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GUIDELINES FOR THE PREPARATION OF ABSTRACTS

Report prepared by the International Bureau

SUMMARY

This document contains a revised version of the Guidelines for the Preparation of Abstracts. In keeping with the request of the PCT Interim Committee for Technical Cooperation, the Guidelines have been reviewed by the Technical Committee for Search Systems (TCSS) and adopted by the Technical Coordination Committee of ICIREPAT.

1. At its fourth session, held in Geneva from November 12 to 19, 1974, the PCT Interim Committee for Technical Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as the "Interim Committee") discussed the "General Guidelines for the Preparation of Abstracts" (hereinafter referred to as "the Guidelines"), drawn up by the Technical Committee for Search Systems (TCSS) of ICIREPAT.
2. Following this discussion, the Interim Committee endorsed a proposal made by the Director General of WIPO that the competent Technical Committee of ICIREPAT be asked to review the Guidelines on the basis of proposals for amendment made by the International Bureau (see document PCT/TCO/IV/18, paragraphs 52 to 59).
3. On the basis of proposals made by the International Bureau, and a contribution received from its Chairman, the TCSS, at its ninth session, held in Geneva from April 7 to 11, 1975, re-examined the Guidelines and prepared a revised version (see document IC/TCSS/19/75, paragraphs 15 to 24 and Annex IV).
4. The Technical Coordination Committee of ICIREPAT adopted the revised version of the Guidelines at its fourteenth session, held in Geneva from June 4 to 6, 1975, and requested that the Guidelines as revised again be brought to the attention of the Interim Committee and the Interim Committee of the European Patent Organization (EPO) for comments.
5. The revised Guidelines as adopted by the TCC of ICIREPAT are attached as an Annex to this document.

6. The Interim Committee is invited to comment on the revised Guidelines.

[Annex follows]

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE PREPARATION OF ABSTRACTS OF PATENT DOCUMENTSIntroduction

1. In order that abstracts prepared by, or on behalf of, applicants for patents may reach the maximum level of quality and uniformity it is recommended that the general guidelines for their preparation which are presented below be followed.
2. As is indicated by their title, these general guidelines relate only to those matters which apply irrespective of the authority to which an abstract is to be submitted.
3. Abstractors are advised that, in addition to following these general guidelines, they should give due consideration to the specific requirements in respect of abstracts which are contained in the regulations appropriate to the authority to which the abstract is to be submitted.
4. For convenience there are annexed to the present document certain relevant requirements regarding the preparation of abstracts of patent documents taken from the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) and the European Patent Convention (EPC) as well as from rules existing in Industrial Property Offices. In particular, it should be noted that the requirements for the preparation of abstracts as set forth in the PCT and the EPC as well as in existing national regulations, may be more specific than these General Guidelines. This is e.g. the case with respect to the length of the abstracts (maximum recommended length: 250 words in the case of Canada and the United States; 200 words in the case of Brazil), the inclusion of bibliographic data such as the title of the invention and the name of the applicant and the inclusion of a drawing (France).
5. Particular attention is drawn to the fact that for abstracts submitted to some authorities the regulations require that where the application contains drawings the abstract shall include a figure of the drawings or shall on publication be accompanied by one or more figures of the drawings. In such cases the abstract should be drafted with this requirement in mind.

The General GuidelinesDefinition

6. AN ABSTRACT OF A PATENT DOCUMENT IS A CONCISE STATEMENT OF ITS TECHNICAL DISCLOSURE. The abstract should enable the reader thereof, regardless of his degree of familiarity with patent documents, to ascertain quickly the character of the subject matter covered by the technical disclosure. The abstract should constitute an efficient scanning tool for searching in the particular technical field, particularly by making it possible to assess whether there is a need to consult the patent document itself. The abstract merely serves the purpose of technical information and cannot be taken into account for any other purpose, particularly not for the purpose of interpreting the scope of the protection sought.

Presentation

7. THE ABSTRACT SHOULD BE CLEAR AND AS CONCISE AS THE DISCLOSURE PERMITS. It should generally not exceed 250 words and should preferably be in the range of 50 to 150 words. The abstract may contain chemical or mathematical formulae and tables. Phrases should not be used which can be implied, such as "This disclosure concerns", "The invention defined by this disclosure" and "This invention relates to." The legal phraseology used in patent claims often employing such words as "said" and "means" should also be avoided.

Content

8. THE ABSTRACT SHOULD BE PRIMARILY DIRECTED TO THAT WHICH IS NEW IN THE ART TO WHICH THE INVENTION PERTAINS. If the invention is in the nature of a modification to an apparatus, process, product or composition, the abstract should be directed to the technical disclosure of the modification. If the invention is of a basic nature the entire technical disclosure may be new in the art and the abstract should be directed to the entire disclosure. If a patent relating to a product, particularly

a compound or composition, also contains significant disclosure of its method of preparation or use, this matter should also be abstracted. If the disclosure involves alternatives, the abstract should deal with the preferred alternative and identify the others if this can be done succinctly; if this cannot be done, it should mention that they exist and whether they differ substantially from the preferred alternative.

9. Where applicable, and provided the document contains the information, the abstract should include at least the following: (1) if a machine, apparatus, or system, its organization and operation; (2) if an article, its method of making; (3) if a chemical compound, its identity and preparation; (4) if a mixture, its ingredients; (5) if a process, the steps. Extensive mechanical and design details of apparatus should not be given.

10. With regard particularly to chemical inventions for compounds or compositions, the general nature of the compound or composition should be given as well as the use thereof, e.g. "the compounds are of the class of alkyl benzene sulfonyl ureas, useful as oral anti-diabetics". Exemplification of a class should be by a typical example. For processes, the type of reaction, reagents and process conditions should be stated, generally illustrated by a single example. Wherever applicable, the chemical formula should be given which, among all the formulae contained in the patent document, best characterizes the invention.

11. The abstract shall not contain statements on the alleged merits or value of the claimed invention or on its speculative application.

Checklist

12. It is recommended that the abstractor use the checklist appended hereto to assist him in following these general guidelines.

Sample Abstracts

- (a) A heart valve with an annular valve body defining an orifice and having a plurality of struts forming a pair of cages on opposite sides of the orifice. A spherical closure member is captively held within the cages and is moved by blood flow between the open and closed positions of the check valve fashion. A slight leak or backflow is provided in the closed position by making the orifice slightly larger than the closure member. Blood flow is maximized in the open position of the valve by providing an inwardly convex contour on the orifice-defining surfaces of the body. An annular rib is formed in a channel around the periphery of the valve body to anchor a suture ring used to secure the valve within a heart.
- (b) A method for sealing, by application of heat, overlapping closure panels of a folding box made from paperboard having an extremely thin coating of moisture proofing thermoplastic material on opposite surfaces. Heated air is directed at the surfaces to be bonded, the temperature of the air at the point of impact on the surfaces being above the char point of the board. The duration of application of heat is made so brief, by a corresponding high rate of advance of the boxes through the air stream, that the coating on the reverse side of the panels remains substantially non-tacky. The bond forms at any one surface point immediately after heating for a period of time less than the total time of exposure to heated air of that point. Under such conditions the heat applied to soften the thermoplastic coating is dissipated after completion of the bond by absorption into the board acting as a heat sink without the need for cooling devices.
- (c) Amides are produced by reacting an ester of a carboxylic acid with an amine, using as catalyst an alkoxide of an alkali metal. The ester is first heated to at least 70°C under a pressure of no more than 500 mm. of mercury to remove moisture and acid gases which would prevent the reaction, and then converted to an amide without heating.

CHECKLIST TO ACCOMPANY
"GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE PREPARATION OF ABSTRACTS"

In the following checklist, the abstractor should, after having studied the disclosure to be abstracted, place a check in the second column after the applicable terms listed in the first column. The requirements listed in the third column corresponding to the checked items of the first column should be borne in mind by the abstractor as he prepares his abstract. Finally, the abstractor may compare his finished abstract with the checked requirements and place a corresponding checkmark in the fourth column if he is satisfied that the requirements have been met.

If the invention is a(n):	Check here	the abstract should deal with:	If so, check here
Article		its identity, use; construction, organization; method of manufacture.	
Chemical compound		its identity (structure if appropriate); method of preparation; properties, uses.	
Mixture		its nature, properties, use; essential ingredients (identity, function); proportion of ingredients, if significant; preparation.	
Machine, apparatus or system		its nature, use; construction, organization; operation.	
Process or operation		its nature and characterizing features; material and conditions employed; product, if significant; nature of and relationship between the steps, if more than one.	
If the disclosure involves alternatives		the abstract should deal with the preferred alternative and identify the others if this can be done succinctly; if this cannot be done, it should mention that they exist and whether they differ substantially from the preferred alternative.	

Total number of words less than 250: in range 50 - 150:

ATTACHMENTS

Requirements for Abstracts under the
Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) p.5

Requirements for Abstracts under the
European Patent Convention (EPC). p.6

Samples of National Requirements concerning Abstracts:

Brazil (BR) p.7

Belgium (BE). p.8

Canada (CA) p.9

France (FR) p.9-11

United States (US). p.12

Requirements for Abstracts Under the Patent
Cooperation Treaty (PCT)

Article 3
The International Application

3. The abstract merely serves the purpose of technical information and cannot be taken into account for any other purpose, particularly not for the purpose of interpreting the scope of the protection sought.

Rule 3
The Request (Form)

3.3 Check List

(a) The printed form shall contain a list which, when filled in, will show:

(iii) the number of that figure of the drawings which the applicant suggests should accompany the abstract when the abstract is published on the front page of the pamphlet and in the Gazette; in exceptional cases, the applicant may suggest more than one figure.

Rule 8
The Abstract

8.1 Contents and Form of the Abstract

(a) The abstract shall consist of the following:

(i) a summary of the disclosure as contained in the description, the claims, and any drawings; the summary shall indicate the technical field to which the invention pertains and shall be drafted in a way which allows the clear understanding of the technical problem, the gist of the solution of that problem through the invention, and the principal use or uses of the invention;

(ii) where applicable, the chemical formula which, among all the formulae contained in the international application, best characterizes the invention.

(b) The abstract shall be as concise as the disclosure permits (preferably 50 to 150 words if it is in English or when translated into English).

(c) The abstract shall not contain statements on the alleged merits or value of the claimed invention or on its speculative application.

(d) Each main technical feature mentioned in the abstract and illustrated by a drawing in the international application shall be followed by a reference sign, placed between parentheses.

8.2 Failure to Suggest a Figure to be Published with the Abstract

If the applicant fails to make the indication referred to in Rule 3.3(a)(iii), or if the International Searching Authority finds that a figure or figures other than that figure or those figures suggested by the applicant would among all the figures of all the drawings, better characterize the invention, it shall indicate the figure or figures which it so considers. Publications by the International Bureau shall then use the figure or figures so indicated by the International Searching Authority. Otherwise, the figure or figures suggested by the applicant shall be used in the said publications.

8.3 Guiding Principles in Drafting

The abstract shall be so drafted that it can efficiently serve as a scanning tool for purposes of searching in the particular art, especially by assisting the scientist, engineer or researcher in formulating an opinion on whether there is a need for consulting the international application itself.

Rule 11

Physical Requirements of the International Application

11.10 Drawings, Formulae, and Tables, in Text Matter

(a) The request, the description, the claims and the abstract shall not contain drawings.

(b) The description, the claims and the abstract may contain chemical or mathematical formulae.

(c) The description and the abstract may contain tables; any claim may contain tables only if the subject-matter of the claim makes the use of tables desirable.

Requirements for Abstracts Under the European
Patent Convention (EPC)

Article 85
The abstract

The abstract shall merely serve for use as technical information, it may not be taken into account for any other purpose, in particular not for the purpose of interpreting the scope of the protection sought nor for the purpose of applying Article 54, paragraph 3.

Rule 33

Form and content of the abstract

(1) The abstract shall indicate the title of the invention.

(2) The abstract shall contain a concise summary of the disclosure as contained in the description, the claims and any drawings; the summary shall indicate the technical field to which the invention pertains and shall be drafted in a way which allows the clear understanding of the technical problem, the gist of the solution of that problem through the invention and the principal use or uses of the invention. The abstract shall, where applicable, contain the chemical formula which, among those contained in the application, best characterises the invention. It shall not contain statements on the alleged merits or value of the invention or on its speculative application.

(3) The abstract shall preferably not contain more than one hundred and fifty words.

(4) If the European patent application contains drawings, the applicant shall indicate the figure or, exceptionally, the figures of the drawings which he suggests should accompany the abstract when the abstract is published. The European Patent Office may decide to publish one or more other figures if it considers that they better characterise the invention. Each main feature mentioned in the abstract and illustrated by a drawing shall be followed by a reference sign, placed between parentheses.

(5) The abstract shall be so drafted that it constitutes an efficient instrument for purposes of searching in the particular technical field, particularly by making it possible to assess whether there is a need for consulting the European patent application itself.

Rule 35

General provisions governing the presentation
of the application documents

(11) The request for the grant of a European patent, the description, the claims and the abstract shall not contain drawings. The description, the claims and the abstract may contain chemical or mathematical formulae. The description and the abstract may contain tables. The claims may contain tables only if their subject-matter makes the use of tables desirable.

Sample of National Requirements
Concerning Abstracts

Brazil (BR)

Legislação: Código da propriedade industrial, lei No. 5772 de 21 de dezembro de 1971

Legislation: Industrial Property Code, Law No. 5772 of December 21, 1971

Capítulo IV, Do Pedido de Privilégio:

Chapter IV, Patent Applications:

Art.14 - Além do requerimento, o pedido, que só poderá se referir a um único privilégio, conterá ainda:

Art.14 - In addition to the request, the application, which shall seek only one patent, shall contain:

- a) relatório descritivo;
- b) reivindicações;
- c) desenho, se for o caso;
- d) resumo;
- e) prova do cumprimento de exigências contidas em legislação específica..
- f) outros documentos necessários à instrução do pedido.

- a) a description;
- b) one or more claims;
- c) one or more drawings (where necessary);
- d) an abstract;
- e) evidence of compliance with the requirement contained in specific legislations;
- f) other documents necessary to complete the application.

Presidência: Portaria No. 393 de 01 de outubro de 1973

Presidency: Ordinance No. 393 of October 1, 1973

1.4 - Resumo

1.4 - Abstract

1.4.1 - Conteúdo:

1.4.1. - Content:

O resumo deverá:

The abstract:

- a) conter um sumário da exposição, tal como consta do relatório descritivo, das reivindicações e de todos os desenhos;
- b) indicar o ramo técnico au qual pertence a invenção;
- c) ser redigido de forma a permitir uma compreensão clara do problema técnico, da essência da solução desse problema por meio da invenção e do uso principal ou dos usos principais da invenção, de forma a servir de instrumento eficaz de busca preliminar em uma pesquisa;
- d) sendo o caso, conter a fórmula química que, entre todas as fórmulas constantes do pedido, melhor caracterize a invenção.

- a) shall contain a summary of the disclosure as contained in the description, the claims, and in drawings;
- b) shall indicate the technical field to which the invention pertains;
- c) shall be drafted in a way which allows the clear understanding of the technical problem, the gist of the solution of that problem through the invention, and the principal use or uses of the invention, so that it can efficiently serve as a scanning tool for a search;
- d) where applicable, shall contain the chemical formula which, among all the formulae contained in the application, best characterises the invention.

1.4.2 - Forma:

1.4.2 - Form:

O resumo deverá:

The abstract:

- a) ser tão conciso quanto a exposição o permitir (de preferência de 50 a 200 palavras);
- b) ser iniciado pela expressão "Patente de Invenção..", seguindo-se a indicação do seu título;
- c) evitar menção ao mérito ou ao valor da invenção requerida;
- d) incluir uma indicação de referência entre parênteses, correspondente a cada uma das principais características técnicas, quando ilustradas por desenho constante do pedido.

- a) shall be as concise as the disclosure permits (Preferably 50 to 200 words);
- b) shall be started by the phrase "patent of invention ..." followed by the indication of the title of the invention;
- c) shall avoid statements on the alleged merits or value of the claim invention;
- d) each main technical feature mentioned in the abstract and illustrated by a drawing in the application, shall be followed by a reference sign placed between parentheses.

Belgium (BE)

Arrêté Royal du 24 mai 1854 réglant l'Exécution de la loi sur les brevets d'invention.

Article 1er

Toute personne qui veut prendre un brevet d'invention, d'importation ou de perfectionnement, doit déposer une demande à cet effet au Service de la propriété industrielle ou au greffe de l'un des gouvernements provinciaux du royaume autres que celui du Brabant. La demande de brevet peut également être introduite par envoi postal, adressé exclusivement au Bureau des dépôts du service de la Propriété Industrielle.

A la demande doivent être joints sous pli fermé:

1. la description de l'objet de l'invention;
2. Les dessins qui seraient nécessaires pour l'intelligence de la description;
3. un duplicata, certifié conforme, de la description et des dessins; et
4. un bordereau des pièces déposées.

Le pli doit contenir également, en double exemplaire, un texte énonçant, en une dizaine de lignes, les éléments essentiels de l'invention ainsi que le dessin qui serait nécessaire pour l'intelligence du texte. Ces documents sont exigés aux seules fins de la publication visée à l'article 16 et ne constituent que des projets soumis au contrôle de l'administration.

Article 16

Les descriptions des brevets seront publiées textuellement ou en substance, à la diligence de l'administration, dans un recueil spécial, trois mois après l'octroi du brevet.

Lorsque le breveté voudra obtenir la publication complète de ses spécifications ou d'un extrait fourni par lui, il devra en donner avis à l'administration au moins un mois avant l'expiration du terme fixé au paragraphe précédent, et consigner la somme qui serait nécessaire pour couvrir les frais de cette publication.

Royal Order of May 24, 1854, ruling the Execution of the Law on Patents

Article 1

Anyone wishing to obtain a patent of invention, of importation or of improvement must file an application to that effect with the service of Industrial Property or with the Office of one of the Provincial Governments of the Kingdom, other than the Office of the Brabant. The patent application may also be filed by post, addressed only to the "Bureau des dépôts du service de la Propriété Industrielle".

To the application must be attached in a sealed envelope:

1. description of the object of the invention;
2. the drawings necessary for the understanding of the description;
3. a certified copy of the description and of the drawings;
4. a docket listing the documents filed.

The envelope must also contain, in two copies, a text outlining, in about ten lines, the essential elements of the invention, as well as the drawing necessary for the understanding of the text. These documents are requested only for publication purposes provided for in Article 16 and are only drafts submitted to the administration for checking.

Article 16

The patent descriptions will be published verbatim or substantially, at the discretion of the administration, in a gazette, three months after the grant of the patent.

When the patentee wishes to obtain the complete publication of his specifications or of an extract finished by him, he must give notice to this effect to the administration at least one month before the expiration of the term fixed in the preceding paragraph and deposit the sum necessary to cover the expense of this publication.

Canada (CA)

Rules Under the Patent Act

27A.(1) An abstract shall consist of a brief technical statement of the disclosure indicative of the utility of the invention and the manner in which the invention is distinguishable from other inventions, and shall be in such form and contain such information as the Commissioner may require.

(2) An abstract of the disclosure shall not form a basis for any legal interpretation of the invention and shall not be used to interpret the scope of the invention claimed.

(3) The Commissioner may alter any abstract of the disclosure that is not acceptable to him.

Manual of Patent Office Practice (M.P.O.P.), Chapter 6 - Abstracts

6.01 Content of Abstracts.

Applicants for patents are required to submit an abstract of the disclosure with each application. Each abstract is subsequently printed in the Patent Office Record to provide a synopsis of the invention disclosed. The text of the abstract should avoid patent jargon, so that it may be readily understood by technicians, scientists, industrialists, and other users of the Record. It should provide a means for quickly determining the nature of the disclosure so the reader can decide whether a copy of the full specification would be useful to him. It should be a clear and concise condensation of the technical content of the disclosure.

The abstract should have a separate heading, such as "Abstract of the Disclosure". It should consist of a single paragraph of 50 to 250 words in sentence form. It should indicate the use to which the invention will be put, and the advance that has been made in the art.

The abstract may be included in the specification by placing it on the first page of the disclosure, followed by the text of the disclosure itself, or it may be submitted on a separate page.

Neither the Office nor the applicant may use the abstract to limit or to interpret the scope of the claims, or as support for amendments made under Rule 52.

France (FR)

Decree Concerning Applications for, and the Issuance and in Force of, Patents and Certificates of Utility - No.68-1100 of December 5, 1968

Article 3

A patent application shall include:

- (a) a petition for the grant of a patent;
- (b) a description of the invention and claims which define the scope of protection sought;
- (c) where applicable, the drawings or samples to which the description refers;
- (d) an abstract of the technical features of the invention;
- (e) proof of payment of the fees due at the time of filing the application;
- (f) where applicable, the power-of-attorney of the agent.

(FR, Decree - cont'd)

Article 10

An abstract of the technical subject matter of the invention in respect of which the patent application is applied shall be drawn up for documentary purposes. It shall constitute part of the patent and shall not be taken into account in defining the rights deriving from the patent.

The applicant may be invited to amend the abstract he has filed with a view to improving the documentary content thereof. If, within a period of one month from the date the notification issued to him for that purpose, the applicant has not filed amendments in the sense of the indication given, the abstract may be amended ex officio.

The abstract shall be published in the 'Bulletin officiel de la propriété industrielle' after publication in that Bulletin the notice prescribed in Article 26 of this Decree.

Article 49

A notice announcing the grant of the patent shall be published in the 'Bulletin officiel de la propriété industrielle' within a period of one month from the date of the notification of grant issued to the applicant in conformity with the second paragraph of Article 47 of this Decree.

This notice shall, where appropriate, mention the issue number of the 'Bulletin officiel de la propriété industrielle' in which the patent application was made available to the public, as well as the existence of any amendments made to the original claims.

Following this publication, a certified copy of the patent shall be issued to the applicant.

If the patent application was not published, the abstract provided for in Article 10 of this Decree shall be published underneath the notice announcing the grant of the patent.

As from the date of the publication provided for in the foregoing paragraphs, any person may take cognizance of the patent free of charge at the National Institute of Industrial Property or obtain a reproduction thereof at his own expense.

Arrêté relatif aux modalités de dépôt des demandes de brevet d'invention et de certificat d'utilité et d'inscription au registre national des brevets du 5 décembre 1968

Article 9

1. L'abrégé du contenu technique de l'invention prévu à l'article 10 du décret du 6 décembre 1968 est établi en deux exemplaires dans les conditions générales de forme prescrites aux articles 2 et 3 du présent arrêté. Il mentionne le titre de l'invention, le nom du déposant, le cas échéant la revendication de priorité.

Order of December 5, 1968, relating to filing procedures of applications for patents and utility certificate and to registration in the "Registre national des brevets".

Article 9

1. The abstract of the technical contents of the invention provided for in Article 10 of the Decree of December 5, 1968, is prepared in two copies according to the general conditions of form prescribed in Articles 2 and 3 of the present Order. This abstract should identify the title of the invention, the name of the applicant, and the priority claimed (if any).

(FR, Decree - cont'd)

Article 9 (suiv.)

2. Le texte de l'abrégé comporte trois paragraphes ayant respectivement pour objet:

a) de situer, aussi précisément que possible, l'invention dans le secteur technique auquel elle appartient;

b) de décrire la caractéristique technique principale de l'invention sous sa forme préférentielle avec, s'il y a lieu, des références au dessin prévu au troisième alinéa du présent article;

c) d'énumérer les principales applications indiquées dans la description.

3. Lorsque la demande de brevet comporte des dessins, le texte de l'abrégé est complété par une planche dont le dessin peut se présenter sous la forme d'un tracé figuratif ou schématique, d'un diagramme, d'une formule chimique ou d'un schéma électrique. Le dessin se limite à une seule figure, sauf s'il s'agit de formule chimiques; il porte les références mentionnées dans le texte de l'abrégé. La mention "dessin pour l'abrégé" est portée en haut et à droite de la planche en dehors de la surface utile.

4. Les mentions et le texte de l'abrégé prévus aux premier et deuxième alinéas du présent article ne comportent pas, au total, plus de dix-huit lignes ou plus de trente lignes de cinquante lettres ou signes selon que l'abrégé comprend ou non un dessin.

Article 12

Les exemplaires de la description, des revendications, de l'abrégé et, s'il y a lieu, des planches de dessin et des documents de priorité sont déposés dans une enveloppe fermée portant le nom du demandeur, le titre de l'invention, la liste et le nombre des pièces contenues dans l'enveloppe. Les autres pièces de la demande de brevet sont présentées en dehors de l'enveloppe.

Article 9 (cont'd)

2. The text of the abstract consists of three paragraphs having respectively the following subjects:

a) to locate, as precisely as possible, the invention in the technical field to which it pertains;

b) to describe the principal technical features of the invention in its preferred embodiment, with, wherever applicable, references to the drawing provided for in the third paragraph of the present article;

c) to enumerate the principal applications enumerated in the description.

3. Whenever the patent application contains drawings, the text of the abstract is completed by a drawing sheet which can be presented in the form of a figurative or schematic outline, a diagram, a chemical formula, or an electric schematic circuit. The drawing should be limited to one figure, except in the case of chemical formulae; it should bear the references mentioned in the text of the abstract. The indication "dessin pour l'abrégé" should appear in the upper right-hand corner of the drawing sheet outside the useful surface.

4. The identifications and the text of the abstract provided for in the first and second paragraphs of the present article should not consist of more than eighteen lines or more than thirty lines of fifty letters or signs according to whether the abstract is accompanied by a drawing or not.

Article 12

The copies of the description, of the claims, of the abstract and of the drawings (if any), and of the priority document, are filed in a sealed envelope bearing the name of the applicant, the title of the invention, the list and the number of pieces contained in the envelope. The other pieces of the patent application are presented outside the envelope.

United States of America (US)

Commissioner's Notice of April 23, 1969, 862 O.G. 653
Guidelines for the Preparation of Patent Abstracts

Background

The Rules of Practice in Patent Cases require that each application for patent include an Abstract of the Disclosure, Rule 72(b).

The content of a patent abstract should be such as to enable the reader thereof, regardless of his degree of familiarity with patent documents, to ascertain quickly the character of the subject matter covered by the technical disclosure and should include that which is new in the art to which the invention pertains.

The abstract is not intended nor designed for use in interpreting the scope or meaning of the claims, Rule 72(b).

Content

A patent abstract is a concise statement of the technical disclosure of the patent and should include that which is new in the art to which the invention pertains.

If the patent is of a basic nature, the entire technical disclosure may be new in the art, and the abstract should be directed to the entire disclosure.

If the patent is in the nature of an improvement in an old apparatus, process, product, or composition, the abstract should include the technical disclosure of the improvement.

In certain patents, particularly those for compounds and compositions, wherein the process for making and/or the use thereof are not obvious, the abstract should set forth a process for making and/or a use thereof.

If the new technical disclosure involves modifications or alternatives, the abstract should mention by way of example the preferred modification or alternative.

The abstract should not refer to purported merits or speculative applications of the invention and should not compare the invention with the prior art.

Where applicable, the abstract should include the following: (1) if a machine or apparatus, its organization and operation; (2) if an article, its method of making; (3) if a chemical compound, its identity and use; (4) if a mixture, its ingredients; (5) if a process, the steps. Extensive mechanical and design details of apparatus should not be given.

With regard particularly to chemical patents, for compounds or compositions, the general nature of the compound or composition should be given as well as the use thereof, e.g. "The compounds are of the class of alkyl benzene sulfonyl ureas, useful as oral anti-diabetics." Exemplification of a species could be illustrative of members of the class. For processes, the type reaction, reagents and process conditions should be stated, generally illustrated by a single example unless variations are necessary.

Language Format

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph within the range of 50 to 250 words. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said", should be avoided. The abstract should sufficiently describe the disclosure to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "This disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "This disclosure describes," etc.

Responsibility

Preparation of the abstract is the responsibility of the applicant. Background knowledge of the art and an appreciation of the applicant's contribution to the art are most important in the preparation of the abstract. The review of the abstract, for compliance with these guidelines, with any necessary editing and revision on allowance of the application is the responsibility of the examiner.

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