

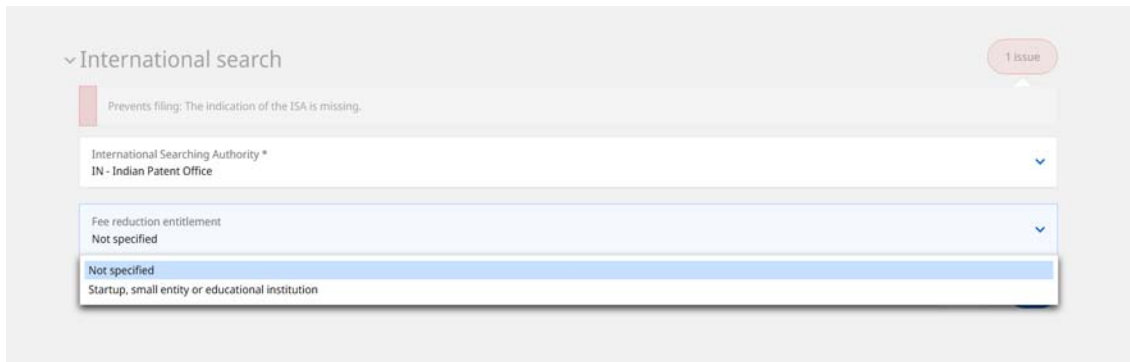
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

It is to inform to all stakeholders that new version of ePCT v4.18 now provides the applicants designating India as International Search Authority (ISA/IN) with feature of 'Search Fee reduction entitlement' and feature of 'Details of fee calculation' as applicable for PCT International application being filed through ePCT with India as Receiving office (RO/IN).

Feature 1 - ISA/IN Search fee reduction entitlement option

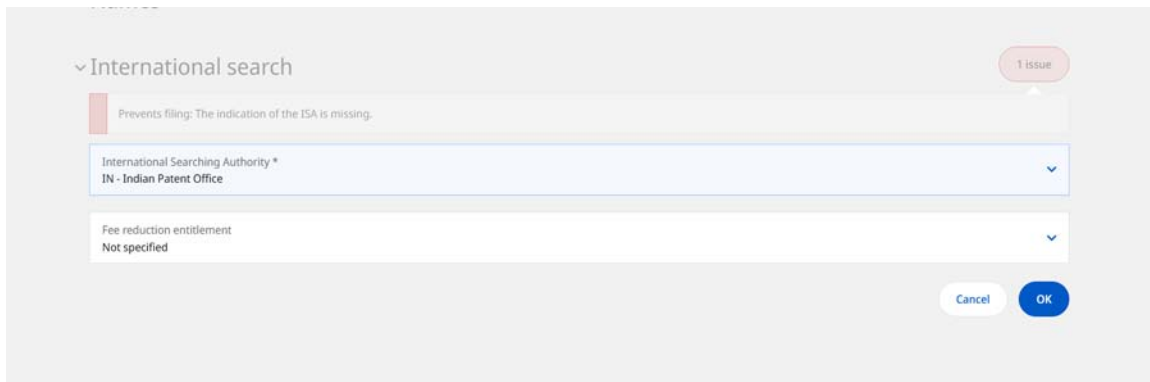
The 'Fee Reduction entitlement' drop-down previously available in the Filing options section of ePCT module has been replaced by a new drop-down list under the International Search section when the selected ISA is IN: 'Search Fee Reduction entitlement.' This change applies to all ROs where ISA/IN is competent, e.g. RO/IB, RO/IN, RO/IR and RO/JP.

The new drop-down menu contains two options: 'Not specified' and 'Startup, small entity or educational institution'.



The screenshot shows the 'International search' section of the ePCT v4.18 interface. A red error message states: 'Prevents filing: The indication of the ISA is missing.' Below this, the 'International Searching Authority *' is set to 'IN - Indian Patent Office'. The 'Fee reduction entitlement' dropdown menu is open, showing two options: 'Not specified' (highlighted in blue) and 'Startup, small entity or educational institution'. A '1 issue' badge is visible in the top right corner.

- a. When the applicant is a natural person and not a legal entity, the applicant does not need to make any indication as the fee reduction is automatically applied in the fee calculation.



This screenshot is similar to the previous one, but the 'Fee reduction entitlement' dropdown menu is now closed, and 'Not specified' is the selected option. The 'Cancel' and 'OK' buttons are visible at the bottom right of the form.

- b. When the applicant is a Startup or small entity or educational institution, the applicant required to select option 'Startup, small entity or educational institution'. Thereafter, it is mandatory to attach the required document supporting this selection.

