

after that date, see section 11 of Pub. L. 94-131, set out as a note under section 351 of this title.

**§ 368. Secrecy of certain inventions; filing international applications in foreign countries**

(a) International applications filed in the Patent and Trademark Office shall be subject to the provisions of chapter 17.

(b) In accordance with article 27(8) of the treaty, the filing of an international application in a country other than the United States on the invention made in this country shall be considered to constitute the filing of an application in a foreign country within the meaning of chapter 17, whether or not the United States is designated in that international application.

(c) If a license to file in a foreign country is refused or if an international application is ordered to be kept secret and a permit refused, the Patent and Trademark Office when acting as a Receiving Office, International Searching Authority, or International Preliminary Examining Authority, may not disclose the contents of such application to anyone not authorized to receive such disclosure.

(Added Pub. L. 94-131, § 1, Nov. 14, 1975, 89 Stat. 687; amended Pub. L. 98-622, title IV, § 403(a), Nov. 8, 1984, 98 Stat. 3392; Pub. L. 99-616, § 6, Nov. 6, 1986, 100 Stat. 3486; Pub. L. 112-29, § 20(j), Sept. 16, 2011, 125 Stat. 335.)

**Editorial Notes**

AMENDMENTS

2011—Subsecs. (a), (b). Pub. L. 112-29 struck out “of this title” after “17”.

1986—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 99-616 substituted a comma for “or” after “Receiving Office” and “International Preliminary Examining Authority” for “both”.

1984—Subsecs. (a), (c). Pub. L. 98-622 substituted “Patent and Trademark Office” for “Patent Office”.

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2011 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 112-29 effective upon the expiration of the 1-year period beginning on Sept. 16, 2011, and applicable to proceedings commenced on or after that effective date, see section 20(l) of Pub. L. 112-29, set out as a note under section 2 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1986 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 99-616 effective July 1, 1987, and applicable to all international applications pending before or after that date, see section 9 of Pub. L. 99-616, set out as a note under section 351 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1984 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 98-622 effective Nov. 8, 1984, see section 406(a) of Pub. L. 98-622, set out as a note under section 351 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Jan. 24, 1978, and applicable to international and national applications filed on and after that date, see section 11 of Pub. L. 94-131, set out as a note under section 351 of this title.

**CHAPTER 37—NATIONAL STAGE**

Sec.	
371.	National stage: Commencement.
372.	National stage: Requirements and procedure.
[373.	Repealed.]

Sec.	
374.	Publication of international application.
375.	Patent issued on international application: Effect.
376.	Fees.

**Editorial Notes**

AMENDMENTS

2013—Pub. L. 112-274, § 1(i), Jan. 14, 2013, 126 Stat. 2457, struck out item 373 “Improper applicant”.

1999—Pub. L. 106-113, div. B, § 1000(a)(9) [title IV, § 4507(12)], as added by Pub. L. 107-273, div. C, title III, § 13205(2)(F), Nov. 2, 2002, 116 Stat. 1903, substituted “Publication of international application” for “Publication of international application: Effect” in item 374.

**§ 371. National stage: Commencement**

(a) Receipt from the International Bureau of copies of international applications with any amendments to the claims, international search reports, and international preliminary examination reports including any annexes thereto may be required in the case of international applications designating or electing the United States.

(b) Subject to subsection (f) of this section, the national stage shall commence with the expiration of the applicable time limit under article 22(1) or (2), or under article 39(1)(a) of the treaty.

(c) The applicant shall file in the Patent and Trademark Office—

(1) the national fee provided in section 41(a);

(2) a copy of the international application, unless not required under subsection (a) of this section or already communicated by the International Bureau, and a translation into the English language of the international application, if it was filed in another language;

(3) amendments, if any, to the claims in the international application, made under article 19 of the treaty, unless such amendments have been communicated to the Patent and Trademark Office by the International Bureau, and a translation into the English language if such amendments were made in another language;

(4) an oath or declaration of the inventor (or other person authorized under chapter 11) complying with the requirements of section 115 and with regulations prescribed for oaths or declarations of applicants;

(5) a translation into the English language of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report, if such annexes were made in another language.

(d) The requirements with respect to the national fee referred to in subsection (c)(1), the translation referred to in subsection (c)(2), and the oath or declaration referred to in subsection (c)(4) of this section shall be complied with by the date of the commencement of the national stage or by such later time as may be fixed by the Director. The copy of the international application referred to in subsection (c)(2) shall be submitted by the date of the commencement of the national stage. Failure to comply with these requirements shall be regarded as abandonment of the application by the parties thereof. The payment of a surcharge may be required as a condition of accepting the national fee referred to in subsection (c)(1) or the oath or declaration referred to in subsection (c)(4) of this section if