

Intellectual Property Office of Singapore

Registry of Patents

Circular No. 4/2025: Pilot Initiative – Fee Savings for Using the Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) programme

Pilot Initiative – Fee Savings for Using the Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) programme

(Circular No. 4/2025, dated 12 September 2025)

To better support businesses and allow greater access to the [Patent Prosecution Highway \(PPH\) programme](#), the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (“IPOS”) is piloting a fee refund initiative for search and/or examination reports, i.e., PF11 and PF12 (collectively referred to as “S&E requests”).

2. Under this initiative, applicants may obtain a refund of 30% of official fees paid for S&E requests when they make a request to use PPH from 15 September 2025 to 31 December 2027 (both dates inclusive). The refund amounts for requests for search and examination reports and requests for examination reports are \$615¹ and \$426, respectively.

3. Singapore has established a global network of more than 30 PPH partners including IP offices of China, Japan, Korea, US, and the European Patent Office. Benefits of PPH programme include:

- Increased likelihood of patent grant (94% in Singapore)
- Faster first office action within 10 months from the date of PPH request
- Fewer office actions (About 70% of patents granted at first office action)

These translate to streamlined processes and improved outcomes for both IPOS and applicants.

4. Two easy ways to apply:

- a. (at the time of filing a request for search and/or examination report) Select the checkbox for “ASPEC/PPH” on Patents Form 11 or Patents Form 12 and attach the relevant PPH documents, or
- b. (after filing a request for search and/or examination report and before search/examination has started²) Email PT_acceleration@ipos.gov.sg with the subject: “PPH acceleration requested”, stating the intention to make a PPH request, the IPOS application number, and whether amendments are required to conform the Singapore claims to the foreign allowed claims.

5. On acceptance of the PPH request, IPOS will initiate the refund. There is no need to make a separate request for refund. Applicants can expect to receive the refund within 1-2 months.

¹The refund for a request for search and examination report where the International Search Report/ International Preliminary Report has been established by IPOS (for PCT application entering national phase) is \$315.

² IPOS will advise on the status of search and examination after receiving the email.



6. If applicants are interested to find out more about PPH, including whether there are positive foreign reports available for PPH, please email us at PT_acceleration@ipos.gov.sg.

Flexibility to Leverage Patent Acceleration Programmes

7. 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 SG Patents FAST, 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, and PPH.

8. Please refer to the frequently asked questions in the **Annex** for more information on the pilot initiative. Details on our acceleration programmes are available at: <http://www.ipos.gov.sg/about-ip/patents/how-to-register-overview/acceleration-programmes>

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



Annex – Frequently Asked Questions

Q1: I have filed a request for search and examination report/ examination report before 15 September 2025. Can I still benefit from the pilot?

A1: Yes, you can benefit from the pilot as long as examination has not started and you have made a request to use PPH from 15 September 2025 to 31 December 2027 (both dates inclusive). You may email PT_acceleration@ipos.gov.sg with the subject: "PPH acceleration requested", stating your intention to make a PPH request, the IPOS application number, and whether amendments are required to conform the Singapore claims to the foreign allowed claims.

Q2: I have filed a request to use PPH for a patent application before 15 September 2025. Will I receive a refund?

A2: No, the pilot is applicable to requests for PPH filed from 15 September 2025 to 31 December 2027 (both dates inclusive).

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

A3: Yes, provided that examination has not started and the request to use PPH is made from 15 September 2025 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.

Q4: I have filed a request for search and examination report where the International Search Report/ International Preliminary Report has been established by IPOS (for PCT application entering national phase). Am I still eligible for the pilot?

A4: Yes, provided that examination has not started and the request to use PPH is made from 15 September 2025 to 31 December 2027 (both dates inclusive).

However, as you have already enjoyed a lower fee for reliance on the International Search Report/ International Preliminary Report established by IPOS, you will only receive a refund of \$315.

Q5: I have filed a request for search and examination report/ examination report before 15 September 2025. If I file a request for PPH now, do I have to wait another 10 months to receive the office action?

A5: You will receive the first office action faster when you file a request for PPH.

IPOS typically issues the first office action within 10 months from the date of PPH request. The actual time taken to receive the first office action will depend on several factors, including whether your claims sufficiently correspond to the foreign patent application.



Q6: What documents are required for the request to use PPH?

A6: For GPPH request: Applicants only need to submit the claim correspondence table if the relevant office actions and allowable claims (including English translations) are available through the Office of Earlier Examination (OEE) Dossier Access system.

For other PPH requests: Please refer to the specific PPH guidelines on our website at <https://www.ipos.gov.sg/about-ip/patents/how-to-register-overview/acceleration-programmes>.

