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Proposal for the Revision of WIPO Standard ST.26

*Document prepared by the International Bureau*

## Summary

 The Sequence Listings Task Force (SEQL Task Force) is proposing revision to the current version of WIPO Standard ST.26: version 1.6. This proposed revision includes two new examples within Annex VI, the Guidance document, some improvement regarding the consistency of terminology used and some editorial changes.

## Background

 The SEQL Task Force is responsible for the amendments to WIPO ST.26, under the framework of Task No. 44 whose description reads:

 "*Support the International Bureau by providing users' requirements and feedback on the ST.26 authoring and validation software tool; support the International Bureau in the consequential revision of the PCT Administrative Instructions; and prepare necessary revisions of WIPO Standard ST.26.*"

 Since the Standard was adopted in 2016, there have been annual updates resulting in versions 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5 and 1.6. Most recently at the tenth session, held in November 2022, there were several new examples included as part of Annex VI and certain editorial changes to improve clarity.

 Also at the tenth session of the CWS, it was agreed that the International Bureau would produce a tracked changes version detailing each and every change made to the current version of the Standard, for consideration by the CWS, regardless of whether it is a substantial or editorial change. The tracked changes version identifying the updates to the previous official version of WIPO ST.26 is available on the WIPO website at: <https://www.wipo.int/standards/en/tracked-changes.html>

## Proposed revision of WIPO Standard ST.26

 The SEQL Task Force has prepared a proposal for revision of WIPO ST.26 for consideration and where appropriate approval by the CWS, and all changes are indicated in full in Annex I to the present document using tracked changes. In Annex I, strike-through text indicates a deletion and underlined text indicates an addition. The updated XML instance which is the Appendix to Annex VI has been updated and is included as Annex II to the present document.

 The proposed changes to the Main Body of WIPO Standard ST.26 can be summarized as follows:

* Update paragraph 3(f) to replace all instances of "3'-monophosphate' to "5'-monophosphate' to be consistent with paragraph 3(g) and standard nucleotide naming conventions.

 The proposed changes to Annexes of WIPO Standard ST.26 can be summarized as follows:

1. Annex VI, Introduction: replace all instances of "3'-monophosphate' to "5'-monophosphate' to be consistent with paragraph 3(g) and standard nucleotide naming conventions;
2. Annex VI, Example 14-1: correct the structure so that it is consistent with the chemical name indicated for the disclosed sequence for both structures shown;
3. Annex VI, Example 14-1: correct the chemical name for the linker provided under Question 3;
4. Annex VI, Example 30-2: correct 'maybe ' to 'is' in the description of the polypeptide to clarify that the modification is not a variant position;
5. Annex VI, Examples: inclusion of two new Examples on inverted nucleotides; and
6. Annex VI, Example Index: removal of the cross references as this information is already available at the end of each Example.

 The proposed version number for this updated version of WIPO ST.26 is version 1.7 as this proposal is considered to include only minor updates or editorial changes. The proposed date for entry into force of this new version is July 1, 2024 but version 1.6 of WIPO ST.26 should continue to be used until this time.

 *The CWS is invited to:*

1. *note the contents of this document and the Annexes to the present document;*
2. *consider and approve the proposed revisions to WIPO Standard ST.26 as referred to in paragraphs 6 to 7 above and detailed in the Annexes to this document; and*
3. *approve July 1, 2024 as the date for entry into force of the new version 1.7.*

[Annex I follows]