



Intellectual Property Office of Singapore

Registry of Patents

Circular No. 2/2026: Promoting Uptake of the Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH)

Promoting Uptake of the Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH)

(Circular No. 2/2026, dated 10 June 2026)

1. To better support applicants in using the Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH), the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS) will be introducing two new initiatives: (i) Accelerated First Office Action timelines, and (ii) Simplified payment process when PPH is requested.

Accelerated First Office Action timelines

2. IPOS will endeavour to issue the first office action within 6 months from the date of the request to use PPH. This is applicable for a request to use PPH filed on or after 1 July 2026.

Simplified payment process when PPH is requested

3. From 3 August 2026 to 31 December 2027 (both dates inclusive), applicants filing a PPH request together with a new request for a search and/or examination report need only pay 70% of the prevailing official fees¹ for the latter. Under the current arrangement (announced in [Circular No. 4 of 2025](#)), applicants pay the full fees at the point of request, and receive 30% of the fees back thereafter. The updated approach provides the same benefit upfront and simplifies the process, in response to feedback from applicants and service providers.

¹ For a Request for a Search and Examination Report under Form PF11, the prevailing official fee is S\$2,050. Under the updated approach, the payable amount is S\$1,435.

For a Request for a Search and Examination Report under Form PF11 relating to an international application for a patent (Singapore) that has entered the national phase and an International Search Report or an International Preliminary Report on Patentability has been established in that application by the Office under the Patent Co-operation Treaty, the prevailing official fee is S\$1,750. Under the updated approach, the payable amount is S\$1,435.

For a Request for an Examination Report under Form PF12, the prevailing official fee is S\$1,420. Under the updated approach, the payable amount is S\$994.

1 Paya Lebar Link #11-03

PLQ 1, Paya Lebar Quarter

Singapore 408533

T +65 6339 8616

- Circular No. 4 of 2025 will continue to apply to applicants who make a request to use PPH when filing a request for search and examination or a request for examination prior to 3 August 2026. Please refer to the frequently asked questions (FAQ) in the Annex below for more information.

Benefits of PPH

- Singapore has established a global network of more than 30 PPH partners including the IP offices of China, Japan, Korea, United States of America, and the European Patent Office. Benefits of PPH include:
 - Increased likelihood of obtaining a patent grant (94% in Singapore);
 - Faster first office action timelines; and
 - Fewer office actions (about 70% of patents granted at first office action).More details on PPH are available at [Patent Prosecution Highway | Intellectual Property Office of Singapore](#).

Flexibility to Leverage Other Patent Acceleration Programmes

Applicants who prefer to receive an earlier search and/or examination report from IPOS and use the report to advance their corresponding patent applications in ASEAN and internationally may continue to tap on IPOS' suite of acceleration programmes with the ASEAN Patent Examination Co-operation (ASPEC), Collaborative Search and Examination (CS&E) programmes with Vietnam and Indonesia, re-registration programmes with Cambodia and Laos. More details on our acceleration programmes are available at [Acceleration Programmes | Intellectual Property Office of Singapore](#).

- If you have any enquiries about this Circular, please send an email to ipos_enquiry@ipos.gov.sg.

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Annex – Frequently Asked Questions

Q1: I am filing a new request for a search and/or examination report and intend to use PPH. What are the applicable fees?

A1: For new S&E requests filed from 3 August 2026 to 31 December 2027, you will need only pay 70% of the prevailing official fees when you make a request to use PPH at the time of filing a request for S&E. This will be automatically reflected in your tax invoice.

Q2: I have filed a request to use PPH for a patent application before 3 August 2026. Will I receive 30% of the fees back thereafter?

A2: Yes, applicants who made a request to use PPH before 3 August 2026 will continue to be eligible to receive 30% of the fees back. Please refer to [Circular No. 4 of 2025](#).

Q3: I have obtained one or more extensions of time for requests for search and examination report / examination report from IPOS previously. Can I still benefit?

A3: Yes, provided that the request to use PPH is made from 3 August 2026 to 31 December 2027 (both dates inclusive). We understand that applicants may need more time to consider how best to proceed with the search and/or examination of their Singapore patent applications. We encourage applicants to use PPH to accelerate their Singapore patent applications when they are ready.

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