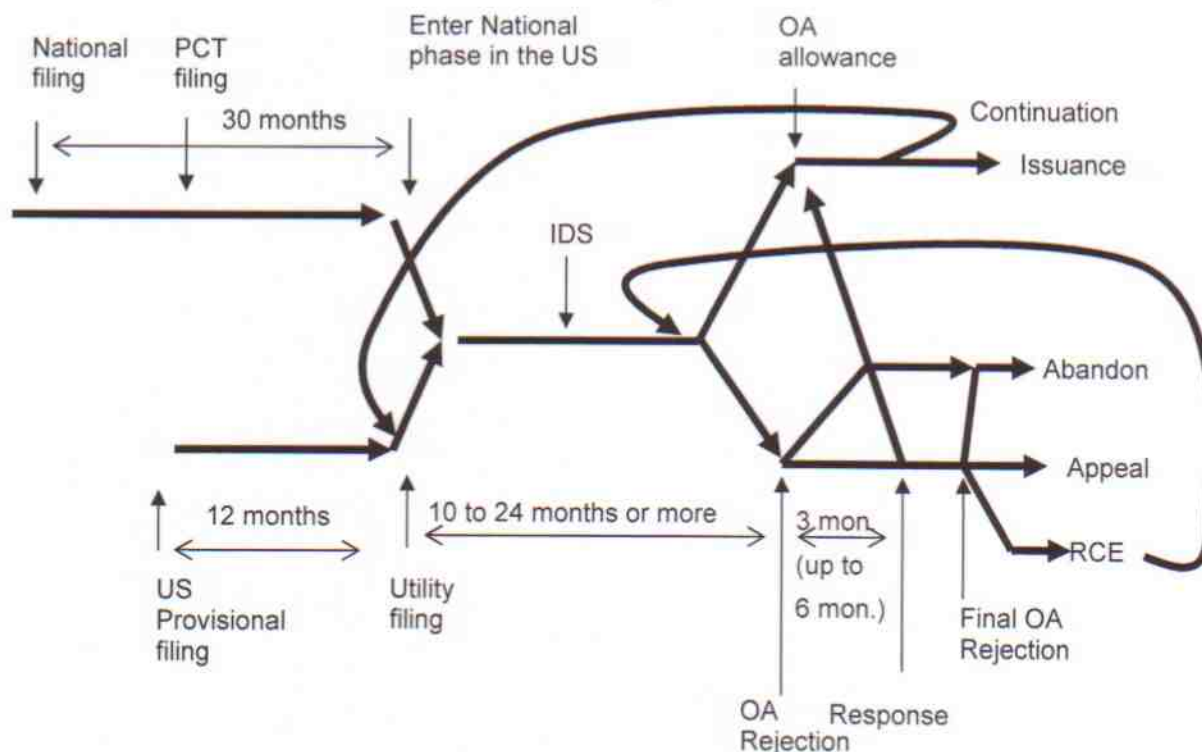


THE US PATENT PROSECUTION PROCESS



- A US utility patent can be filed by:
 - ❖ A PCT application entering the US national phase
 - ❖ Filing a utility patent application directly
 - ❖ Filing a utility patent application claiming the priority to a provisional application
 - ❖ Filing a utility patent application claiming the priority to a co-dependent utility patent application (application that has not been issued or abandoned)
- Continuous disclosure duty (IDS) to disclose references from other national applications and/or as once becomes aware.
- Prosecution process
 - ❖ Office Action may be issued within 10 to 24 months (sometimes even longer)
 - ❖ 1st Office Action allowance possible but rare
 - ❖ Response to an Office Action is needed within 3 months (extension to 6 month possible)
 - ❖ One may appeal to a final rejection
 - ❖ One may also file a request for continuing examination (there is no limit to the number of RCEs, but this may change)

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