The requirements and procedures for filing a request with the SAIP for participation in the PPH programme are available from the SAIP website at: https://www.saip.gov.sa/patent-short-path/.

2.3 Where the SAIP is the OEE and the SAIP application contains claims that are determined to be allowable/patentable[1], the applicant may request accelerated examination of the corresponding application filed with IPOS as the OLE by furnishing certain information of the SAIP application as set out in the requirements and procedures below. To avoid doubt, the applicant is required to provide all necessary documents to IPOS.

3. PPH programme

3.1 In recognition of the benefits that the PPH Programme brings to both regions and offices, the programme is extended in a permanent manner with effect from 12 September 2025. IPOS and the SAIP may suspend or terminate the PPH programme if the volume of participation exceeds manageable level, or for any other reason, by

[1] Allowed claims from a utility model or a petty patent cannot be used to form the basis for requesting PPH in IPOS.

providing 30 (thirty) days in advance of the date of suspension or termination in writing to the other Office. Notice will be published if the PPH programme is to be suspended or terminated for any reason.

4. Requirements and procedures for requesting accelerated examination of an IPOS patent application under the PPH

4.1 Requirements

(1) Both the IPOS application for which acceleration is requested and the SAIP application(s) forming the basis of the PPH request shall have the same earliest date (whether this is a priority date or a filing date).

(2) The SAIP application has at least one claim that is determined to be allowable/patentable by the SAIP.

(3) All claims in the IPOS application must sufficiently correspond or be amended to sufficiently correspond to one or more of the claims found allowable/patentable by the SAIP. Claims will be considered to sufficiently correspond where, accounting for differences due to translations and claim format requirements, the claims are of the same or similar scope, or the claims are narrower in scope. In this regard, a claim that is narrower in scope occurs when a claim in the IPOS application is amended to be further limited by an additional technical feature that is supported in the specification.

(4) Examination has not begun on the IPOS application.

(5) A list of scenarios in which a request for an accelerated examination of the IPOS application can be made under the PPH programme is found in **Annex I**.

4.2 The Procedures

(1) File the duly completed Patents Form 11 (Request for Search and Examination Report) or Patents Form 12 (Request for Examination Report). These forms can be found at: https://digitalhub.ipos.gov.sg/ (electronic versions for online filing).

(2) The Patents Form 11, or Patents Form 12 must be accompanied by:

(a) a copy of all office actions of the SAIP application being relied upon;

(b) a copy of the allowable/patentable patent claims referred to in (2)(a) above; and

(c) a claims correspondence table showing the relatedness of the allowable/patentable claims referred to in (2)(a) above to the claims in the current IPOS application. The format of the Claims Correspondence Table is found in **Annex II**.

(3) The documents listed in (2)(a) above can be either the:

a) national work product including (i) Substantive Examination Report established by the SAIP as the national Office or (ii) Decision of grant established by the SAIP as the national Office during the processing of a national application or a Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) application that has entered the national phase before the SAIP; or

b) PCT work product including (i) written opinion established by the SAIP as the International Searching Authority or International Preliminary Examining Authority or (ii) the international preliminary examination report issued within the framework of the PCT.

(4) To avoid doubt, a copy of the patent grant without the documents listed in (2)(a), (b) and (c) above will not qualify for the PPH. However, if the documents listed in (2)(a) and (2)(b) relating to PCT work product by the SAIP are available in the World Intellectual Property Organization's PATENTSCOPE system, they need not be filed with Patents Form 11 or Patents Form 12. The PATENTSCOPE system is accessible via http://www.wipo.int/pctdb/en/index.jsp.

(5) The checkbox for "ASPEC/PPH" must be selected in the Patents Form 11 or Patents Form 12.

(6) If the request for PPH is sought after the Patents Form 11 or Patents Form 12 is filed, an ad hoc correspondence must also be sent to IPOS through IPOS Digital Hub at https://digitalhub.ipos.gov.sg/. The ad hoc correspondence must contain in its subject, the title "PPH acceleration requested" and should also inform of the intention to make a PPH request, the IPOS application number and whether any amendments are required to conform the Singapore claims to the foreign allowable/patentable claims. Upon receipt of the ad hoc correspondence, IPOS will advise if examination has started on the IPOS application. If examination has not started and no amendments are required, we will invite the applicant to submit the relevant PPH documents in 4.2(2) via ad-hoc correspondence at https://digitalhub.ipos.gov.sg/. If the applicant intends to amend the claims of the patent application for conformity with foreign allowable/patentable claims, the Examiner will commence search and examination or examination of the patent application. If there are prescribed matters that can be resolved via an invitation to amend (ITA) without a written opinion, the Examiner will ask the Registrar to issue an ITA. To proceed with the PPH request, the applicant should file Patents Form 13A and select the box for PPH. Patents Form 13A, along with the amendments and relevant PPH documents, should be filed within 2 months from the date of the ITA.

(7) All subsequent correspondence with IPOS must be similarly marked with the phrase "PPH acceleration requested".

4.3 Cited Documents

A copy of each of the documents cited in the documents submitted under paragraph 4.2 (2)(a) is not required at the time of filing the PPH request. IPOS may, however, require the applicant to furnish a copy of any document cited subsequently.

4.4 Translations

(1) The documents in paragraph 4.2(2) must be accompanied by an English translation if they are not originally in English, at the time of filing the PPH request. Machine translations into English are acceptable.

(2) The documents in paragraph 4.3 may be filed in their original language. However, IPOS may subsequently request for an English translation of a document or a part of a document if an English abstract of the cited document is not available.

(3) If it is not possible for IPOS to understand the English translation of any document, IPOS can request the applicant to resubmit the English translation of that document.

4.5 PPH Request

IPOS will treat a PPH request as a request for accelerated examination under the PPH programme. Where the PPH request is granted, the IPOS application will be processed in an accelerated manner. In those instances where the PPH request does not meet all the requirements and procedures set forth above, the applicant will be notified and the deficiencies in the request will be identified. The applicant will be given one opportunity to correct formal deficiencies identified in the request. If the request is not corrected, the application will be taken out of the PPH programme and the applicant will be notified.

4.6 Examination of IPOS patent application under the PPH

The IPOS application will be examined in accordance with the Singapore Patents Act 1994 and the Singapore Patents Rules. The legislations can be found at: https://www.ipos.gov.sg/resources/ip-legislation.

4.7 Applicants should seek professional advice on patent matters in Singapore, in particular, with reference to section 30 (Grant of patent) and section 69 (Restrictions on relief for infringement) of the Singapore Patents Act 1994.

5. Enquiries

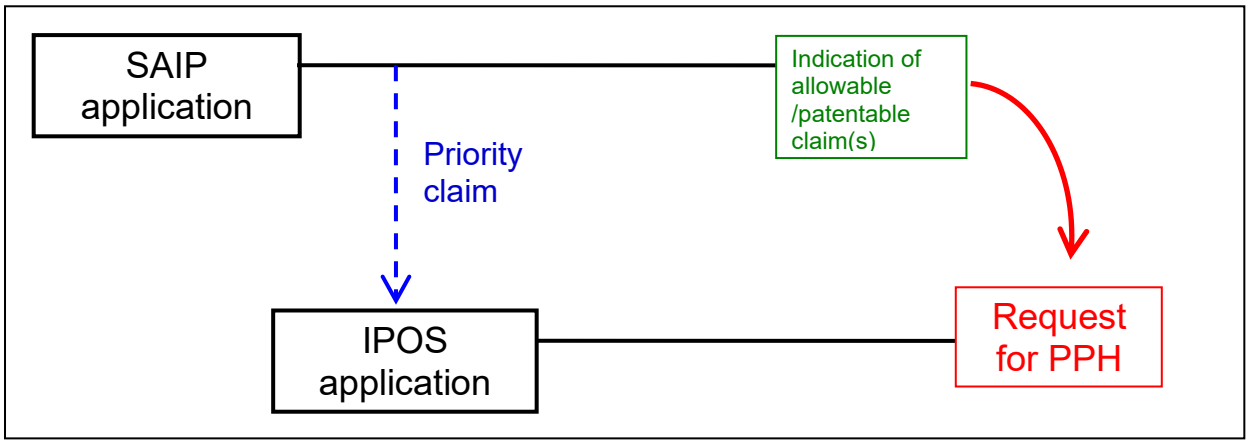
5.1 For enquiries relating to the Patent Prosecution Highway programme, please send an email to PT_acceleration@ipos.gov.sg.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE OF SINGAPORE
DATE: September 2025
Last updated: June 2026

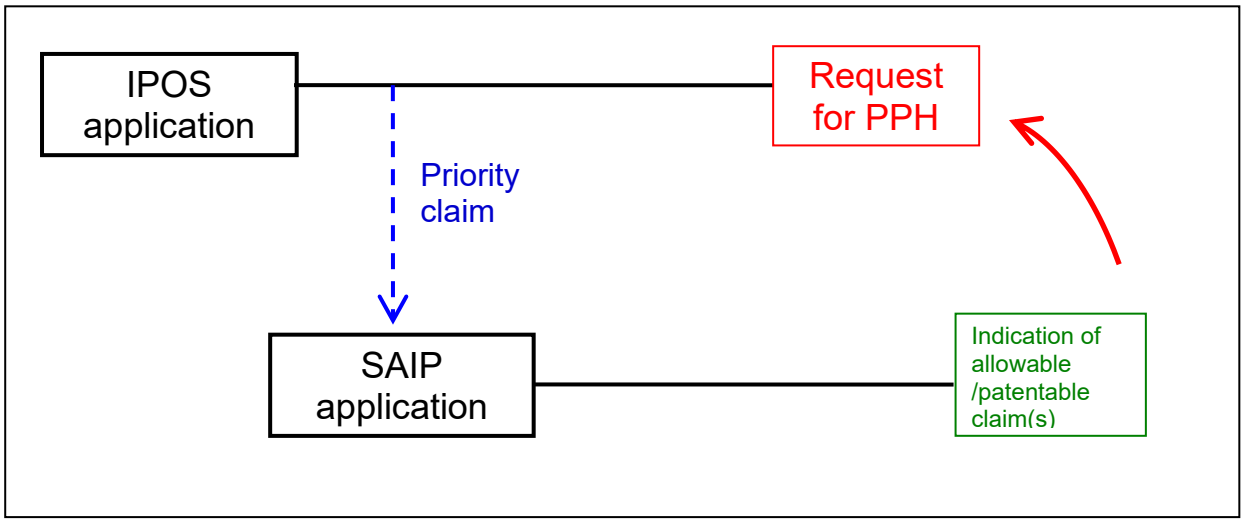
Annex I

Scenarios using the National Work Product

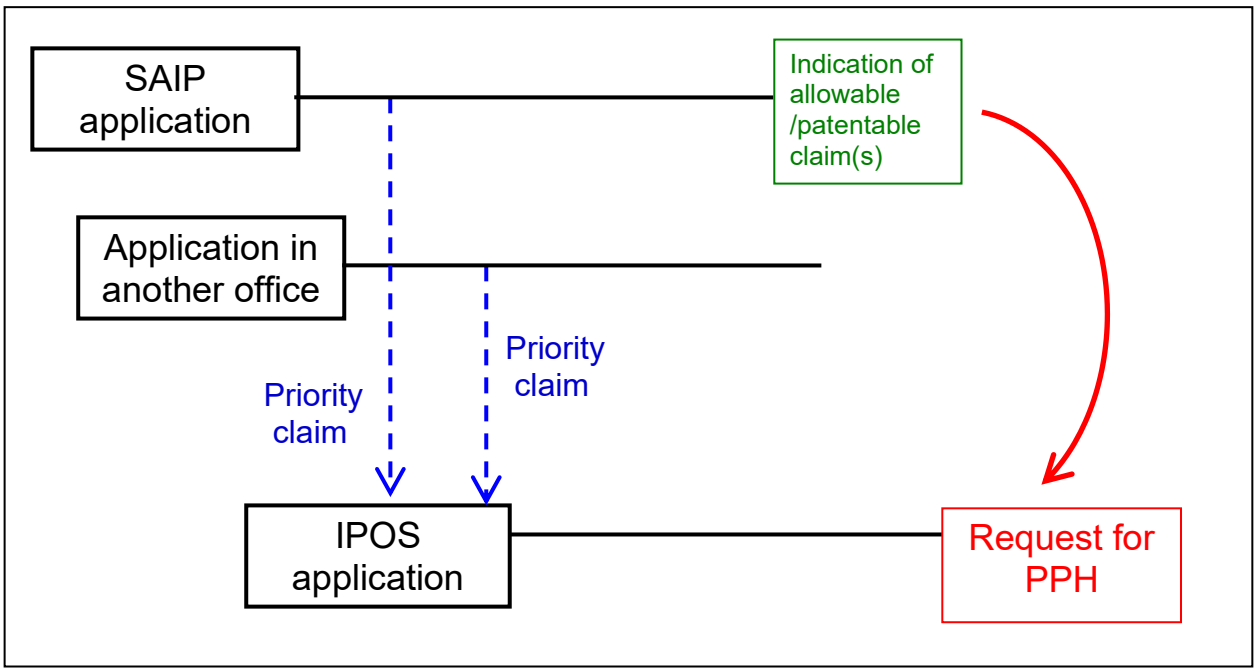
Scenario 1(a): The IPOS application validly claims priority under section 17 of the Singapore Patents Act 1994 from the SAIP application being relied upon for the PPH request.



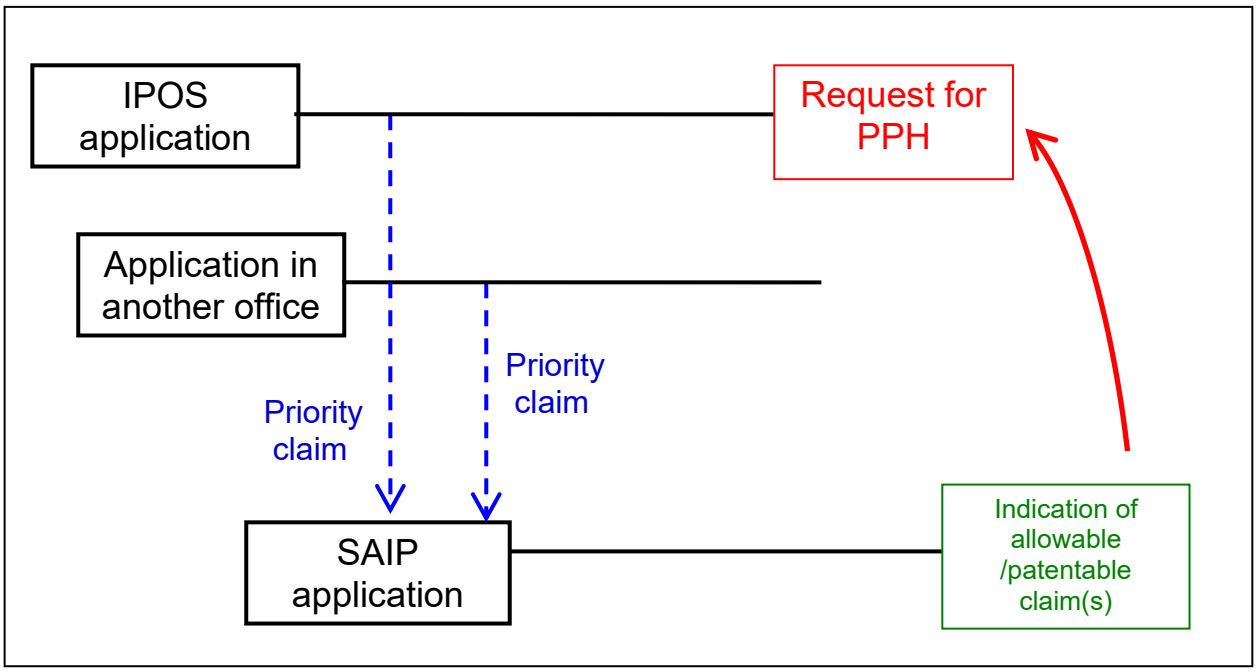
Scenario 1(b): The request for PPH can also be made where the SAIP application claims priority from the IPOS application and the SAIP application is being relied upon for PPH request.



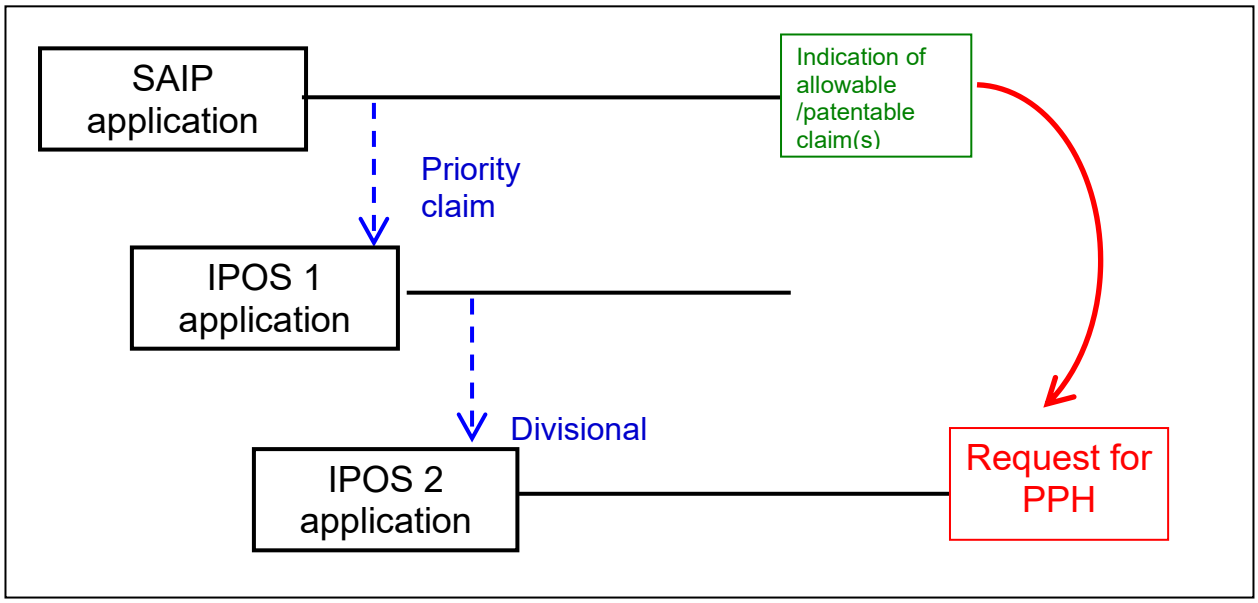
Scenario 2(a): The IPOS application validly claims priority under section 17 of the Singapore Patents Act 1994 from the SAIP application being relied upon for the PPH request and applications filed in any office other than the IPOS or the SAIP.



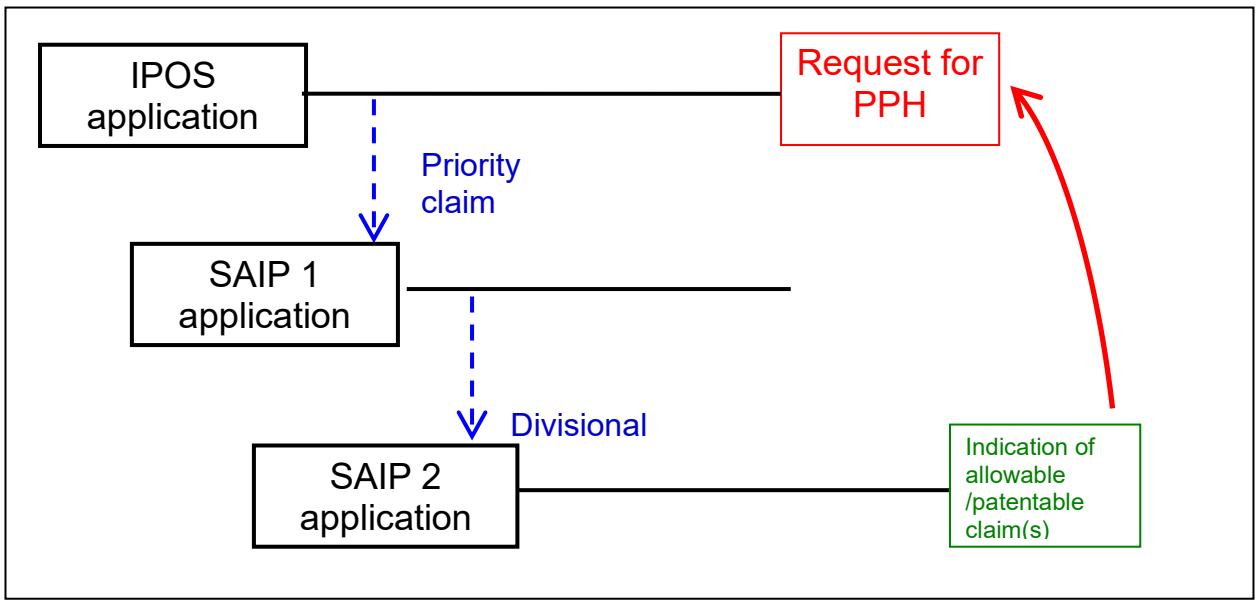
Scenario 2(b): The SAIP application being relied upon for the PPH request validly claims priority from the IPOS application and applications filed in any office other than the IPOS or the SAIP.



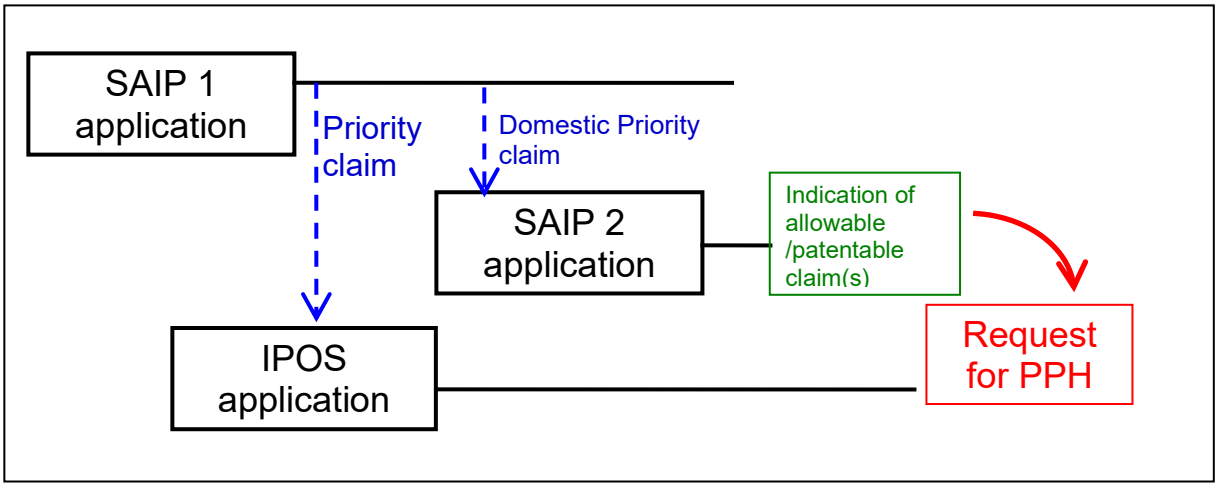
Scenario 3(a): The IPOS application is a divisional application of an IPOS application. This divisional application validly claims priority under section 17 of the Singapore Patents Act 1994 from the SAIP application being relied upon for the PPH request.



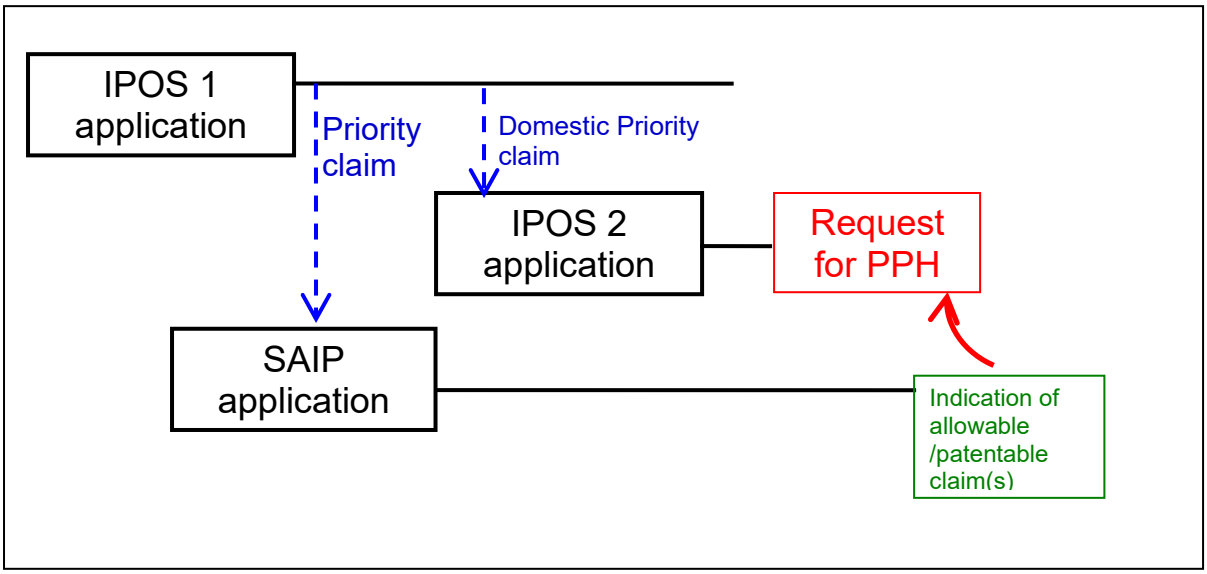
Scenario 3(b): The SAIP application is a divisional application of a SAIP application. This divisional application validly claims priority from the IPOS application and the divisional application from SAIP could be relied upon for the PPH request.



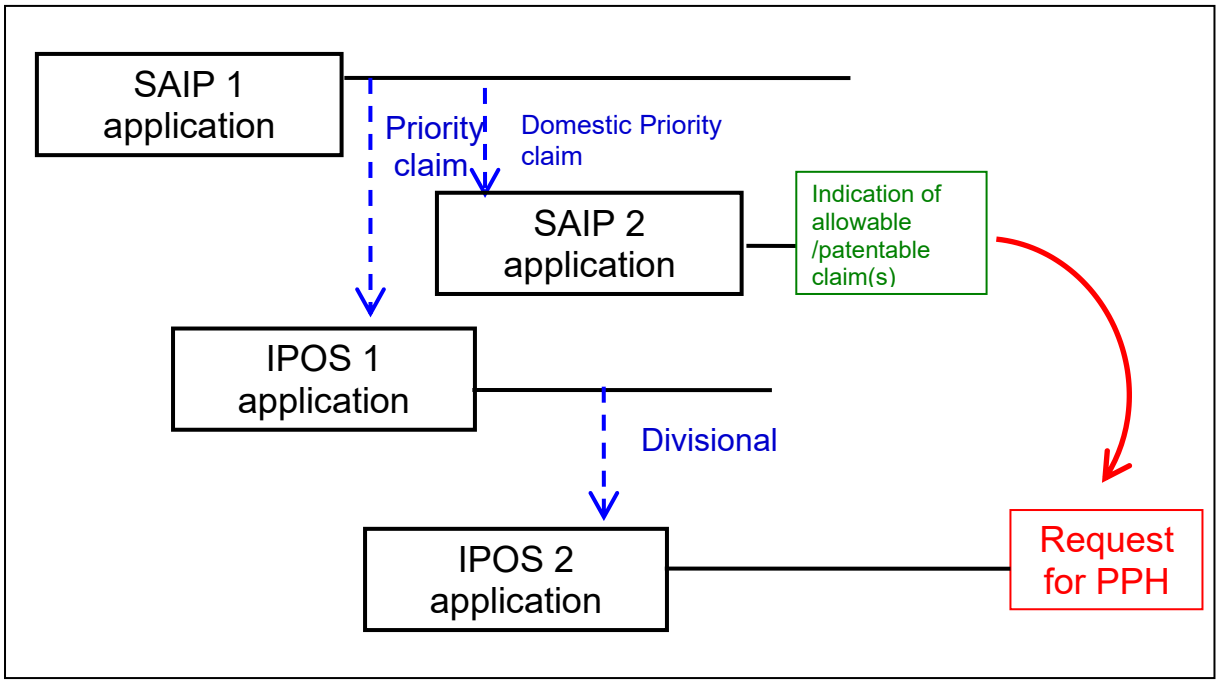
Scenario 4(a): The IPOS application validly claims priority under section 17 of the Singapore Patents Act 1994 from a SAIP application, and the SAIP application being relied upon for the PPH request also validly claims priority from said earlier SAIP application.



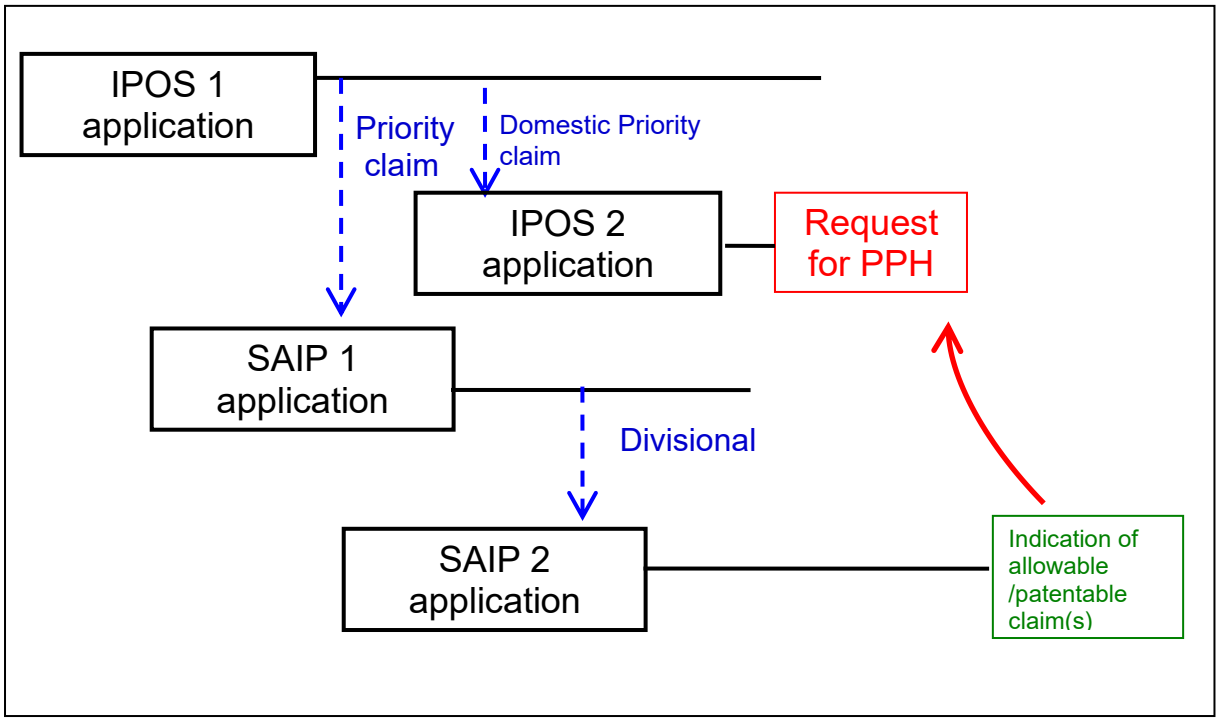
Scenario 4(b): The IPOS application validly claims priority under section 17 of the Singapore Patents Act 1994 from an IPOS application, and the SAIP application being relied upon for the PPH request also validly claims priority from said earlier IPOS application.



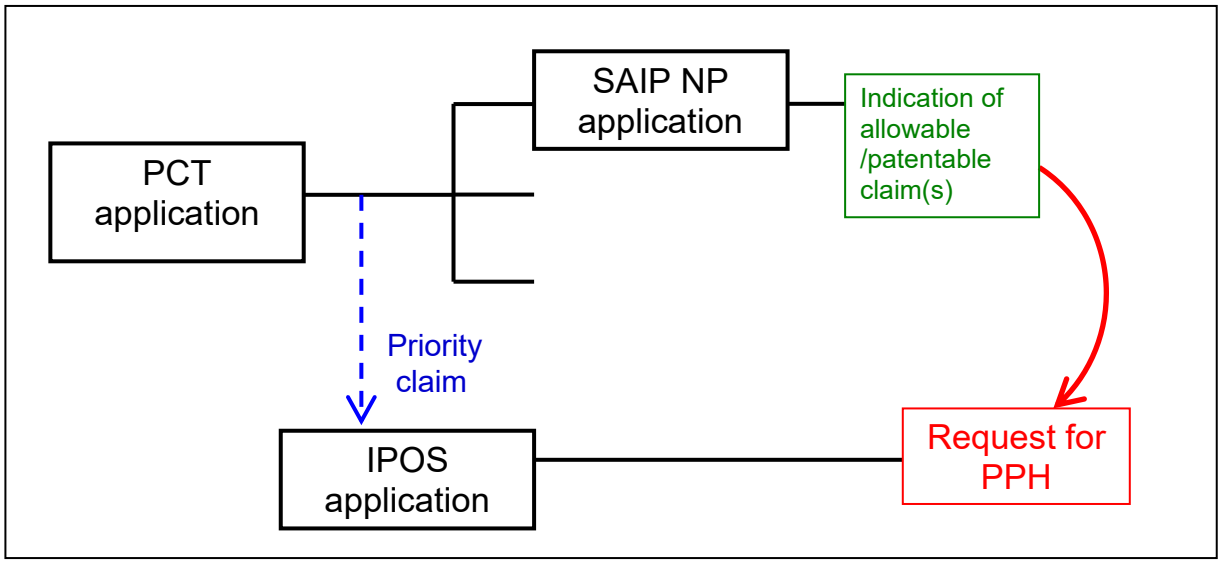
Scenario 5(a): The IPOS application is a divisional application of an IPOS application. This divisional application validly claims priority under section 17 of the Singapore Patents Act 1994 from a SAIP application. The SAIP application being relied upon for the PPH request also validly claims priority from the earlier SAIP application.



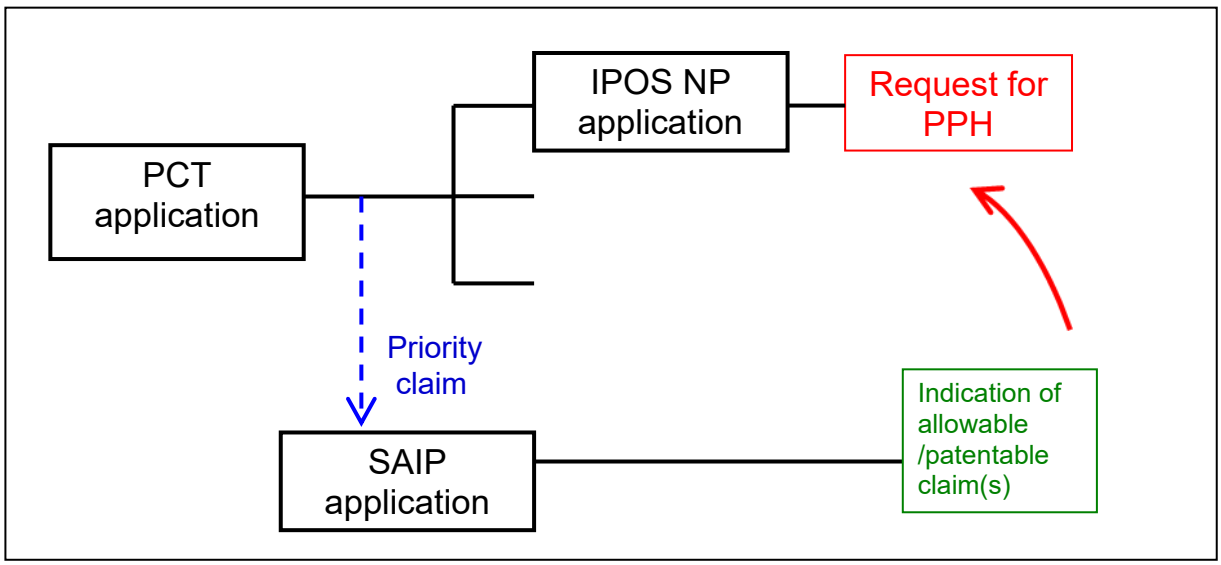
Scenario 5(b): The SAIP application is a divisional application of a SAIP application. This divisional application validly claims priority from an IPOS application, and the divisional application from SAIP could be relied upon for the PPH request. The IPOS application validly claims priority under section 17 of the Singapore Patents Act 1994 from the earlier IPOS application.



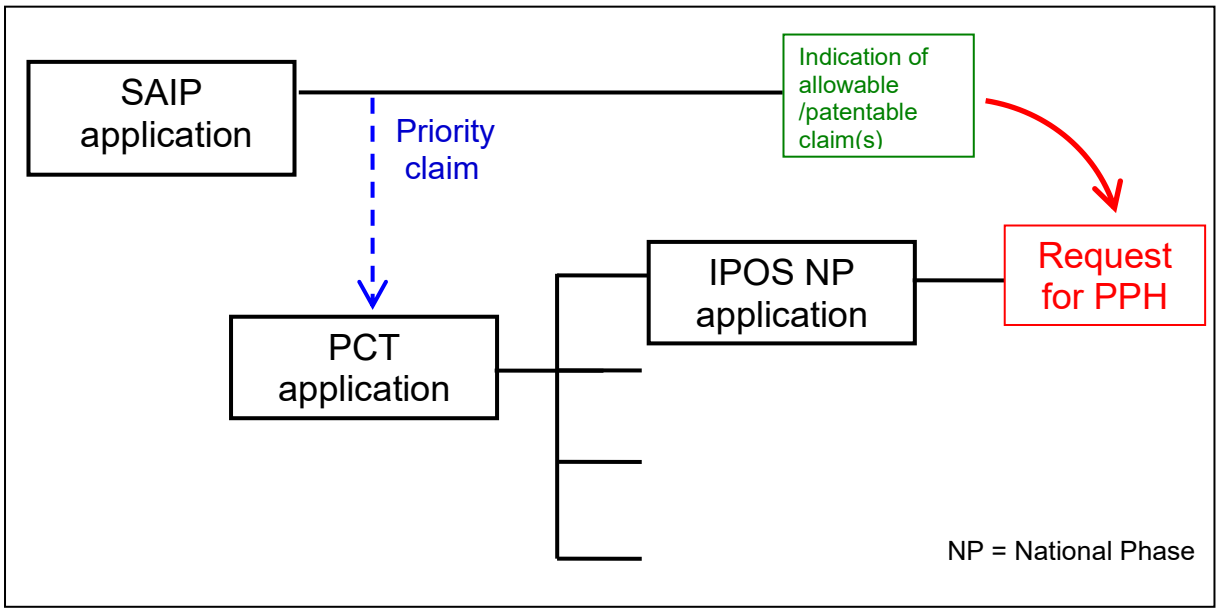
Scenario 6(a): The IPOS application validly claims priority under section 17 of the Singapore Patents Act 1994 from a PCT application. The SAIP application ("SAIP NP application") being relied upon for the PPH request is a national phase entry of the PCT application.



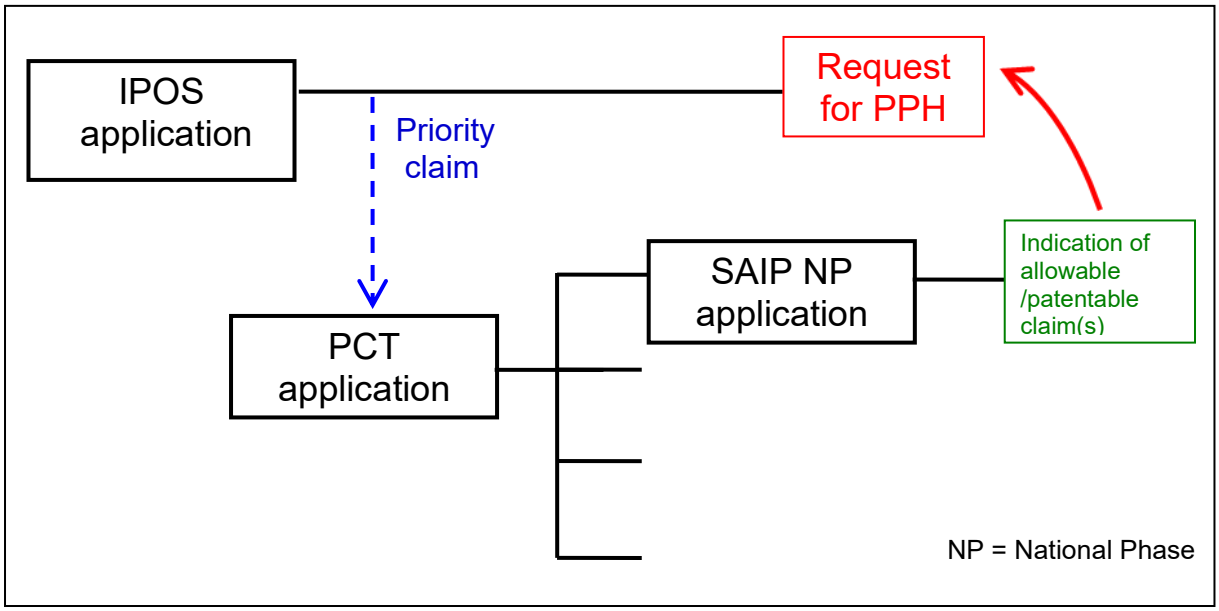
Scenario 6(b): The SAIP application validly claims priority from a PCT application and is relied upon for the PPH request. The IPOS application ("IPOS NP application") is a national phase entry of the PCT application.



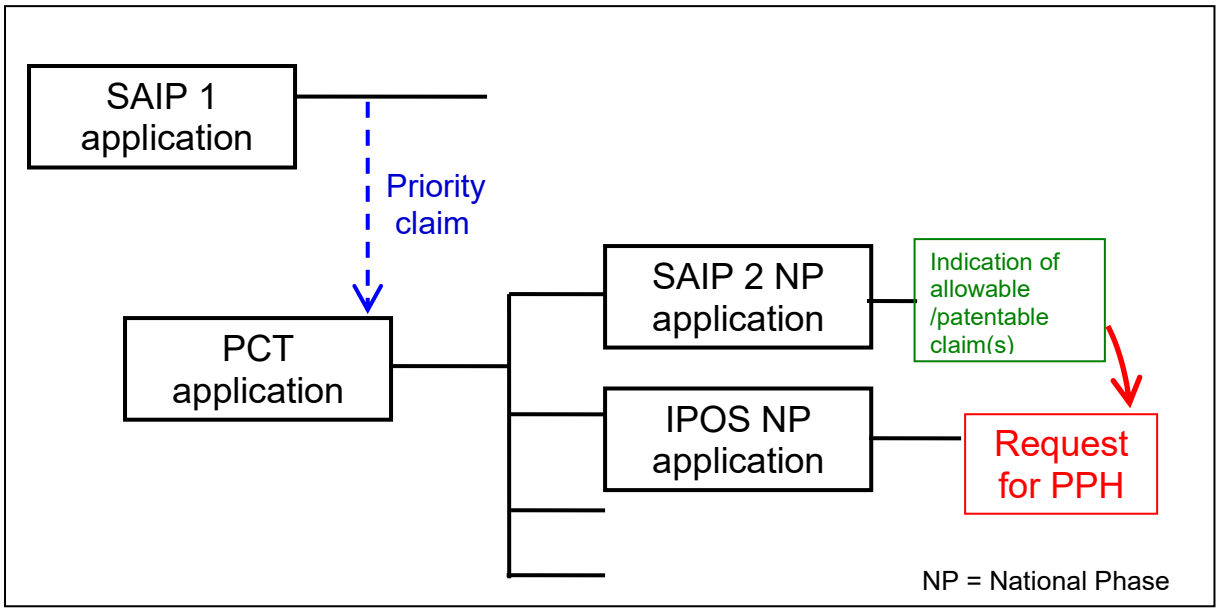
Scenario 7(a): The IPOS application ("IPOS NP application") is a national phase entry of a PCT application. The IPOS NP application validly claims priority under sections 17 and 87 of the Singapore Patents Act 1994 from a SAIP application, and it is this SAIP application that is being relied on for the PPH request.



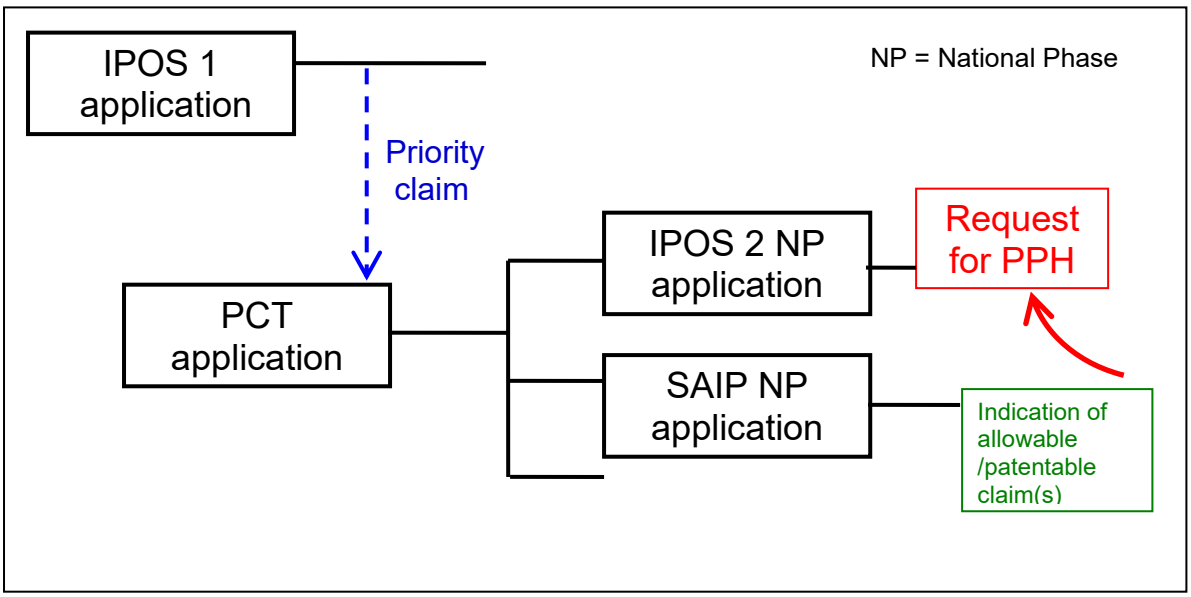
Scenario 7(b): The SAIP application ("SAIP NP application") is a national phase entry of a PCT application. The SAIP NP application validly claims priority from an IPOS application, and it is the SAIP NP application that is being relied on for the PPH request.



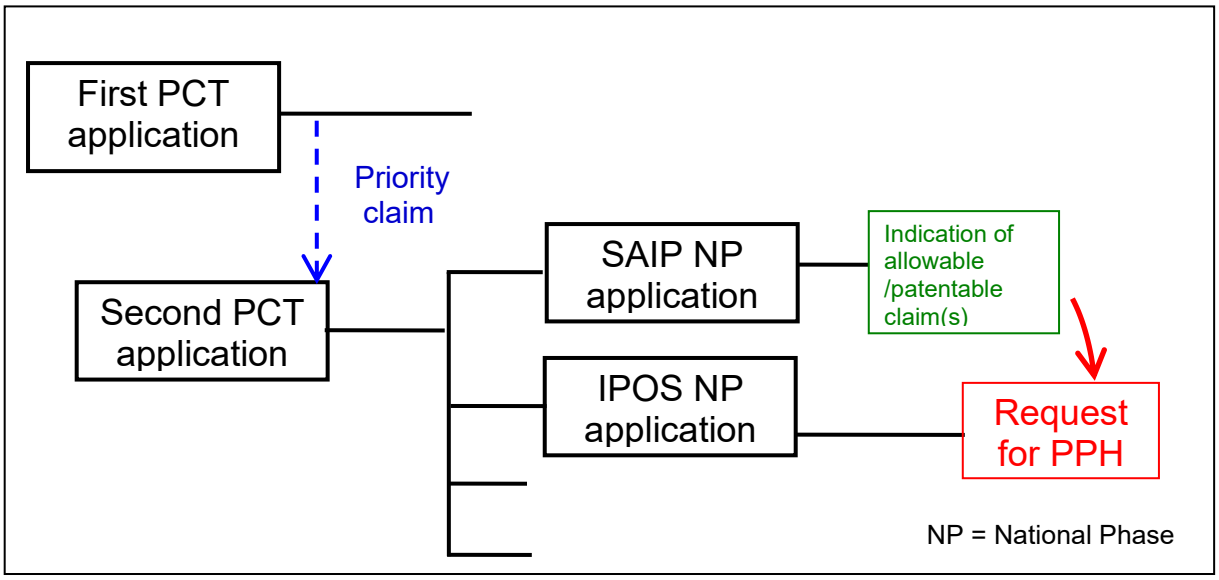
Scenario 8(a): The IPOS application ("IPOS NP application") is a national phase entry of a PCT application, and the IPOS NP application validly claims priority under sections 17 and 87 of the Singapore Patents Act 1994 from a SAIP application. The SAIP application ("SAIP 2 NP application") being relied upon for the PPH request is a national phase entry of the same PCT application, and the SAIP 2 NP application validly claims priority from the earlier SAIP application.



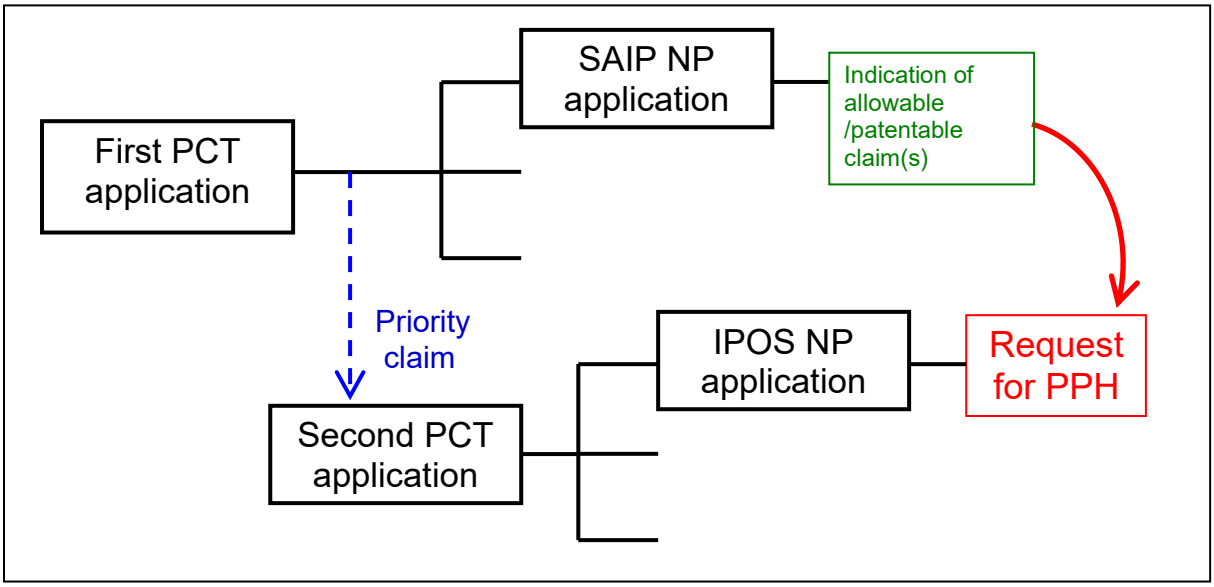
Scenario 8(b): The IPOS application ("IPOS 2 NP application") is a national phase entry of a PCT application, and the IPOS 2 NP application validly claims priority under sections 17 and 87 of the Singapore Patents Act 1994 from an IPOS application. The SAIP application ("SAIP NP application") being relied upon for the PPH is a national phase entry of the same PCT application, and the SAIP NP application validly claims priority from the earlier IPOS application.



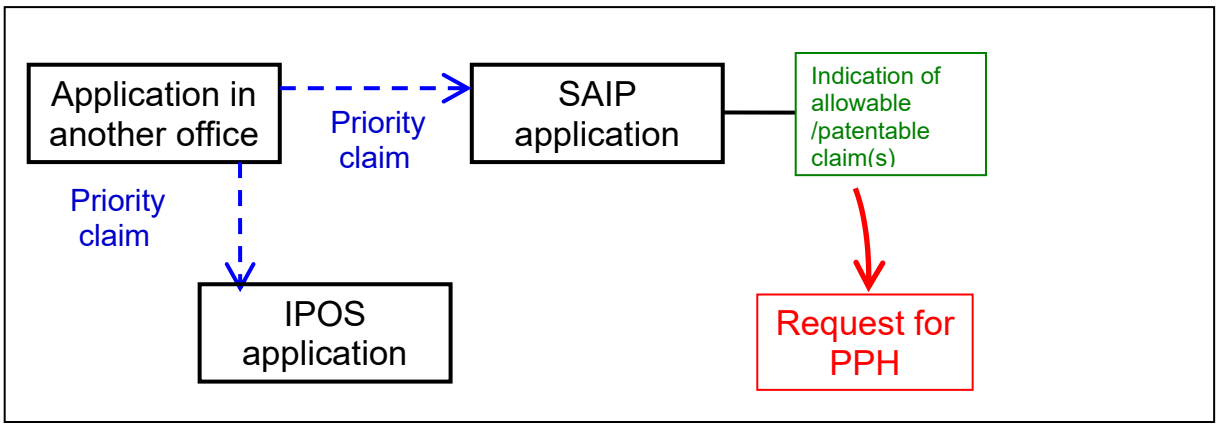
Scenario 9: There is a first PCT application. There is a second PCT application validly claiming priority from the first PCT application. The IPOS application ("IPOS NP application") is a national phase entry of the second PCT application, and the IPOS NP application validly claims priority under sections 17 and 87 of the Singapore Patents Act 1994 from the first PCT application. The SAIP application ("SAIP NP application") being relied upon for the PPH request is a national phase entry of the second PCT application, and the SAIP NP application validly claims priority from the first PCT application.



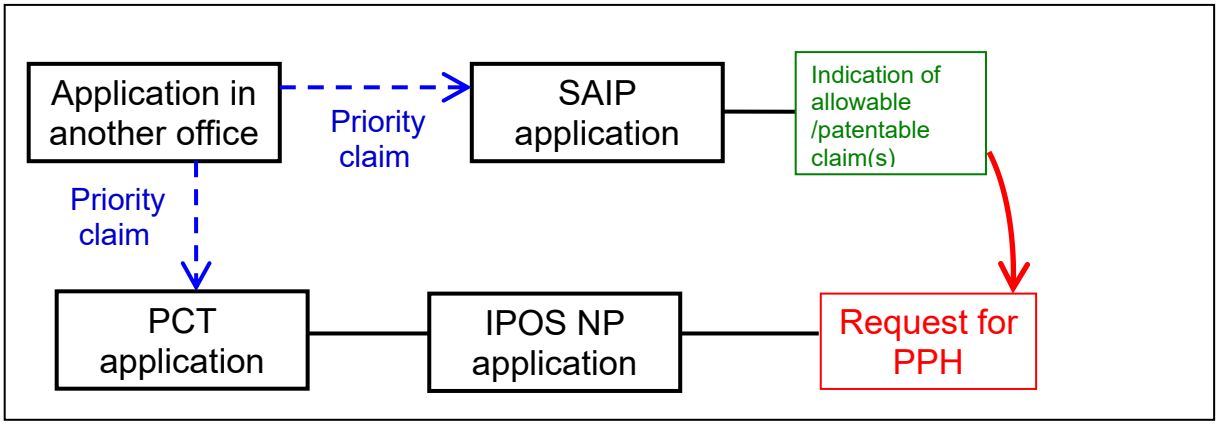
Scenario 10: There is a first PCT application. There is a second PCT application validly claiming priority from the first PCT application. The IPOS application ("IPOS NP application") is a national phase entry of the second PCT application. The SAIP application ("SAIP NP application") being relied upon for the PPH request is a national phase entry of the first PCT application.



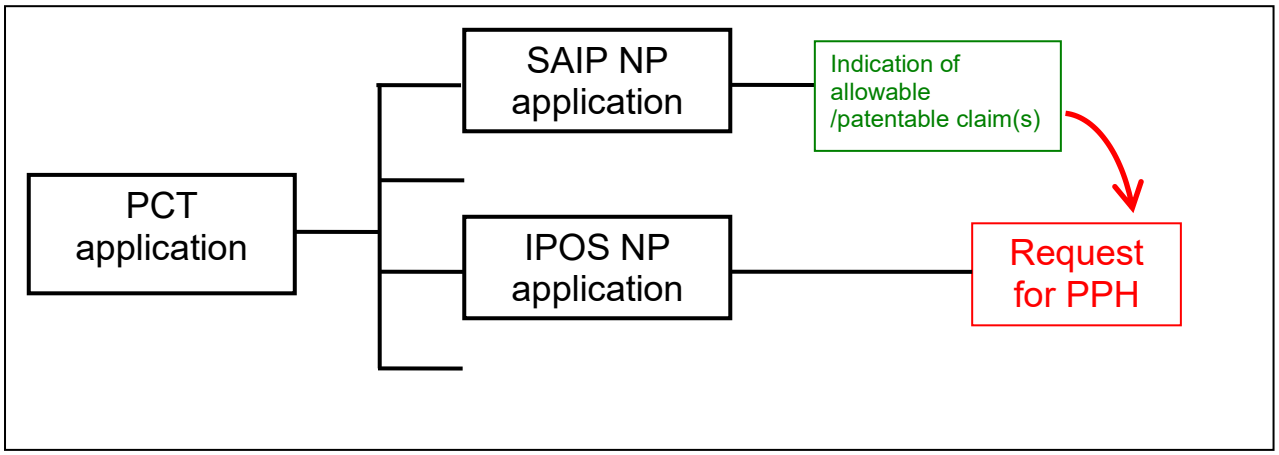
Scenario 11: There is a first application filed in an office other than the IPOS or the SAIP. The IPOS application validly claims priority under section 17 of the Singapore Patents Act 1994 from the first application. The SAIP application being relied upon for the PPH request also validly claims priority from the first application.



Scenario 12: The IPOS application ("IPOS NP application") is a national phase entry of a PCT application, and the IPOS NP application validly claims priority under sections 17 and 87 of the Singapore Patents Act 1994 from an application filed in another office other than the IPOS or the SAIP. The SAIP application being relied upon for the PPH request also validly claims priority from the application filed in another office.

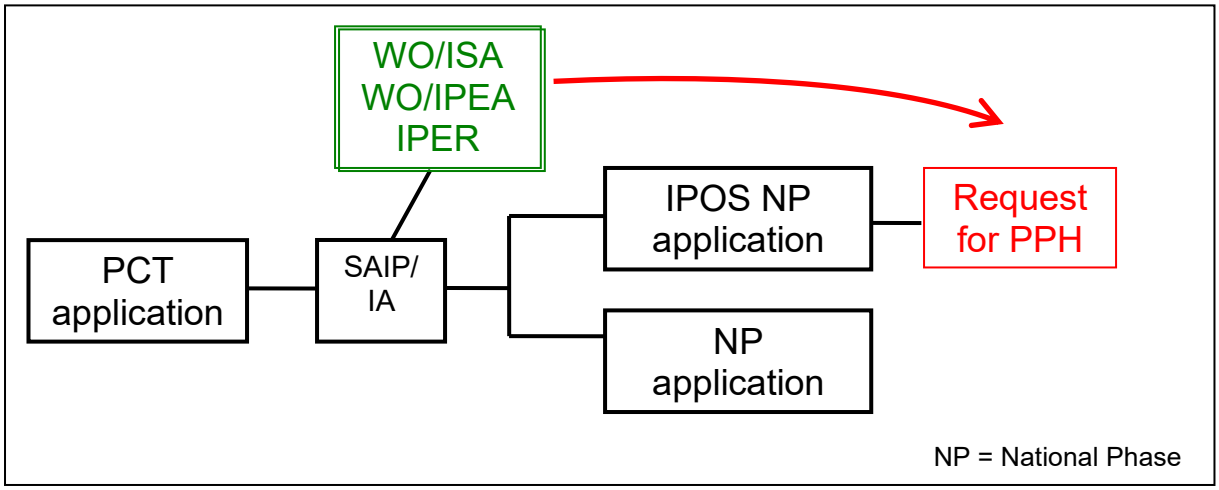


<u>Scenario 13</u>: The IPOS application ("IPOS NP application") and the SAIP application ("SAIP NP application") being relied upon for the PPH request, are national phase entries of the same PCT application.

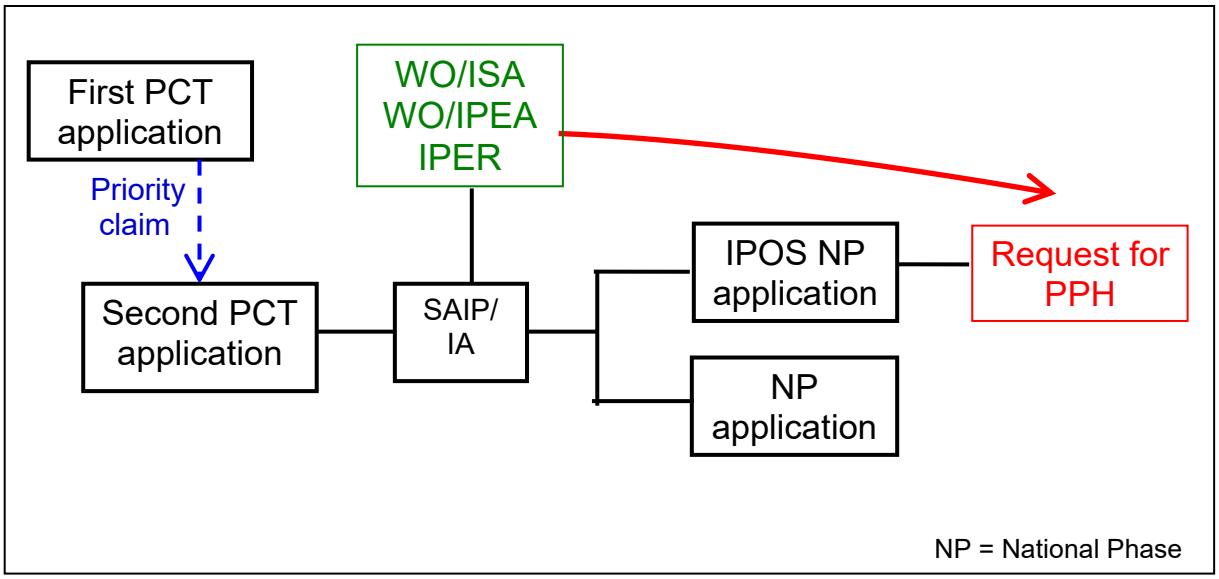


Scenarios using the PCT Work Product

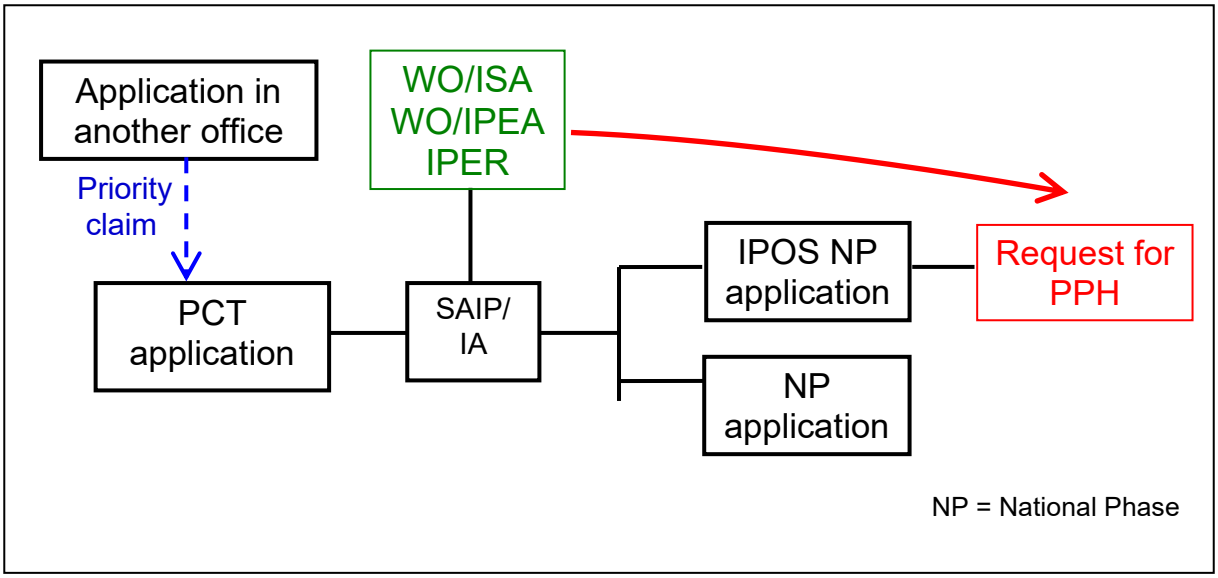
Scenario 14: The IPOS application ("IPOS NP application") is a national phase entry of the PCT application. The PCT application is being relied upon for the PPH request and is examined by the SAIP as the International Authority (IA).



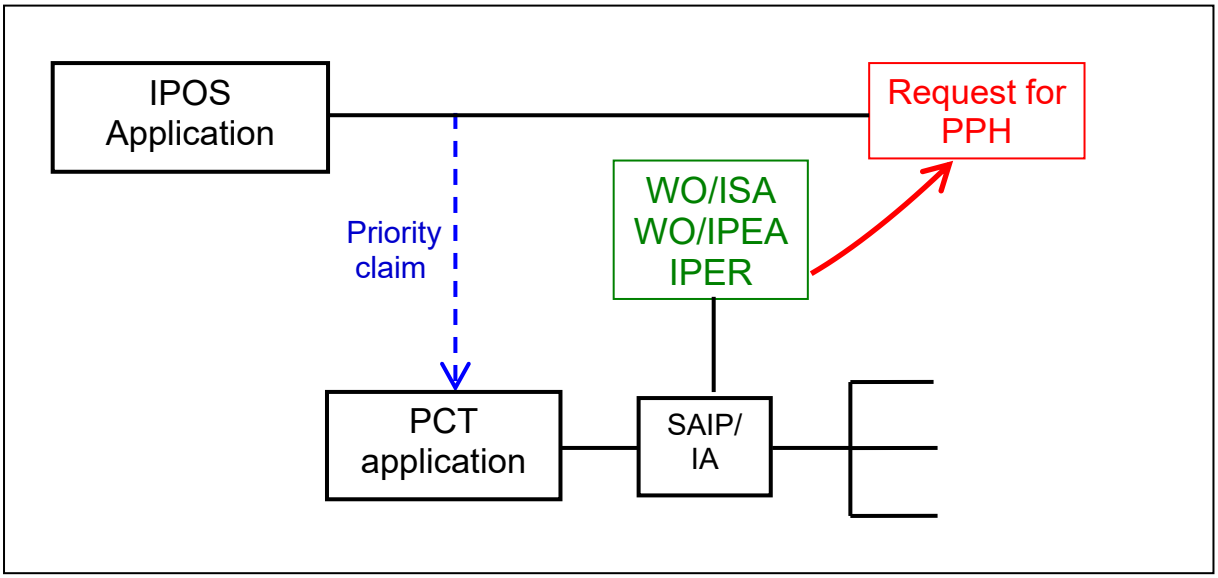
Scenario 15: There are two PCT applications, with the second application validly claiming priority from the first application. The IPOS application ("IPOS NP application") is a national phase entry of the second PCT application. The second PCT Application is being relied upon for the PPH request and is examined by the SAIP as the International Authority (IA).



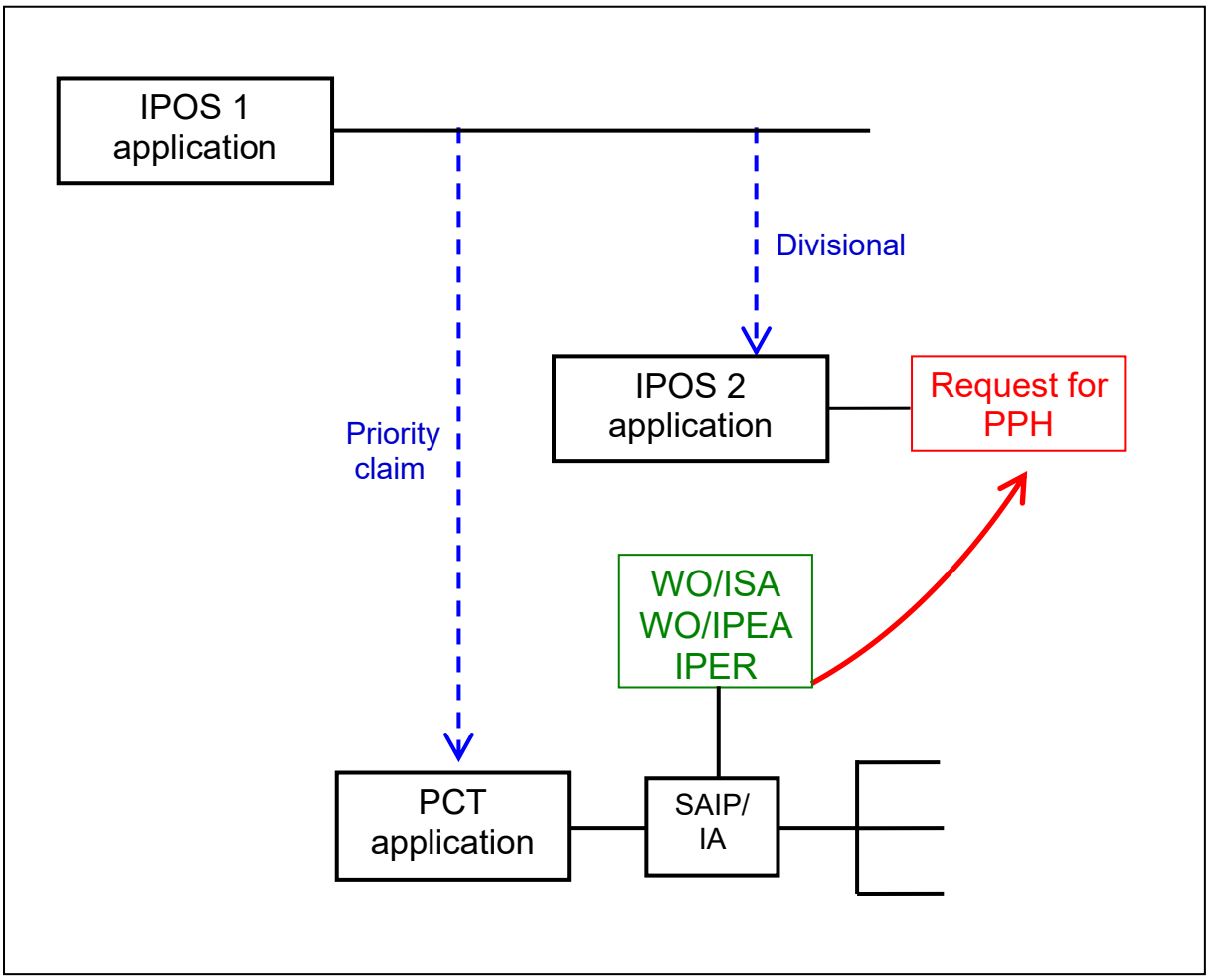
Scenario 16: There is a first application filed in an office other than the IPOS or the SAIP. The PCT application validly claims priority from the first application. The IPOS application ("IPOS NP application") is a national phase entry of the PCT application. The PCT application is being relied upon for the PPH request and is examined by the SAIP as the International Authority (IA).



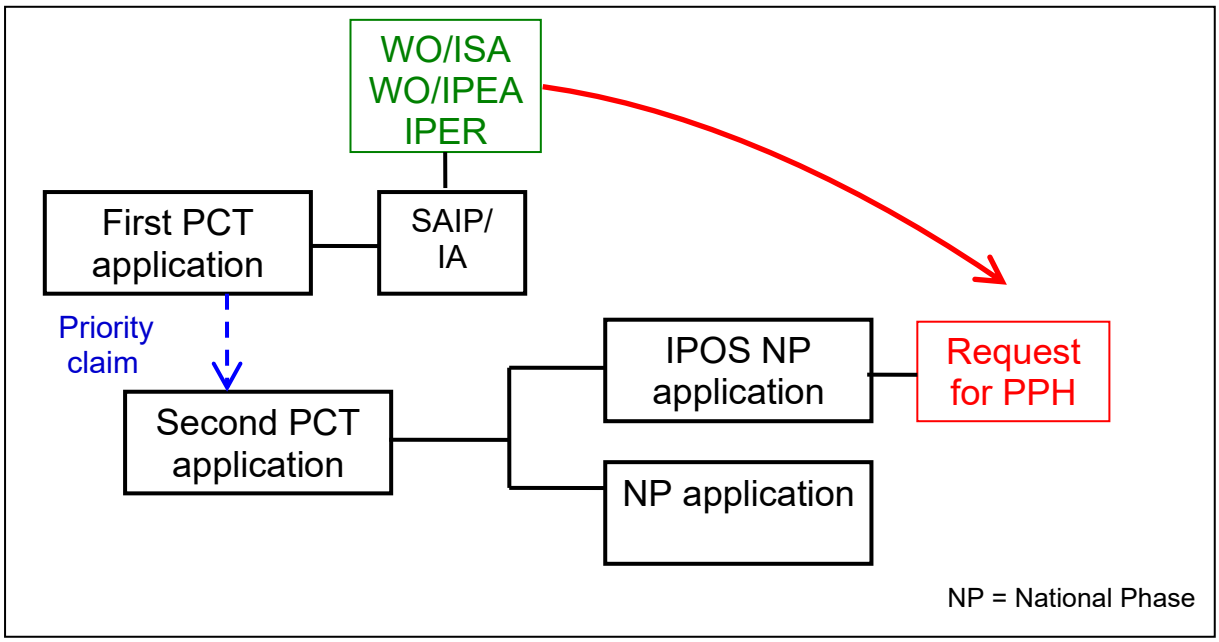
Scenario 17: The PCT application validly claims priority from an IPOS application. The PCT application is being relied upon for the PPH request for the IPOS application and is examined by the SAIP as the International Authority (IA).



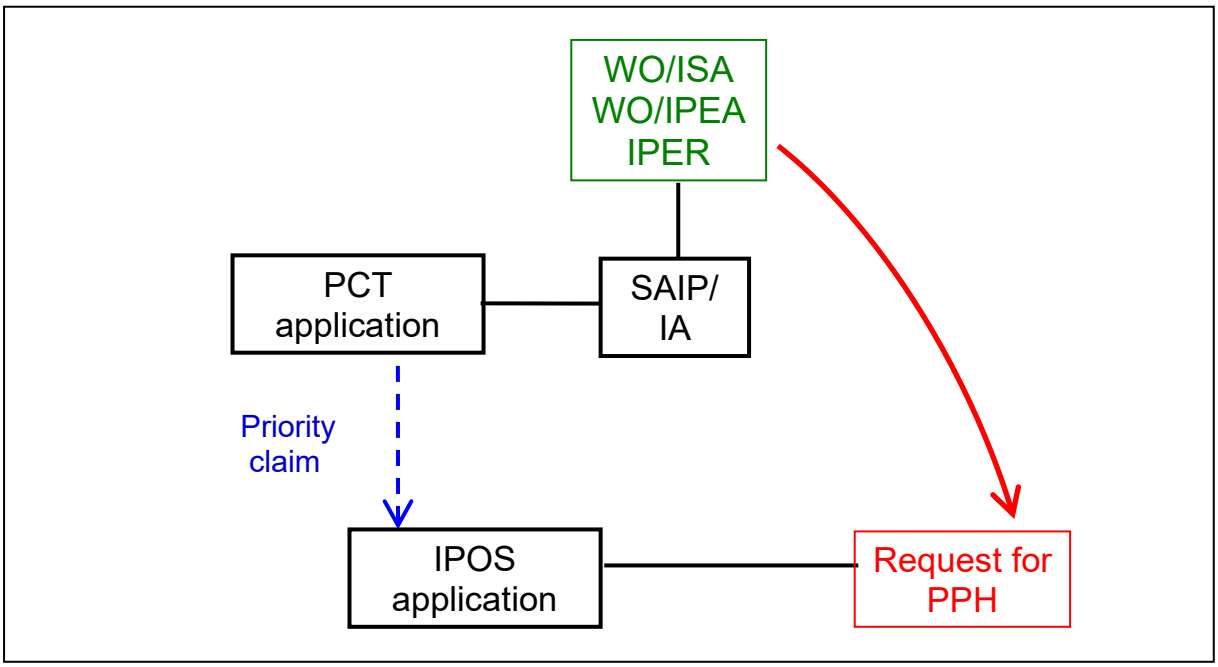
Scenario 18: There are two IPOS applications. The PCT application validly claims priority from the first IPOS application ("IPOS 1 application"). The second IPOS application ("IPOS 2 application") is a divisional application of the first IPOS application. The PCT application, examined by the SAIP as the International Authority (IA), is being relied upon for the PPH request for the second IPOS application.



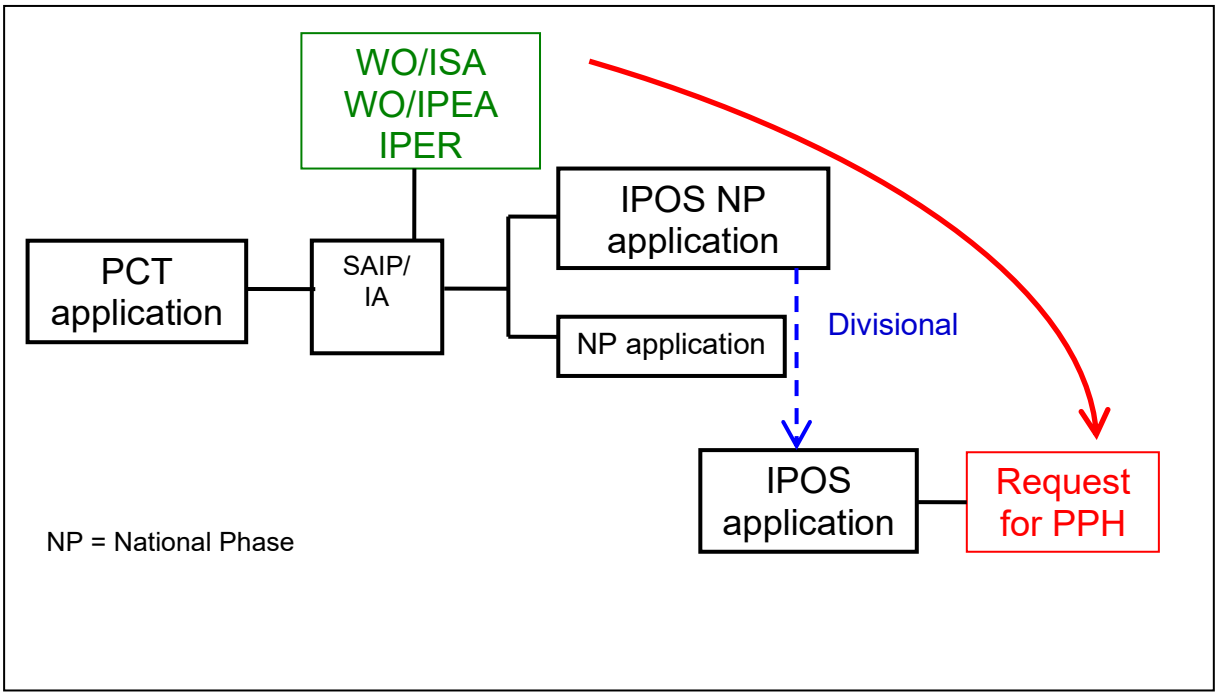
Scenario 19: There are two PCT applications, the second application validly claiming priority from the first application. The IPOS application ("IPOS NP application") is a national phase entry of the second PCT application. The first PCT application is being relied upon for the PPH request and is examined by SAIP as the International Authority (IA).



Scenario 20: The IPOS application validly claims priority under section 17 of the Singapore Patents Act 1994 from the PCT application. The PCT application is being relied upon for the PPH request and is examined by the SAIP as the International Authority (IA).



Scenario 21: The IPOS application is a divisional application of another IPOS application ("IPOS NP application") that is a national phase entry of a PCT application. The PCT application is being relied upon for the PPH request and is examined by the SAIP as the International Authority (IA).



Note: The PCT work products are namely the Written Opinion of the International Search Authority (WO/ISA), the Written Opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority (WO/IPEA) or the International Preliminary Examination Report (IPER).

Annex II

Claim Correspondence Table (Patent Prosecution Highway)

OFFICE OF EARLIER EXAMINATION (OEE)	
OEE APPLICATION NUMBER	

CLAIMS IN IPOS APPLICATION[2]	**EXAMINED CLAIMS IN OEE APPLICATION[3]**	**EXPLANATION REGARDING THE CORRESPONDENCE**

Sheet …./….

All the claims in the IPOS application sufficiently correspond to the patentable/allowable claims in the OEE application.

[2] Please indicate the claim number relating to a claim in the current application which corresponds to the allowable/patentable claim in the OEE application.
[3] Please indicate the claim number relating to a claim that has been determined to be allowable/patentable.