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TRANSLATION OF THE FIRST OFFICE ACTION

The technical documents should be amended taking into consideration the following statements:

1) A main claim should be set up in which the invention is defined clearly and precisely, and that so that the main claim comprises all the embodiments provided of the invention. This main claim is decisive for the material scope of protection of the patent (Sect. 51 of the Patents Act). Sub-claims may be set up for special embodiments of the invention defined in the main claim (Sect. 55 of the Patents Act).

2) The claims should be arranged in a main claim and sub-claims. Several main claims, at most four, are only permitted in the cases mentioned in Sect. 52 of the Patents Act.

3) The claims relating to different subject-matters of invention should be arranged in accordance with the provisions of Sect. 52, 2 of the Patents Act. Sub-claims may be set up to each main claim.

4) The sub-claims must be directed to the subject-matter of the main claim and must be subordinated to this latter, i.e. must be limited to special embodiments of the invention defined in the main claim (Sect. 55 of the Patents Act).

5) The main claim relating to a process for the preparation of chemical substances must define a process which is definite with regard to the chemical reaction (Sect. 53 of the Patents Act).

6) Invention of chemical substances, medicines, foodstuffs, animal foodstuffs and beverages are excluded from patent protection (Sect. 2 of the Patents Act).

7) The sub-claims marked in the margin contain repetitions of preceding claims and should be shortened by a reference to the same.

8) The optional statements and statements by way of example underlined in the main claim and relating to features of the subject-matter of the invention, are not permitted.

9) The vague relative statements underlined in the claims concerned should be rendered precise.

10) The vague statements, such as "or the like", "etc.", "in a known manner", underlined in the claims concerned are not permitted.

11) The alternative subordinations underlined in the claims concerned are not acceptable. A sub-claim may be subordinated alternatively if the subordination is unmistakable and the sub-claims comprised thereby are not themselves again subordinated alternatively. The general subordination "according to the main claim or one of the preceding sub-claims" is permissible, but not the materially less clear subordination "according to one or several of the preceding claims" or "according to at least one of the preceding sub-claims", nor the vague subordination "according to any one of the sub-claims".

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12) The general descriptive part contains useless lengthy passages and passages anticipating the special descriptive part. It should be limited to the statement of the subject-matter of the invention, the statement of the prior art, the problem to be solved by the invention and the solution of the same in accordance with the definition of the invention given in the main claim. Features and properties which are only attributed to special embodiments of the subject-matter of invention, if they have not already been dealt with in the special descriptive part, should be incorporated therein or else be cancelled.

13) The designation of the subject-matter of invention in the title should be in material agreement with that given in the main claim (or main claims).

14) The specification should be brought into agreement with the definition of the invention given in the main claim (or main claim I).

a) Features, properties and objects not resulting from the main claim (main claim I) must not be positively attributed to the invention in the general descriptive part.

b) Features of the main claim (main claim I) should not be facultatively mentioned in the specification; facultative features should, on the other hand, not be mentioned as features according to the invention.

c) The definition of the invention given in the general descriptive part should be in material agreement with that of the main claim.

15) The specification should be amended in formal respects, particularly as regards the terminology, by somebody acquainted with the technical matter and the technical linguistic usage.

16) Regular drawings should be filed (Sect. 10 of the Rules of Practice I).

17) The Statement of Inventorship should be filed.

18) To each main claim five sub-claims may be set up free of charge; any further sub-claim filed is liable to a fee. This fee amounts to Fr 5.-- for each sub-claim from and including the sixth to and including the fifteenth, and to Fr 20.-- each for any further sub-claims (Sect. 34 of the Rules of Practice I).

19) In place of the vague designations in the claims, f. i. as those underlined in the present claim 1 ("filter base material; additive-ion exchange resin) clearer designations should be used.

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