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Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)

First Session Geneva, October 25 to 29, 2010

REVISION OF WIPO STANDARDS ST.8 AND ST.10/C

Document prepared by the Secretariat

- 1. The Committee of Experts of the International Patent Classification (IPC) Union, at its forty-first session, held from March 16 to 18, 2009, decided to discontinue the maintenance of two separate and autonomous levels of the IPC, i.e., of the core and of the advanced levels, after a transitional period, during the calendar year 2010. Only one text of the Classification would be maintained and published. The use of terms "core level" and "advanced level" would be discontinued, since they have led to confusion. (See paragraphs 29 to 40 of document IPC/CE/41/6.)
- 2. As a consequence of the implementation of the new simplified structure of the IPC in 2011, the Quality Control Task Force (QCTF) and International Bureau were requested to review all IPC-related WIPO Standards and to propose necessary amendments, bearing in mind that there would be no major modifications in the use of these WIPO Standards, but instead, only minor amendments would be anticipated. (See paragraph 36 of document IPC/CE/41/6.)
- 3. The IPC Committee of Experts, at its forty-second session, held from February 9 to 12, 2010, approved the consolidated proposals for amending WIPO Standards ST.8 and ST.10/C, prepared by the International Bureau, with some modifications, in line with the adopted amendments to the *Guide to the IPC*. (See paragraph 49 and Annexes VIII and IX of document IPC/CE/42/2.)
- 4. The changes to the WIPO Standards ST.8 and ST.10/C proposed by the IPC Committee of Experts for consideration and approval by the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS) are reproduced in Annexes I and II respectively to this document.

5. The CWS is invited to consider and adopt the proposals concerning the revision of WIPO Standards ST.8 and ST.10/C, as reproduced in the annexes to this document.

[Annexes follow]

STANDARD ST.8

STANDARD RECORDING OF INTERNATIONAL PATENT CLASSIFICATION (IPC) SYMBOLS ON MACHINE-READABLE RECORDS

Revision proposed by the IPC Committee of Experts

Editorial Note by the International Bureau

The Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS) and Documentation Working Group (SDWG) of the Standing Committee on Information Technologies (SCIT) adopted this revision of Standard ST.8 at its fifth first session on November 11, 2004 October 29, 2010. This revision of Standard ST.8 incorporates changes amendments made necessary by certain modifications of the IPC structure as adopted by the Committee of Experts of the IPC Union at its 41st session in March 2009, the IPC reform initiative.

Industrial property offices are asked to implement this new version of Standard ST.8 for all patent documents with a publication date from January 1, 2006, onwards. For patent documents published prior to that date, the previous version of the Standard should continue to be used.

The previous version of Standard ST.8, valid until December 31, 2005, is reproduced as an Annex to the new Standard

ST.8.

STANDARD ST.8

STANDARD RECORDING OF INTERNATIONAL PATENT CLASSIFICATION (IPC) SYMBOLS ON MACHINE-READABLE RECORDS

Revision proposed by the IPC Committee of Experts
Revision adopted by the SCIT Standards and Documentation Working Group
at its fifth session on November 11, 2004

INTRODUCTION

- 1. This recording convention provides that symbols of the International Patent Classification (IPC) should be presented on machine-readable records for the exchange of information in machine-readable form in a fixed-length field in 50 positions, each part of the Int. CLIPC symbol being recorded in specific positions and in the manner prescribed.
- 2. The examples given are intended to clarify the text and should not be considered as comprehensive.

RECORDING

3. For the recording of IPC symbols on machine-readable records a field of 50 positions should be assigned for each symbol, the 50 positions of the field to be used as follows:

Position(s)	Content	Values
1	Section	A,,H
2,3	Class	01,,99
4	Subclass	A,,Z
5 to 8	Main Group (right aligned)	1,,9999, blank
9	Separating character	/ ("Slash")
10 to 15	Subgroup (left aligned)	00,,999999, blank
16 to 19	For future use	4 blanks
20 to 27	Version indicator	YYYYMMDD date format
28	Classification level	C,A,S
29	First or later position of symbol	F,L
30	Classification value (inventive invention or non-inventive additional)	I,N
31 to 38	Action date	YYYYMMDD date format
39	Original or reclassified data	B,R,V,D
40	Source of classification data	H,M,G
41-42	Generating office	AA,,ZZ (<u>ST.3</u>)
43-50	For future use	8 blanks

- 4. Unused positions in the IPC classification fields Group (positions 5-8) and Subgroup (positions 10-15) should be left blank. The only other positions that may be left "blank" are the ones reserved for "future use." All other positions must be assigned one of the acceptable "values" listed in the table of paragraph 3. Any zero appearing in the symbols should be recorded.
- 5. Considering the numerals appearing after the separating character, the most significant digit (including the case where it is zero, e.g., subgroup 02) should be in position 10. Any unused positions should be left blank.
- 6. Representation of the indicators

Positions 1 to 19: Recording of the parts of the IPC symbols

IPC symbols are defined in Part 5 of the WIPO Handbook on Industrial Property Information and Documentation and In the latest version of the Guide to the IPC.

Positions 20 to 27: Version indicator

Although in the paper publications a version indicator may contain six digits, the version indicator in machine-readable records contains eight digits, namely YYYYMMDD with Y for year, M for month and D for day. It corresponds to the version indicator of the corresponding symbol.

Position 28: Classification level

Offices are expected to classify each subject matter only in one level (core or advanced) either in subclasses only, in main groups only or in the full IPC. However, both levels these three different options need to be completely represented in the master classification database and thus a level indicator is needed. As of January 1, 2011, the previous designations for classification level indicators C (Core), A (Advance) and S (Subclass) are not applicable. The new designations for the classification level are as follows:

the letter S is used for classification in subclasses only,

the C for classification in main groups only, and

the A for classification in the full IPC.

A particular main group symbol in positions 1 to 19 may thus have the indicator C in position 28 if the office uses only main group symbols for classifying, or A if the office uses the full IPC. The level indicator is also useful for indicating situations where an office does not classify in either the core or the advanced level classification, i.e., when an office only assigns classifications to the subclass level. The level indicator enables to make the difference between core, advanced and subclass levels. The letters C (Core), A (Advanced) and S (Subclass) are used for this one-digit field.

Position 29: First or later position of symbols

The position of the first invention information classification can be recognized by this field. The letters F and L are used for first and later position, respectively.

Position 30: Classification value (inventive invention or additional non-inventive)

The difference between invention information and other information is important for the retrieval of the information. The letters I and N are used for the invention and additional (non-invention) information, respectively.

Positions 31-38: Action date

The date of assigning the classification symbol (action date) is represented by eight digits, namely YYYYMMDD. This date can be used to check if a classification needs to be reviewed after revision of the scheme, e.g., in case of creating new subdivisions.

Position 39: Original and reclassified data

Original data is the first data assigned to the document. In case of a publishing office assigning classification symbols at the core level, another office may also assign symbols at the advanced level as original data.

Reclassified data is data changed due to a change in the classification schemes.

Various data is data changed due to an incidental correction of the classification reclassification of an individual document, such as the correction of a mistake.

Deleted data is data which has to be deleted from the Master Classification Database, due to a change in assigning of classification symbols to a document.

The indication of the different types of data is marked by the letters B for the basic or original data, R for reclassified data, V for various incidental changes, and D for data to be deleted.

Position 40: Source of classification data

The following sources of classification data are foreseen:

- Intellectual classification by persons, value H for human generated data.
- Machine classification by the propagation of earlier intellectual classification through the use of common priorities in the patent application. The value M is used in this case and will facilitate later corrections.
- Classification symbols generated by software using automatic analysis of the content of the patent document. The letter G is used to indicate this source of generated data.

Positions 41-42: Generating Office

Since part of the original data in the advanced level and the reclassified data can be delivered by offices other than the publishing office, the information source of such data is recorded by a field of two characters. The country or office code CC, as defined by WIPO Standard ST.3, must be used.

7. Recording of complete IPC symbols

The full classification symbol must always be used when recording it on machine-readable records. The IPC section, class and subclass should be provided for each group or subgroup classification, even if previously provided with another group or subgroup classification in the same document.

See paragraph 2 of WIPO Standard ST.10/C for the recommended presentation of IPC classifications on machine displays or in printed documents.

8. A schematic representation of the contents of the 50 positions is as follows:

Section	Class		Subclass	Main Group				Separating character	Subgroup						Blanks			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
										·								

Version indicator								Classification level	First or later position of a symbol	Classification value	Action date							
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38

Original or reclassified data	Source of classification data	Generating office		Blanks							
39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50

Example

The following is ⊖one sample representation of IPC classification symbols assigned on June 1st 2007–2011 and their indicators is:

Int. Cl. (2006<mark>2011.01</mark>)

B28B 5/00 (2006.01)	classification in advanced levelusing the full IPC	invention information
B28B 1/29 <mark>H04H 20/12</mark> (2007.04 <mark>2008.01</mark>)	classification in advanced levelusing the full IPC	invention information
H01H 33/00H05B 3/10	classification in core level-main groups only	non-inventionadinformation

According to this Standard, this example would be recorded on machine-readable records as follows:

Record 1:

1100011	.																	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
В	2	8	В				5	/	0	0								
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38
2	0	0	6	0	1	0	1	Α	F	I	2	0	<mark>0</mark> 1	<mark>7</mark> 1	0	6	0	1
39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50							
В	Ι	Е	Р															

Record 2:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
<mark>₿</mark> H	<mark>2</mark> 0	<mark>8</mark> 4	<mark>Т</mark>			2	10	/	<mark>2</mark> 1	<mark>2</mark>								

20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38
2	0	0	<mark>7</mark> 8	0	4 <mark>1</mark>	0	1	Α	Г	Ι	2	0	0 1	<mark>7</mark> 1	0	6	0	1

39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
В	Н	Е	Р								

Record 3:

Ī	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	I	0	<mark>5</mark> 1	BH			3	3	/	<mark>1</mark> 0	0								

20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38
2	0	0	6	0	1	0	1	С	Г	Ν	2	0	0 1	<mark>7</mark> 1	0	6	0	1

39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
В	Н	Е	Р								

[Annex follows]

ANNEX

PREVIOUS VERSION OF STANDARD ST.8

STANDARD RECORDING OF INTERNATIONAL PATENT CLASSIFICATION (IPC) SYMBOLS ON MACHINE-READABLE RECORDS

Revision adopted by the PCIPI Executive Coordination Committee at its fourteenth session on May 20, 1994

INTRODUCTION

- 1. This recording convention provides that symbols of the International Patent Classification (IPC) should be presented on machine readable records for the exchange of information in machine readable form in a fixed length field in 18 positions, each part of the Int. Cl. symbol being recorded in specific positions and in the manner prescribed.
- 2. The examples given are intended to clarify the text and should not be considered as comprehensive.

RECORDING

3. For the recording of IPC symbols on machine-readable records a field of 18 positions should be allotted for each symbol, the 18 positions of the field to be used as follows:

Position(s)	Content
1	blank (for future use)
2	number of the IPC edition used
3	Section
4	blank (for future use)
5, 6	Class
7	Subclass
8	blank (for future use)
9 to 11	group, right adjusted, leading spaces
12	separating character (as defined in paragraph 4)
13 to 17	subgroup, left adjusted
18	qualifying character (as defined in paragraph 7)

- The separating character, in position 12, should be an oblique stroke for all symbols except indexing codes where a
 colon is to be used.
- Unused positions should be left blank. Any zero appearing in the symbols should be recorded.
- 6. Considering the numerals appearing after the separating character, the most significant digit (including the case where it is zero, e.g., subgroup 02) should be in position 13. Any unused positions should be left blank.
- 7. The qualifying character in position 18 is as defined below:
 - (a) the capital letter "A" defines the first classification symbol representing invention information;
 - (b) the capital letter "B" defines other classification symbols representing invention information;
 - (c) the character "." defines classification symbols representing additional information;

- (d)—the twenty-three capital letters "C" to "Y" (including I and O) and the eight numerals "2" to "9" identify linked indexing codes as well as the classification symbols to which the codes are linked, the letter "C" identifying symbols and/or codes linked to form a first set of information, the letter "D" identifying symbols and/or codes linked to form the second set, and so on. Following the letter "Y," the numeral "2" identifies symbols and/or codes linked to form a set in the same way as the letters;
- (e) if more than 31 sets of linked IPC classification symbols and indexing codes have to be assigned to a document the thirty second set or more should be recorded by use of the small letter "z;"
 - (f) the capital letter "Z" defines unlinked indexing codes.
- 8. Recording of incomplete symbols. When symbols are present on patent documents in a truncated form, e.g., as C 23 C 1/00, 7/00, the section, class and subclass must be added when recording these symbols, i.e., as C 23 C 1/00, C 23 C 7/00.
- 9. X-notations. The X should be treated like any other character which is part of the IPC symbol. Thus, if it occurs immediately after the subclass letter it shall be right-adjusted in the positions 9 to 11; if it occurs after the oblique stroke, it shall be left-adjusted in the positions 13 to 17.
- 10. A schematic representation of the contents of the 18 positions is as follows:

Blank	Number of IPC Edition	Section	Blank		Class	Subclass	Blank		Group (right adjusted)		Separating character			Subgrdup (left adjusted)			Qualifying character
4	2	ო	4	5	6	7	8	g)	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18

Examples

Three sample representations of IPC classification symbols and indexing codes which could be given on a patent document are:

(a) C 08 F 210/16, 255/04

//A 61 K 47/00, C 09 J 151/06 (C 08 F 210/16, 214:06) (C 08 F 255/04, 214:06)

(b) B 29 C 65/08

//B 29 K 83:00. B 29 L 23:18

(c) C 07 D 401/06, 213/60

// A 01 N 43/40, 43/90 (C 07 D 401/06, 233:32, 213:60)

According to	o this Stan	dard, the	ese exa	amples	would l	oe re	corde	d on	macl	nine-	reada	able re	cords	as foll	ows:
(a)		,													
(a)														1	
	6 C		0	8 F		2	1	0	/	1	6				A
								_				1		1	
	6 C		0	8 F		2	5	5	/	0	4				B
						1								1	
	6 A		6	1 K			4	7	/	0	0				
						1	1				1	1			
	6 C		0	9 J		1	5	1	/	0	6				
												1		1	
	6		0	8 F		2	1	0	/	1	6				C
	6 C		0	8 F		2	1	4		0	6				C
					•			_							
	6 6		0	8 F		2	5	5	/	0	4				Đ
	6 C		0	8 F		2	1	4		0	6	ļ]	D
(b)															
	6 B		2	9 C			6	5	/	0	8				А
					I							I.		L	
	6 B		2	9 K		1	8	3		0	0	1		1	Z
					I	1						1		1	
	6 B		2	9 L			2	3		1	8				Z
					I	1			<u> </u>			I		ı	
(c)															
	6 C		0	7 D		4	0	1	/	0	6				Α
	6 C		0	7 D		2	1	3	/	6	0				B
_	6 A		0	1 N			4	3	/	4	0				
	6 A		0	1 N			4	3	/	9	0				
	6 C		0	7 D		4	0	1	4	0	6				C
	6 C		0	7 D		2	3	3		3	2				C
	6 C		0	7 D		2	1	3		6	0				C

[End of Annex and of Standard]

[Annex II follows]

STANDARD ST.10/C

PRESENTATION OF BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATA COMPONENTS

Revision proposed by the IPC Committee of Experts

Editorial Note by the International Bureau

The Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS) adopted the revisions of paragraphs 2 and 3 of Standard ST.10/C at its first session on October 29, 2010. These revisions incorporate amendments made necessary by certain modifications of the International Patent Classification (IPC) structure as adopted by the Committee of Experts of the IPC Union at its 41st session in March 2009.

Industrial property offices are asked to implement the new versions of paragraphs 2 and 3 of Standard ST.10/C for all patent documents with a publication date from January 1, 2011, onwards.

STANDARD ST.10/C

PRESENTATION OF BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATA COMPONENTS

Revision proposed by the IPC Committee of Experts

PRESENTATION OF DATES

For the representation of calendar dates according to the Gregorian calendar, which are printed or displayed in industrial property documents, in entries in official gazettes or in electronic records, WIPO Standard ST.2 is applicable.

PRESENTATION OF CLASSIFICATION SYMBOLS

The recommended abbreviation of the International Patent Classification is "Int.Cl.". The current version indicator of the core levelIPC (year, month) has to be placed in round brackets after the abbreviation "Int.Cl.", if the document is classified, at least partly, in main groups only using the core level. Most offices will classify a given document only in one level, i.e. only in the advanced level or only in the core level (see examples 3a and 3b).

The recommended presentation of classification symbols in printed or formatted display form is as follows:

- classification symbols are presented in a tabular form, in such a manner as to facilitate machine transcription;
- when classifying in main groups only using the core level classification, IPC symbols are printed or displayed in regular font style, and when classifying in the full IPC using the advanced level classification, IPC symbols are printed or displayed in italics:
- the invention information symbols are printed or displayed in bold font style and the additional nen-invention information symbols in regular; and
- when classifying in the full IPC using the advanced level classification, the version indicator for each IPC symbol, indicating when this symbol was created or substantially revised at the advanced level <mark>as indicated in the Guide to the</mark> IPC (year, month), is placed in round brackets after each IPC symbol.
- Sample representations of IPC elassification symbols and indicators are given below for the same document when classified in the full IPC, in main groups only or both in the full IPC and in main groups. using the advanced level, the core level or both the advanced level and the core level.
 - When classified in the full IPC the advanced level (a)

Int. CI.

B28B 5/00 (2006.01)

B28B 1/29H04H 20/12 (2007.042008.01)

H05B-3/18<mark>H01H-33/65</mark> (2008.07<mark>2009.01</mark>)

Where: **B28B 5/00**

indicates invention information (bold font style) classified in the full IPC using

the advanced level classification (italics font style);

B28B 1/29 H04H 20/12 indicates invention information (bold font style) classified in the full IPC using the advanced level classification (italics font style);

H05B 3/18 H01H 33/65 indicates additional non-invention information (regular font style, i.e., non-bold) classified in the full IPC using the advanced level classification (italics font style).

(b) When classified in main groups only in the core level

Int. Cl. (2006<mark>2011.01</mark>) **B28B 5/00 B28B 1/00**H04H 20/00 H05B 3/10 H01H 33/00

Where: **B28B 5/00** indicates invention information (bold font style) classified in main groups only

using the core level classification (regular font style, i.e., non-italics);

indicates invention information (bold font style) classified in main groups only using the core level classification (regular font style, i.e., non-italics);

H05B 3/10 indicates additional non-invention information (regular font style, i.e., non-bold) classified in main groups only using the core level classification (regular font

style, i.e., non-italics).

(c) When invention information is classified in the full IPC and additional in the advanced level and non-invention information in main groups only the core level:

Int. Cl. (2006<mark>2011.01</mark>) **B28B 5/00** (2006.01) **B28B 1/29 H04H 20/12** (200

B28B 1/29 <mark>H04H 20/12 (</mark>2007.04<mark>2008.01</mark>)

H05B 3/10 H01H 33/00

Where: **B28B** 5/00 indicates invention information (bold font style) classified in the full IPC using

the advanced level classification (italics font style);

B28B 1/29 indicates invention information (bold font style) classified in the full IPC using the advanced level classification (italics font style);

H05B 3/10 indicates additional non-invention information (regular font style, i.e., non-bold)
H01H 33/00 classified in main groups only using the core level classification (regular font

style, i.e., non-italics).

IPC symbols are defined in Part 5 of the WIPO Handbook on Industrial Property Information and Documentation and in the latest version of the Guide to the IPC.

4. The recommended abbreviation of the International Classification for Industrial Designs is "LOC". According to the recommendation of the Committee of Experts of the Locarno Union, the edition of the Classification should be indicated by an Arabic numeral in parentheses, e.g., LOC (6) Cl. 8-05. Classification symbols should be presented with all elements of a given symbol contained in the same line, preferably in such a manner as to facilitate machine transcription. If the numbers of several classes or subclasses must be indicated for one and the same subject matter, the classes should be separated by semicolons and subclasses by commas (for example, LOC (6) Cl. 8-05, 08; 11-01).

PRESENTATION OF APPLICATION NUMBERS

- 5. Application numbers are primarily used by industrial property offices (IPOs) in order to identify each application received. They are also utilized by subsequent offices and applicants when priority is claimed. In addition, application numbers have become essential elements for those who utilize patent information in order to accomplish their individual needs and purposes. Therefore, the need and demand for indicating exact application numbers has been increasing as priority certificates are exchanged among IPOs electronically, and access by IPOs or the public to electronic dossiers is available over the Internet. In this regard, WIPO Standards ST.10/C and WIPO Standard ST.13 cover formats and presentations for application numbers; however, the formats and presentations actually employed by IPOs have been historically inconsistent. This inconsistency poses difficulties for other offices and the public as to the correct and complete identification of application numbers. Therefore, it is recommended that IPOs follow the guidance of WIPO Standard ST.13 when revising existing presentations or creating new application numbers.
- 6. The presentation of application numbers should be:
- (a) in the format as recommended in WIPO Standard <u>ST.13</u> for applications filed in a country or organization which has already introduced WIPO Standard <u>ST.13</u> (for detailed examples of application number formats, see "Examples of application numbers according to Recommendation" of WIPO Standard <u>ST.13</u>), or
- (b) in the exact format as used by the country or organization concerned (see Part 7.2.1 of the WIPO Handbook), for application numbers that do not follow WIPO Standard ST.13.

7. When the application number is abbreviated to the minimum significant part (deletion of letters and numerals given by the country or organization concerned for internal or special purposes such as check digits, classification marks, etc.), a need exists for a more uniform presentation thereof, in particular when information presented on the first page of a patent document is composed for printing (e.g., typeset, photocomposed, retyped, etc.). An application number, as represented by the country or organization concerned, may therefore be represented in a more uniform manner in accordance as much as possible with WIPO Standard ST.13, in particular paragraph 5 thereof.

IDENTIFICATION OF COUNTRIES, ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER ENTITIES ISSUING OR REGISTERING PATENT DOCUMENTS

- 8. A two-letter code according to WIPO Standard <u>ST.3</u> should be used when indicating:
 - (a) the country, organization or other entity in which a convention priority application was filed;
 - (b) the country, organization or other entity that published prior art patent documents;
 - (c) the country, organization or other entity publishing the patent document; and
- (d) the country, organization or other entity in which a previous application was filed for the purpose of obtaining a filing date under the Patent Law Treaty (PLT).

The name of the country, organization or other entity issuing or registering the patent document may be indicated, in addition to the <u>ST.3</u> code, if so desired.

USE AND PRESENTATION OF CHECK DIGITS

- 9. Check digits are used by several IPOs in relation to application numbers or publication numbers for the purposes of internal control. As different systems are in use by different IPOs it is recommended that IPOs which publish their associated control characters as part of their application or publication numbers also publish information explaining their use of the control characters periodically in their official gazettes at intervals of at least once a year and/or present the information on their official web sites and update them as needed.
- 10. In order to avoid confusion, it is recommended that the following rules be applied if IPOs wish to print a control character associated with an application number or with a publication number on patent documents or in official gazettes:
 - (a) if using WIPO Standard ST.13, IPOs should refer to said Standard for use and presentation of check digits;
 - (b) if IPOs are not using WIPO Standard ST.13;
- (i) the control character should consist of a single numeral; letters should not be used so as to avoid confusion with WIPO Standard ST.16;
- (ii) the control character should be printed immediately after the application number or publication number to which it refers but separated therefrom by a full stop or by a hyphen and preferably in a type font different from that used in the number to which it refers;

PRESENTATION OF PRIORITY APPLICATION NUMBERS

- 11. Priority application numbers are provided to applicants by IPOs in the notifications of the first filing and in certificates of priority. Applicants cite priority application numbers when filing subsequent applications for the same or related subject matter. Priority application numbers are used by IPOs to link related patent documents as "patent families" in databases and computerized search systems. This ability to create patent families may be of tremendous value to IPOs for examination purposes when, for example, an earlier effective date is needed for a citation during a search or examination process of an unrelated application. Patent families also enable patent examiners to review previously published patent documents in an alternate preferred language, if available. In addition, patent families can help IPO's save significant classification resources (financial, staffing, etc.) by allowing them to use the classifications of one patent family member for the other members of the patent family. These and other uses of patent families make the accurate recording of the priority application number by applicants a critical concern of all IPOs. Even small deviations from the correct priority application number format can cause a patent document not to be collected into a patent family. Correction of errors in priority data result in huge expenses for IPOs. Therefore, it is critical that the provisions of this section of the Standard be implemented by IPOs as soon as possible.
- 12. In order to improve the quality of patent family data and to avoid confusion in the presentation of priority application numbers, the following recommendations are made when presenting the priority application number in a notification of first filing and in a certificate of priority:

- (a) IPOs should always provide priority application numbers complying with:
- (i) the presentation of the WIPO Standard <u>ST.13</u> application number for the IPOs that have already introduced WIPO Standard <u>ST.13</u>; or
- (ii) "Recommended Presentation in Abbreviated Form as a Priority Application Number" given in the document "Presentation of Application Numbers" (Part 7.2.1 of WIPO Handbook) for the IPOs that have not yet introduced WIPO Standard ST.13.
- (b) The priority application number should be preceded by the WIPO Standard <u>ST.3</u> code and preferably be presented on a specified line or column right after the preamble as shown in the following examples so that it may be easily recognized as a priority number by other IPOs' applicants and other patent information users.

Examples of preambles recommended to IPOs for when an applicant is filing abroad under the Paris Convention:

(i) In the case of a country:

The country code and number of your priority application, to be used for filing abroad under the Paris Convention, is

(ii) In the case of an international organization:

The organization code and number of your priority application, to be used for filing abroad under the Paris Convention, is

Example of presentation of "a Priority Application Number" when an applicant is filing abroad under the Paris Convention:

- (i) In the case of a country XX having already introduced WIPO Standard ST.13:

 The country code and number of your priority application, to be used for filing abroad under the Paris Convention, is XX 10 2014 345678
- (ii) In the case of a country not yet having introduced WIPO Standard <u>ST.13</u>, e.g., Japan:

 The country code and number of your priority application, to be used for filing abroad under the Paris Convention, is JP2000-001234
- (iii) In the case of an international organization not yet having introduced WIPO Standard <u>ST.13</u>, e.g., the EPO:

The organization code and number of your priority application, to be used for filing abroad under the Paris Convention, is EP79100953

IPOs should encourage and facilitate the compliance by applicants with paragraphs 12(a) and 12(b) of WIPO Standard ST.10/C when providing the priority application number in subsequent filings.

[End Annex II and of document]