

Mexico | WIPO approves the designation of IMPI as ISA and IPEA under the PCT

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) has officially approved the designation of the Mexican Institute of Intellectual Property (IMPI) as an International Searching Authority (ISA) and an International Preliminary Examining Authority (IPEA) under the **Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)**.

The decision, adopted on **July 13, 2026**, represents a significant step toward strengthening the international patent system in Latin America and expands the number of authorities available to applicants filing international PCT patent applications.

With this approval, IMPI becomes the **26th Patent Office in the world** authorized to simultaneously perform the functions of an ISA and an IPEA in the PCT system, joining other leading international patent Offices.

What impact does this have on patent applicants?

IMPI's designation offers a new option for international patent applicants using the PCT system: **they may designate IMPI as one of the authorities to conduct the international search and preliminary examination of their applications.**

Among other potential advantages, we highlight the following:

- It offers an additional option that could be of particular interest to **Spanish-speaking applicants operating in Mexico and companies from Spanish-speaking Latin American and Caribbean countries.**
- Greater availability of competent authorities to conduct the international search and examination.

- Potential reduction in the workload of other international Offices.

The IMPI is expected to begin operations as an ISA/IPEA in **January 2027**.

Are you considering filing an international PCT application?

At **UNGRIA**, we can help you determine the best international protection strategy and advise you on choosing the most appropriate search and examination authority for your case.

Please, do not hesitate to contact our team of patent experts to discuss the best option for your project.

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