

**Patents Registry**  
**Intellectual Property Department**  
**Hong Kong SAR Government**  
**Patents Examination Guidelines**

**Section 6: Specification**

- 6.1 Under section 2 of the Ordinance, specification is defined as the description, claims and drawings contained in an application for a patent under the Ordinance, a designated patent application or an international application. The following guidelines for specification apply, where appropriate, to a standard patent (O) application or a short-term patent application.

**Presentation of specification**

- 6.2 The terminology and the signs must be consistent throughout the specification of a patent application (sections 31Q(11) (for standard patent (O) applications) and 62(12) (for short-term patent applications) of the Rules).
- 6.3 In general, technical terms, signs and symbols generally accepted in the field in question must be used (sections 31Q(9)(d) (for standard patent (O) applications) and 62(10)(d) (for short-term patent applications) of the Rules).
- 6.4 Where the specification contains reference to weights and measures, these physical values must be expressed in metric units (sections 31Q(9)(a) (for standard patent (O) applications) and 62(10)(a) (for short-term patent applications) of the Rules).
- 6.5 The other physical values must be expressed in the units recognized in international practice (sections 31Q(9)(b) (for standard patent (O) applications) and 62(10)(b) (for short-term patent applications) of the Rules).

may not be self-evident, the industrial application of such invention should be disclosed in the description.

## Sequence listings

- 6.18 For applications which involve nucleotide and amino acid sequences, the sequence listing is considered to form part of the description (see sections 31ZX(1) (for standard patent (O) applications) and 73A(1) (for short-term patent applications) of the Rules). This listing should be inserted at the end of the patent application and be numbered consecutively in a separate part of the description in accordance with the requirements and standards adopted under the Patent Cooperation Treaty<sup>2</sup> for the presentation of sequence listings in patent applications (see sections 31ZX(2)(a) (for standard patent (O) applications) and 73A(2)(a) (for short-term patent applications) of the Rules).
- 6.19 The applicant may be requested by the Registrar to file a copy of the sequence listing in electronic form in ~~text~~Extensible Markup Language (~~XML~~) file format (see sections 31ZX(2)(b)(ii) (for standard patent (O) applications) and 73A(2)(b)(ii) (for short-term patent applications) of the Rules).
- 6.20 A sequence listing filed after the date of filing of the application must be accompanied by a statement made by the applicant confirming to the satisfaction of the Registrar that the listing does not contain matter extending beyond the sequence disclosed in the application (see sections 31ZX(4) (for standard patent (O) applications) and 73A(4) (for short-term patent applications) of the Rules).

## Drawings

- 6.21 Drawings, including flow sheets and diagrams, are good visual supporting materials describing the invention. Where possible, the

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<sup>2</sup> The ~~existing-current~~ WIPO PCT Standard ST-~~2526~~ is found in <http://www.wipo.int/export/sites/www/standards/en/pdf/03-25-01.pdf> <https://www.wipo.int/export/sites/www/standards/en/pdf/03-26-01.pdf> and applies to patent applications filed on or after 1 July 2022.