

Proposed workflow and validation rules

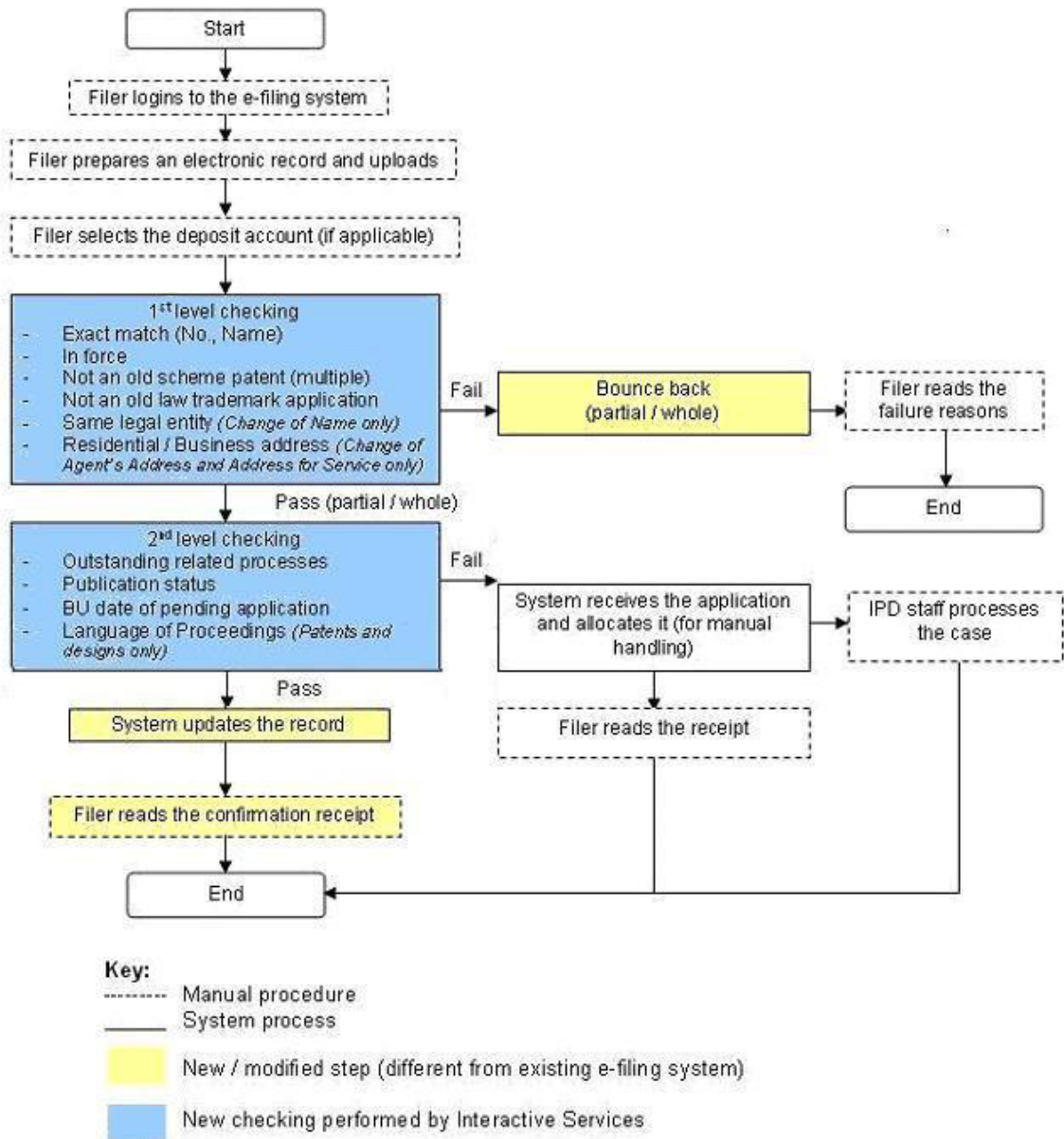


Figure 1 Proposed Workflow for Interactive Services

Validation Rules

Validation rules are consolidated from IPD existing practices of processing. For the sake of transparency, they will be announced on the IPD website. This will be useful and instrumental to make users understand how their requests are processed by the computer system.

In Interactive Services, upon upload of the electronic records, the 1st level checking will be conducted. If the validation passes, the application will be treated as submitted. The 2nd level checking will then follow.

The 1st level checking determines if the interactive electronic record should be received by IPD or bounced back. The bouncing back is done on a partial basis, i.e. for a request covering multiple trademarks / trademark applications / patents / patent applications / designs, if only some of them fail the validation,

- The failed one(s) will be bounced back.
- The others can still be accepted as one request.
- If there is no trademark / trademark application / patent / patent application / design within the request which passes all validation, the whole request will be bounced back.

Upon passing of the 1st level checking, the 2nd level checking will be performed. It determines if the application can be approved by the Interactive Services directly. This round of checking is request-based. If any trademark / trademark application / patent / patent application / design within the request fails the validation, the request will be allocated to an officer for processing as a whole.

The following tables list the validation rules implemented in the Interactive Services. Please refer to the function specification for the detailed logic.

Validation rules of the 1st level checking

Registry	Validation
<i>General</i>	
All	Verify the signature of the XML file(s)
	Validate the uploaded XML against the IPD defined XML schema (so as to ensure its conformance to the defined data type and data length)
	Check mandatory fields
	Check if Customer ID exists and is equivalent to that of the login user
	Check if the Trade Mark Application No. / Trade Mark Registration No. / Patent Application No. / Patent No. / Design Application/Registration No. exists
	Check if the Trade Mark Application No. / Trade Mark Registration No. / Patent Application No. / Patent No. / Design Application/Registration No. is in force
	All address fields must be of 5 lines or less (i.e. no more than 4 carriage returns in a single address)
Patents	Check if the Patent Application No. refers to more than one deemed standard patents (If yes, it is considered as an error.)
<i>Change of Name / Address / Agent's Address / Address for Service</i>	

Registry	Validation
All	Check if the checkbox for confirmation on the same legal entity has been ticked (Applicable to Change of Name only)
	Check if the name of applicant / proprietor / registered owner matches with the one in register
Trademarks	Check if the Trade Mark Application involved is under old law (If yes, it is considered as an error.)
Patents	Check if the system date is beyond the expiry date (If yes, it is considered as an error.)
Designs	For Registered Design, check if system date is beyond the End Date of Period of Registration (If yes, it is considered as an error.)
Renewal / Maintenance	
All	Check if there are more than one Trademark Nos. / Patent Nos. / Patent Application Nos. specified. (If there are, it is considered as an error.)
	Check if name of applicant/proprietor/registered owner matches with the one in register.
Trademarks	Check the system date against expiry date / actual registration date <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o If <i>Actual Registration Date</i> is not later than the <i>Expiry Date</i>, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The system date must not be more than 6 months before the expiry date, and - it must not be more than 6 months after the expiry date o Otherwise (i.e. <i>Actual Registration Date</i> is later than <i>Expiry Date</i>), the system date must be within 6 months after the <i>Actual Registration Date</i>
Patents	Check the system date against expiry date <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Must not be more than 3 months before the expiry date, and o Must not be more than 6 months after the expiry date
	For Maintenance, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The <i>Patent Application No.</i> must refer to a Patent Application. o There must not be any GR application (P5) filed before the Maintenance Due Date. However, if the GR application has been withdrawn, the validation will pass. o Maintenance Due Date stored in the ePATCOM must not be null o Statement in Support should be properly filled <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Specified Date must be within 1 month before the date of receipt - The checkboxes next to the declaration that the designated patent application <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) has not been withdrawn or abandoned, and (b) has not been finally refused must have been ticked - For (c), one of the checkboxes next to the declaration that the designated patent application <ul style="list-style-type: none"> has not been granted, or has been granted and with date of grant within 6 months before the date of receipt must have been ticked - Date of Grant, if filled, must be within 6 months before the date of receipt

Registry	Validation
	For Renewal, o If it is a renewal of Standard Patent No., the <i>Patent No.</i> must refer to a Standard patent o If it is a renewal of Short-term Patent No., the <i>Patent No.</i> must refer to a Short-term patent o Renewal Due Date stored in the ePATCOM must not be null

Validation rules of the 2nd level checking

Registry	Validation
General	
All	Check if there is any relevant related process. (If yes, pass to IPD staff to handle)
Trademarks	Check if the <i>Progress</i> of the Trademark Application, if any, is "Appeal". (If yes, pass to IPD staff to handle)
Patents	Check if the electronic record is in the right language, i.e. same as the Language of Proceedings
Designs	Check if the electronic record is in the right language, i.e. same as the Language of Proceedings
Change of Name / Address / Agent's Address / Address for Service	
Trademarks	Check if Progress of any of the Trademark Application record(s) is "Ready for Publication" (If yes, pass to IPD staff to handle)
	If any Trade Mark Application is of Progress "New", "First Opinion" or "Further Opinion", check if the corresponding BU Date has expired (If yes, pass to IPD staff to handle)
Patents	Check if Progress of any of the Patent Application is "Ready for Publication" and Cutoff Date has passed (If yes, pass to IPD staff to handle)
	Check if BU Date of any Patent Application has expired (If yes, pass to IPD staff to handle)
Designs	Check if Progress of any of the Design Application record(s) is "Ready for Publication" and a publication date has already been assigned (If yes, pass to IPD staff to handle)
	Check if BU Date of any Design Application has expired (If yes, pass to IPD staff to handle)