STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

STANDARDS AND DOCUMENTATION WORKING GROUP

Tenth Session
Geneva, November 17 to 21, 2008

REVISION OF WIPO STANDARD ST.10/C (TASK No. 30)

Document prepared by the International Bureau

1.   The Standards and Documentation Working Group (SDWG) of the Standing Committee on Information Technologies (SCIT), at its ninth session, held in February 2008, agreed that the ST.10/C Task Force should review WIPO Standard ST.10/C, particularly paragraphs 5 to 7, for any revision needed in light of the revised WIPO Standard ST.13 that had been adopted at that session. (See document SCIT/SDWG//9/12, paragraph 21.)

2.   In accordance with the above-mentioned decisions by the SDWG, the ST.10/C Task Force continued its discussions to reach agreement on a proposal for the revision of WIPO Standard ST.10/C. In order to inform the SDWG on the progress made and remaining work to be completed with regard to Task No. 30, the Task Force, led by the Japan Patent Office, prepared a report, and submitted it for consideration by the SDWG.

3.   The said report is reproduced as the Annex to this document with an Appendix. An oral report on the status of Task No. 30, including any additional agreements that may be reached with regard to the proposal for the revision of WIPO Standard ST.10/C after the preparation of the written report, will also be presented at the tenth session of the SDWG.

4.   The Appendix to the Annex referred to in the previous paragraph contains a draft document concerning the revision of WIPO Standard ST.10/C, which is attached only for information purposes, but not for adoption by the SDWG, as it is still under discussion by the ST.10/C Task Force.

5.   In the framework of the discussions on the revision of WIPO Standard ST.10/C, some new topics have been raised by the ST.10/C Task Force, but they still require further discussion by both the SDWG and the ST.10/C Task Force (see paragraphs 10 to 12 of the Annex). The ST.10/C Task Force requests the SDWG to comment and provide guidance on the following issues (see paragraphs 13 and 15 of the Annex):

(a)   Revision of current contents of WIPO Standard ST.10/C:
The revision of WIPO Standard ST.10/C with regard to the recommendations regarding patents, i.e., in line with the current contents of the Standard (see current draft document in Appendix to the Annex);

(b)   Trademarks:
(i)   as to whether recommendations regarding trademarks should be added to the revised version of WIPO Standard ST.10/C;
(ii)   if trademarks are included within the scope of the Standard, whether or not recommendations regarding trademarks should be discussed after finalizing item (a);

(c)   Industrial designs:
(i)   as to whether recommendations regarding industrial designs should be added to the revised version of WIPO Standard ST.10/C;
(ii)   if industrial designs are included within the scope of the Standard, whether or not recommendations regarding industrial designs should be discussed after finalizing item (a);

(d)   Uniform Resource Identifier (URI):
(i)   as to whether recommendations regarding URI should be added to the revised version of WIPO Standard ST.10/C;
(ii)   if reference to URI is included in the Standard, whether or not recommendations regarding URI should be discussed after finalizing item (a); and

(e)   Survey:
paragraph 5(f) of WIPO Standard ST.13 provides some basic rules for the control number or check digit that forms an optional part of the application number; the ST.10/C Task Force considers that a survey on practices by industrial property offices with regard to the use of the check digit in application numbers should be carried out after finalizing item (a).

6.   The actions and schedule for completing the revision of WIPO Standard ST.10/C will depend on the guidance provided by the SDWG to the ST.10/C Task Force with regard to the issues listed in the previous paragraph (see paragraph 16 of the Annex).

7.   *The SDWG is invited to:*

(a)   note the report of the ST.10/C Task Force and the oral report referred to in paragraph 3, above;

(b)   consider and provide guidance on the issues listed in paragraph 5, above, including the draft proposal reproduced in the Appendix of the Annex.

[Annex follows]

ANNEX

REPORT OF THE WIPO STANDARD ST.10/C TASK FORCE

Document prepared by the ST.10/C Task Force Leader
(September 19, 2008)

Introduction

1.   WIPO Standard ST.10/C is a Standard for the presentation of bibliographic data components of published patent documents and, in particular, information on the presentation of application numbers and priority application numbers. This information is essential for industrial property offices (IPOs) to identify priority application numbers properly and for creating precise patent families. Making patent families easier to create will result in significant advantages not only for IPOs, but for all users of the IP system. However, many IPOs, in fact, do not comply with the recommendations described in WIPO Standard ST.10/C.

2.   In order to improve the quality of patent data and to avoid confusion in the presentation of priority application numbers, the WIPO Standard ST.10/C Task Force (hereinafter referred to as the ST.10/C Task Force) began discussions regarding WIPO Standard ST.10/C in July 2002.

3.   At the second session of the SDWG, held in December 2002, in accordance with the proposal made by the ST.10/C Task Force, the SDWG agreed on a two-phase process:

   (i)   the first phase consisting of a moderate and pragmatic solution, and
   (ii)   a second phase with a standardized format solution.

4.   In the first phase, the revision of WIPO Standard ST.10/C was carried out through a pragmatic and effective approach. At the fifth session of the SDWG, held in November 2004, the revised WIPO Standard ST.10/C was adopted by the SDWG (see Appendix 4 of document SCIT/SDWG/5/13).

5.   In the second phase, the ST.10/C Task Force worked on the revision of WIPO Standard ST.13, which provides recommendations for the numbering systems for industrial property rights. At the ninth session of the SDWG held in February 2008, the revised WIPO Standard ST.13 was approved by the SDWG (see Annex 3 of document SCIT/SDWG/9/12).

6.   This report includes details of the ST.10/C Task Force Leadership change, a brief summary of work done by the ST.10/C Task Force since the ninth session of the SDWG (SCIT/SDWG/9) and results of the e-forum discussions of the ST.10/C Task Force.

New Leader of Task Force

7.   Due to personnel transfers at the JPO in April 2008, the leadership of the ST.10/C Task Force, which has traditionally been performed by a JPO member, has changed and the JPO Leadership of the Task Force, by Mr. Morifuji, is now being carried out by Mr. Kamiyama.

Task Force Activities and Current Results

8.   On the basis of the written statement of paragraph 21 in the report of the ninth session of the SDWG (see document SCIT/SDWG/9/12), the ST.10/C Task Force launched the e-forum discussions of the ST.10/C Task Force, toward the tenth session of the SDWG to be held in November 2008, to review WIPO Standard ST.10/C, particularly paragraphs 5 to 7, for any revisions needed in light of the revised WIPO Standard ST.13 (see Annex 3 to document SCIT/SDWG/9/12) adopted by the SDWG at its ninth session.

9.   For initiation of the e-forum discussions, necessary materials such as a comparison table of current ST.10/C and new ST.13 were prepared by the ST.10/C Task Force Leader. The material prepared was based on the minutes of the informal meeting of the ST.10/C Task Force, which was held during the ninth session of the SDWG in February 2008. During the meeting a number of specific points in the current WIPO Standard ST.10/C was identified as needing revision.

10.   In the beginning of the e-forum discussions, the Task Force Leader suggested splitting the revision task into two phases considering the time remaining prior to the summer vacation. The main activity to be carried out in each phase was proposed as follows:

–   in phase 1, focusing on the revision of WIPO Standard ST.10/C; and
–   in phase 2, working on the inclusion of URI and the survey for check digit proposed at the informal meeting.

11.   In order to reach a decision the Task Force Leader posed the following questions to Task Force members and invited them to provide responses to the following questions:

Do you agree to split the task into phases 1 and 2?

Positive responses:
–   We agree to split the task into phases I and II.
–   It is a good proposal to split up the task into two phases.
–   It would be best to discuss URI and a survey of check digits algorithms after other changes to WIPO Standard ST10/C.

Negative responses:
–   We do not see the need to split the task into two phases considering the content suggested for the second phase. The question as to whether or not we should include URLs or a survey for check digits should perhaps be put to the entire SDWG first before we extend the scope of this task.

Other responses:
– The revisions to WIPO Standard ST.10/C help limit discussions to a manageable amount of work in the time remaining before the upcoming SDWG meeting. The discussion of URI as well as the survey could be taken up as a separate task or revision at a future date.

Should we include URI into WIPO Standard ST10/C in the future (Phase 2)?

Positive responses:
– URI should be included in WIPO Standard ST10/C in the future.

Negative responses:
– Some IPOs official patent publications are on CD/DVD, not on the Internet. There are a few different renderings of each patent document including Internet. Officially no one publication now includes URI as a bibliographic data component, but WIPO Standard ST.10/C is dedicated to bibliographic data components of patent documents. Consequently this question should be thoroughly discussed in the future.

Other responses:
– A separate task should be created to cope with the amount of this ambitious work. Concerning the inclusion of URI in WIPO Standard ST10/C in the future (Phase 2), we need to first define what URI is to be presented in patent documents. That way, we can decide on whether we agree on the issue or not. Firstly we should define what URI is supposed to be presented as a bibliographic data component.

Do you agree with the survey for the check digit in the phase 2?

Positive responses:
– We have no objection to conducting such a survey. Nevertheless we believe that wordings in the new WIPO Standard ST.13 are quite sufficient for the purpose of application numbers presentation. Such survey (its results) can be useful as information for the WIPO Handbook.

Other responses:
– It would be best to discuss a survey of check digits algorithms after other changes to WIPO Standard ST10/C.

12.   During the ST.10/C e-forum discussions, there was a suggestion as to whether trademark and industrial designs should be included within the scope of WIPO Standard ST.10/C. The Task Force Leader posed the following additional question and invited the ST.10/C Task Force members to give responses to the question: *Do you support the inclusion of trademark and industrial designs within the scope of WIPO Standard ST.10/C?*

Positive responses:
– We always plea for one standard for IP rights.
– We support inclusion of trademarks in WIPO Standard ST.10/C since prior applications may also be referred to in subsequent trademark applications and registrations. If other Task Force members also support inclusion of trademarks and possibly industrial designs in WIPO Standard ST.10/C, we will need to consider the best way to modify the text of WIPO Standard ST.10/C.

Negative responses:
– We question the need to include trademarks and or designs in WIPO Standard ST10/C as they already have their own related standards. However perhaps we have missed the point of this inclusion. Happy to discuss further.
– As for inclusion of trademarks and industrial designs within the scope of WIPO Standard ST.10/C, we do not see any necessity to do it. Part of information in WIPO Standard ST.10/C concerns industrial designs because of a few IPOs grant patents for them. Both trademarks and industrial designs have a number of specific bibliographic data components. A few special WIPO Standards are dedicated to bibliographic data (for example, WIPO Standards ST.60, ST.62, ST.80) and any problem which may arise from their presentation will require a separate task and separate work.

Other responses:
– We think including trademarks and industrial designs within the scope of WIPO Standard ST10/C is a difficult point. On the one hand, WIPO Standard ST10/C is a Standard relating to patent information and documentation and, on the other hand, in WIPO Standard ST10/C there are some points relating to trademarks or industrial designs. To discuss this fundamental point we need more time, so it will be better to place this question in the second phase.

Comments by the Task Force Leader:
– As for the inclusion of trademarks and industrial designs, it seems necessary to identify, in particular, whether the implication of priority numbers in the trademark and industrial design systems is similar to that in the patent system.
– In paragraph 11 of the current WIPO Standard ST.10/C, which is particularly dedicated to patents, the following two points are described as the most useful aspects:
  (i)   patent families also permit patent examiners to review previously published patent documents in a preferred language, if available; and
  (ii)   the priority application number can then be used by industrial property offices to link all related patent document "families" together in databases and computerized search systems. This ability to create patent families is tremendously valuable to industrial property offices for examination purposes.
– In case the above described points are capable of being applied to trademarks and industrial designs, the revision works associated with trademarks and industrial designs could be comparatively simple, on the other hand, in case they are not applied to them, the revision of the priority number relating to trademarks and industrial designs will need a tremendous amount of work.

– In addition, attention should be given to the fact that WIPO Standard ST.10/C belongs to the Group (b), which is for Standards relating to patent information and documentation, in the List of WIPO Standards, Recommendations and Guidelines provided in the current WIPO Handbook on the WIPO website. There is Group(c) for Standards relating to trademark information and documentation and Group (d) for Standards relating to industrial design information and documentation respectively.

– In this regard, the Task Force Leader considers that we need to have opinions or suggestions from the experts in the field of trademarks and industrial designs first.

Next Step

13.   Taking into account all of the comments and suggestions posted by the ST.10/C task Force members on the revision of WIPO Standard ST.10/C, the following items are considered main issues to be agreed on or discussed further by the ST.10/C Task Force:

(a)   Revision of WIPO Standard ST.10/C (with regard to issues related to patents, i.e., in line with the current contents of the Standard). Note: the draft revised version of WIPO Standard ST.10/C is reproduced in the Appendix to this progress report

(b)   The inclusion of issues related to trademarks in the revised version of WIPO Standard ST.10/C (if included, discuss after finalization of (a)?)

(c)   The inclusion of issues related to industrial designs in the revised version of WIPO Standard ST.10/C (if included, discuss after finalization of (a)?)

(d)   The inclusion of URI in the revised version of WIPO Standard ST.10/C (if included, discuss after finalization of (a)?), and

(e)   The survey concerning the use of check digits in relation to application numbers by industrial property offices (if included, discuss after finalization of (a)?).

14.   Please note that the draft revised version of WIPO Standard ST.10/C reproduced in the Appendix is *not* for approval by the SDWG at the tenth session of the SDWG, but for information purposes. All of the changes, both modified portions and deleted portions, in the current WIPO Standard ST.10/C are highlighted.

15.   The ST.10/C task Force invites the SDWG to provide guidance with regard to each of the items in "main issues to be agreed on or discussed further by the ST.10/C Task Force" in paragraph 13 of this report. The guidance by the SDWG will be the basis for further discussions of the ST.10/C Task Force with respect to the revision of WIPO Standard ST.10/C. In particular, the guidance with regard to the issue of the inclusion of trademarks and industrial designs within the scope of WIPO ST.10/C would be highly appreciated.

Further Work

16.   In line with the guidance provided by the SDWG, the ST.10/C Task Force would like to set the time schedule toward completion of the revision of WIPO Standard ST.10/C.

[Appendix follows]

APPENDIX

STANDARD ST.10/C
(Draft revised version)

PRESENTATION OF BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATA COMPONENTS

Editorial Note prepared by the International Bureau

The Standard and Documentation Working Group (SDWG) of the Standing Committee on Information Technologies (SCIT) adopted the revisions of paragraphs 2 and 3 of Standard ST.10/C at its fifth session on November 11, 2004. These revisions incorporate changes made necessary by the IPC reform initiative.

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, 2006, onwards. For patent documents published prior to that date, the previous text of paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Standard should continue to be used.

The previous versions of paragraphs 2 and 3 of Standard ST.10/C, valid until December 31, 2005, are reproduced in the Annex to the new Standard ST.10/C.

STANDARD ST.10/C
(Draft revised version)

(Please note that this draft revised version is NOT proposal for approval by the SDWG, but only for your information)

PRESENTATION OF BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATA COMPONENTS

Revision adopted by the SCIT Standards and Documentation Working Group
at its ~~fifth~~ XXXX session on ~~November 11, 2004~~ Month Date, 20XX

PRESENTATION OF DATES

1   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

2.   The recommended abbreviation of the International Patent Classification is "Int.Cl.". The current version indicator of the core level (year) has to be placed in round brackets after the abbreviation "Int.Cl.", if the document is classified, at least partly, 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 using the core level classification, IPC symbols are printed or displayed in regular font style, and when classifying 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 non-invention information symbols in regular;

–   when classifying 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 (year, month), is placed in round brackets after each IPC symbol.

3   Sample representations of IPC classification symbols and indicators are given below for the same document when classified using the advanced level, the core level or both the advanced level and the core level.

(a)   When classified in the advanced level:

Int. Cl.
B28B 5/00 (2006.01)
B28B 1/29 (2007.04)
H05B 3/18 (2008.07)

Where: **B28B 5/00**   indicates invention information (bold font style) classified using the advanced level classification (italics font style);

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

H05B 3/18   indicates non-invention information (regular font style, i.e., non-bold) classified using the advanced level classification (italics font style).

(b)   When classified in the core level:

> Int. Cl. (2006)
> **B28B 5/00**
> **B28B 1/00**
> H05B 3/10

> Where: **B28B 5/00**   indicates invention information (bold font style) classified using the core level classification (regular font style, i.e., non-italics);
>
> **B28B 1/00**   indicates invention information (bold font style) classified using the core level classification (regular font style, i.e., non-italics);
>
> H05B 3/10   indicates non-invention information (regular font style, i.e., non-bold) classified using the core level classification (regular font style, i.e., non-italics).

(c)   When invention information is classified in the advanced level and non-invention information in the core level:

> Int. Cl. (2006)
> *B28B 5/00* (2006.01)
> *B28B 1/29* (2007.04)
> H05B 3/10

> Where: *B28B 5/00*   indicates invention information (bold font style) classified using the advanced level classification (italics font style);
>
> *B28B 1/29*   indicates invention information (bold font style) classified using the advanced level classification (italics font style);
>
> H05B 3/10   indicates non-invention information (regular font style, i.e., non-bold) classified 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.

This presentation is effective beginning with the January 1, 2006, edition of 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   Experience has shown the need for application numbers to be presented in a clear, unambiguous manner. The considerations given below apply equally to all presentations of application numbers of patent documents whether to the application number accorded to the application filed in the issuing industrial property office or that filed in the priority country or with an organization. Application numbers are primarily used by IPOs in order to identify each application received. They are also utilized by subsequent offices and applicants when priority is claimed. Recently, the need 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 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 this Standard when revising existing presentation of application numbers of patent documents or creating new presentation of application numbers of patent documents.

6   The presentation of the application number should preferably be:

(a)   exactly in the manner used by the country or organization concerned in full,

(b)   abbreviated to the minimum significant part, enabling the application to be uniquely identified.

(a)   In the exact format as that recommended in WIPO ST.13 for applications from a country or organization which has already introduced the standard,

For detailed examples of application number format, see "Example of application numbers according to Recommendation" of WIPO Standard ST.13, or

(b)   In an excepted abbreviated form of WIPO ST 13 containing the minimum significant parts, enabling the application to be uniquely identified,

For detailed examples of the presentation of the minimum significant parts of application numbers for industrial IPOs, see the section of "Recommended Presentation in Abbreviated Forms as a Priority Application Number" given in the document "Presentation of Application Numbers" (Part 7.2.1 of WIPO Handbook), or

(c)   In the exact same format as used by the country or organization concerned in full,

For more details, see Parts 7.2.2 through 7.2.4 (in the Part 7 of WIPO Handbook) for presentations of application numbers by Industrial Property offices.

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 patent documents 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 ~~using the following rules~~ in accordance with the ~~application must be printed in their original positions;~~ WIPO ST.13 as much as possible, especially from paragraph 5. (c) to 5. (g) of the ST.13.

~~(a)   if the number contains a full stop, a comma, or perhaps a space, one or more of these characters or spaces may be omitted. One or more of these characters or spaces may be inserted for the sake of legibility;~~

~~(b)   if the number contains a slash or a hyphen, these characters must be retained. A hyphen may be replaced by a slash;~~

~~(c)   the sequence of characters should be left in its original order, e.g., the digits indicating the year of filing of ithe application must be printed in their original positions;~~

~~(d)   no character or set of characters forming the minimum~~

~~(i)   the year of the Emperor's reign appearing in Japanese application numbers should not be altered according to the Gregorian calendar;~~

~~(ii)   no infilling zeros should be removed or added, e.g., 74/0069 should not be printed as 74/69 or 74/00069;~~

~~(e)   in the case of a utility model application number, a letter or set of characters may be used by the country or organization concerned for uniquely defining the application. The letter or set of characters should be removed and the letter "U" inserted after the application number, separated by two blank spaces. The words "utility model" may be added in the plain language of the publishing country or organization;~~

~~(f)   year designations according to the Gregorian calendar should be represented by four digits;~~

~~(g)   in the case of PCT application numbers, the alphanumeric string consisting of the letters "PCT", the two-letter code identifying the receiving office, and the year, is a significant part of the application number and must not be omitted.~~

~~For guidance, two tables setting out the form of presentation of application numbers currently used by several countries or organizations, the minimum significant part of the numbers and the recommended presentation in abbreviated form as priority application numbers, are given in the document "Presentation of Application Numbers" (Part 7.2).~~

For guidance, ~~two tables setting out the form of presentation of application numbers currently used by several countries or organizations, the~~ "Minimum significant part of the numbers" ~~and the recommended presentation in abbreviated form as priority application numbers, are~~ is given in the document "Presentation of Application Numbers" (Part 7.2.1 of WIPO Handbook).

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

8   Two-letter codes according to WIPO Standard ST.3 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; ~~and~~

    (c)   the country, organization or other entity publishing the patent document; and

    (d)   the country, organization or other entity which a previous application was filed for the purpose of obtaining a filing date under the Patent Law Treaty.

The name of the country, organization or other entity publishing the patent document may be given in plain language, in addition to the ST.3 code, if so desired.

USE AND PRESENTATION OF CHECK DIGITS

9   Check digits are used by several industrial property offices in relation to application numbers or publication numbers for the purposes of internal control. Different systems are in use by different industrial property offices. Most systems give rise to a single control character, either a numeral from "0" to "9" or a letter from "A" to "Z". It is clear that the control character has to be associated with the application number or with the publication number so as to facilitate its control function. However, the control character is not regarded as a significant part of the application number nor as a significant part of the publication number.

10   In order to avoid confusion, it is recommended that the following rules be applied if industrial property offices wish to print a control character associated with an application number or with a publication number on patent documents or in official gazettes:

    (a)   the control character should consist of a single numeral; letters should not be used so as to avoid confusion with WIPO Standard ST.16;

    ~~(b)   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.~~

    (b)   the control character (or control number);

        (i)   should be located at the last position (furthest to the right) of a nine-digit serial number as prescribed in WIPO Standard ST.13;

        (ii)   should be printed immediately after an application number not in WIPO Standard ST.13 format to which it refers, but be separated there from by a full stop or by a hyphen; or

        (iii)   should be printed immediately after a publication number to which it refers, but be separated therefrom by a full stop or by a hyphen.

    (c)   industrial property offices publishing control characters associated with application numbers or with publication numbers should publish in their official gazette information explaining their use, repeated at intervals of less than one year.

PRESENTATION OF PRIORITY APPLICATION NUMBERS

11   Priority application numbers are provided to applicants by industrial property offices in the notifications of the first filing and in the certificates of priority under the Paris Convention or the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) administered by the World Trade Organization (WTO). Priority application numbers are then cited by applicants when filing a subsequent application for the same or related subject matter before a subsequent industrial property office in accordance with the Paris Convention or the TRIPs. The priority application number can then be used by industrial property offices to link all related patent document "families" together in databases and computerized search systems. This ability to create patent families is tremendously valuable to industrial property offices for examination purposes, for example, when a better date of filing is needed during the prosecution of a later unrelated application. Patent families also permit patent examiners to review previously published patent documents in a preferred language, if available. Patent families can help offices save significant classification resources (financial, staffing, etc.) by allowing industrial property offices to use the classifications of one patent family member for all 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 industrial property offices. Even small deviations from the correct priority application number format can cause patent documents to not be collected into a patent family. Correction of errors in priority data cause huge expense for industrial property offices. Therefore, it is critical that the provisions of this section of the standard be implemented by industrial property offices as soon as possible.

12   (a)   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:

Industrial property offices (IPOs) should always provide priority application number complying with "Recommended Presentation in Abbreviated Form as a Priority Application Number" given in the document "Presentation of Application Numbers" (Part 7.2) when presenting the application number of a patent document in the notification of the first filing and in the certificate of priority. The "Recommended Presentation in Abbreviated Form as a Priority Application Number" should be presented with the Standard ST.3 code (preferably in a specified line or column along with the title "The country code (in case of the international organization, 'The organization code') and number of your priority application, to be used for filing abroad under the Paris Convention, is") to be easily recognized as priority number by other IPOs and applicants.

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 application number of a patent document in a notification of first filing and in a certificate of priority.

        (a)   Industrial property offices (IPOs) should always provide priority application number complying with:

                (i)   the presentation of the WIPO Standard ST. 13 application number for the IPOs that have already introduced the ST.13; 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 introduced the ST.13 yet.

        (b)   The WIPO Standard ST13 application number or "Recommended Presentation in Abbreviated Form as a Priority Application Number" should be presented with the Standard ST.3 code (preferably in a specified line or column along with the title "The country code (in case of the international organization, 'The organization code') and number of your priority application, to be used for filing abroad under the Paris Convention, is") to be easily recognized as priority number by other IPOs and applicants.

Example of presentation of "Recommended Presentation in Abbreviated Form as a Priority Application Number":

(i)   in case of the country:
                The country code and number of your priority application, to be used for filing abroad under the Paris Convention, is JP2000-001234

(ii)   in case of the international organization:
                The organization code and number of your priority application, to be used for filing abroad under the Paris Convention, is EP79100953

        (i)   In the case of country XX having already introduced ST.13:
                The country code and number of your priority application, to be used for filing abroad under the Paris Convention, should be XX 10 2014 345678 (for more example, see last paragraph of the WIPO Standard ST.13)

        (ii)   In the case of country XX having not yet introduced ST.13:
                The country code and number of your priority application, to be used for filing abroad under the Paris Convention, should be XX2000-001234

        (iii)   In the case of the international organization XX having not yet introduced ST.13:
                The organization code and number of your priority application, to be used for filing abroad under the Paris Convention, should be XX79100953

(b)13   Industrial property offices should encourage and facilitate the compliance by applicants of paragraph 12(a) and 12(b) of the Standard ST.10/C when providing the priority application number in subsequent filings.

NEW SECTION (Need further discussion)

ANNEX

PREVIOUS VERSION OF STANDARD ST.10/C

PRESENTATION OF BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATA COMPONENTS

*Revision adopted by the PCIPI Executive Coordination Committee
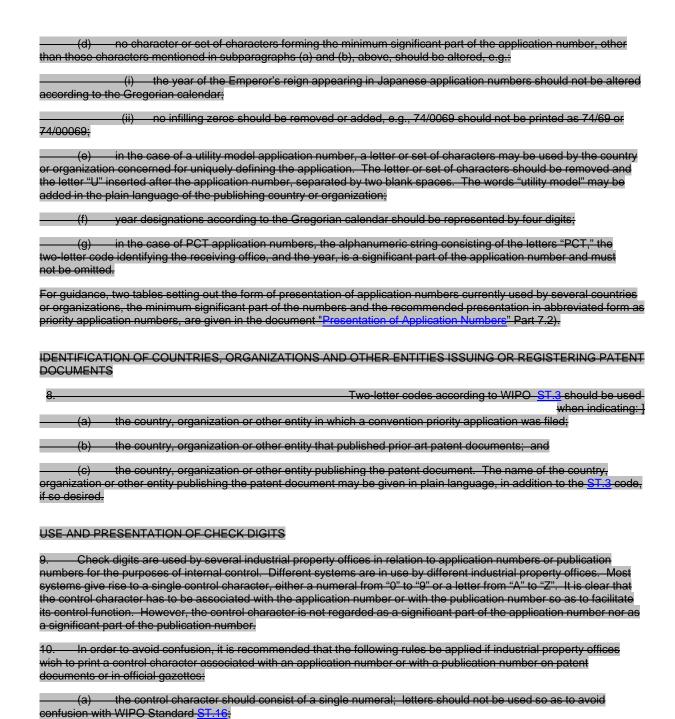at its twenty-first session on November 21, 1997*
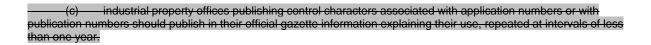
PRESENTATION OF DATES

1. 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 UNITS

2. Classification units should be presented with all elements of a given unit contained in the same line, preferably in such a manner as to facilitate machine transcription.

3. The recommended abbreviation of the International Patent Classification is "Int.Cl.". The relevant edition should be indicated as a superscript, e.g., Int.Cl.^{6} in the case of the sixth edition.

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. The subclass number must always contain two digits; for the subclasses, therefore, the numbers 1 to 9 should be preceded by a 0; the class number should be separated from the subclass number by a dash. 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. Experience has shown the need for application numbers to be presented in a clear, unambiguous manner, particularly since application numbers as presented on patent documents are frequently the sole method of identifying all members of a patent family. The considerations given below apply equally to all presentations of application numbers of patent documents whether to the application number accorded to the application filed in the issuing industrial property office or that filed in the priority country or with an organization.

6. The presentation of the application number should preferably be:

     (a) exactly in the manner used by the country or organization concerned in full, or

     (b) abbreviated to the minimum significant part, enabling the application to be uniquely identified.

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 patent documents 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 using the following rules:

     (a) if the number contains a full stop, a comma, or perhaps a space, one or more of these characters or spaces may be omitted. One or more of these characters or spaces may be inserted for the sake of legibility;

     (b) if the number contains a slash or a hyphen, these characters must be retained. A hyphen may be replaced by a slash;

     (c) the sequence of characters should be left in its original order, e.g., the digits indicating the year of filing of the application must be printed in their original positions;

(d)   no character or set of characters forming the minimum significant part of the application number, other than those characters mentioned in subparagraphs (a) and (b), above, should be altered, e.g.:

(i)   the year of the Emperor's reign appearing in Japanese application numbers should not be altered according to the Gregorian calendar;

(ii)   no infilling zeros should be removed or added, e.g., 74/0069 should not be printed as 74/69 or 74/00069;

(e)   in the case of a utility model application number, a letter or set of characters may be used by the country or organization concerned for uniquely defining the application. The letter or set of characters should be removed and the letter "U" inserted after the application number, separated by two blank spaces. The words "utility model" may be added in the plain language of the publishing country or organization;

(f)   year designations according to the Gregorian calendar should be represented by four digits;

(g)   in the case of PCT application numbers, the alphanumeric string consisting of the letters "PCT," the two-letter code identifying the receiving office, and the year, is a significant part of the application number and must not be omitted.

For guidance, two tables setting out the form of presentation of application numbers currently used by several countries or organizations, the minimum significant part of the numbers and the recommended presentation in abbreviated form as priority application numbers, are given in the document "Presentation of Application Numbers" Part 7.2).

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

8.   Two-letter codes according to WIPO ST.3 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; and

(c)   the country, organization or other entity publishing the patent document. The name of the country, organization or other entity publishing the patent document may be given in plain language, in addition to the ST.3 code, if so desired.

USE AND PRESENTATION OF CHECK DIGITS

9.   Check digits are used by several industrial property offices in relation to application numbers or publication numbers for the purposes of internal control. Different systems are in use by different industrial property offices. Most systems give rise to a single control character, either a numeral from "0" to "9" or a letter from "A" to "Z". It is clear that the control character has to be associated with the application number or with the publication number so as to facilitate its control function. However, the control character is not regarded as a significant part of the application number nor as a significant part of the publication number.

10.   In order to avoid confusion, it is recommended that the following rules be applied if industrial property offices wish to print a control character associated with an application number or with a publication number on patent documents or in official gazettes:

(a)   the control character should consist of a single numeral; letters should not be used so as to avoid confusion with WIPO Standard ST.16;

(b)   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;

(c)   industrial property offices publishing control characters associated with application numbers or with publication numbers should publish in their official gazette information explaining their use, repeated at intervals of less than one year.

FURTHER OBSERVATIONS

11.   It is desirable that this Standard be implemented by industrial property offices at the latest as of January 1, 2000.

[End of Annex and of Standard]

[End of Appendix and of document]