

USE OF IDENTIFIERS FOR APPLICANTS BY IPOs

Country Code page

1. Please enter the two-letter country code corresponding to your Office or Organization. *

Questions page

If your Office uses or intends to use identifiers* for applicants, please complete Part A (Q1 to Q7) and Part C (Q10 to Q14) of this questionnaire. If not, please complete Parts B (Q8 to Q9) and Part C (Q10 to Q14).

*[*Note: Identifiers group applicants, which belong to the same legal entity, under a single standardized name or numerical code.]*

PART A - IDENTIFIERS

2. 1. What are the perceived advantages of using Applicant Identifiers in your Office? Please mark all that apply:

For purposes of this survey, applicant identifiers refers to standardized names or numeric codes which belong to a single legal entity. See question 6a for examples.

1a. advantages for the Office itself:

- Effective management of applicant information
- Easy to change applicant's information in all relevant records simultaneously
- Control over the length of names, in particular, ensuring that they fit in database fields or screen forms
- Effective management of foreign applicant names
- Avoiding corrupted diacritic and other specific characters
- Avoid using "similar or same looking" characters with different codes, (e.g. UTF-8hex code 0620 for Cyrillic "P" and UTF-8hex code0050 for Latin "P")
- Other - Please specify:

3. 1b. Advantages for Applicants and Patent Information Users:

- No need to repeatedly input the same information
- Accurate statistics on patent applicants and owners
- Eliminating confusion and inconsistency by unifying multiple versions of an applicant name into a single, standardized name
- Availability of information regarding the parent company of the entity filing for the patent (disclosed corporate structure)
- Avoiding mistakes, such as where the inventor's name incorrectly appears as the patentee name
- Improving accuracy for re-assignments
- Other. Please specify:

4. 2a. Does your Office publish (or intend to publish) the identifier(s) you use (or plan to use) assigned to the applicant?

For purposes of this survey, applicant identifiers refers to standardized names or numeric codes which belong to a single legal entity. See question 6a for examples.

- Yes
- No
- Not Sure

Comments

5. 2b. If yes, how:

6. 3. Does your Office include (or plan to include) the identifiers in the set of data for the exchange of patent information with other IP Offices?

For purposes of this survey, applicant identifiers refers to standardized names or numeric codes which belong to a single legal entity. See question 6a for examples.

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Comments

7. 4. Which approach to assigning identifiers does your Office use (or plan to use)?

For purposes of this survey, applicant identifiers refers to standardized names or numeric codes which belong to a single legal entity. See question 6a for examples.

- Normative (code assigned by a national authority)
- Procedural (code assigned by an international authority, e.g. WIPO, based on the applicant's IP portfolio in an agreed international database)
- Other. Please specify:

8. 5. How does your Office ensure that an applicant has only one identifier?

For purposes of this survey, applicant identifiers refers to standardized names or numeric codes which belong to a single legal entity. See question 6a for examples.

In case of national applicants,

In case of foreign applicants,

Information for question 6

Tax number: A number assigned to a business or person for tax purposes.

Copy from the register of legal entities:

Select this option if you use any type of registered name or number issued by a source outside your IPO. This could be a name or number from a variety of sources, such as:

- *a registered business number in a national directory*
- *a registered business name or trading name*
- *a name registered with your national Securities Commission or other government entity*

Do not select this option to indicate a name in any format supplied by the applicant. In that case, please answer Other.

9. 6a. What information does your Office request in order to determine identifiers for national applicants?

For purposes of this survey, applicant identifiers refers to standardized names or numeric codes which belong to a single legal entity. See question 6a for examples.

- Tax number
- Social security number
- Passport number
- Copy from the register of legal entities
- E-mail address
- Other. Please specify:

Comments

10. 6b. What information does your Office request in order to determine identifiers for foreign applicants?

For purposes of this survey, applicant identifiers refers to standardized names or numeric codes which belong to a single legal entity. See question 6a for examples.

- Tax number
- Social security number
- Passport number
- Copy from the register of legal entities
- E-mail address
- Other. Please specify:

11. 7a. Does your Office consider that a Global Identifier (GID) would be a desirable solution for applicant name standardization?


- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Comments

12. 7b. If yes, could you suggest how the GID should be established and maintained?



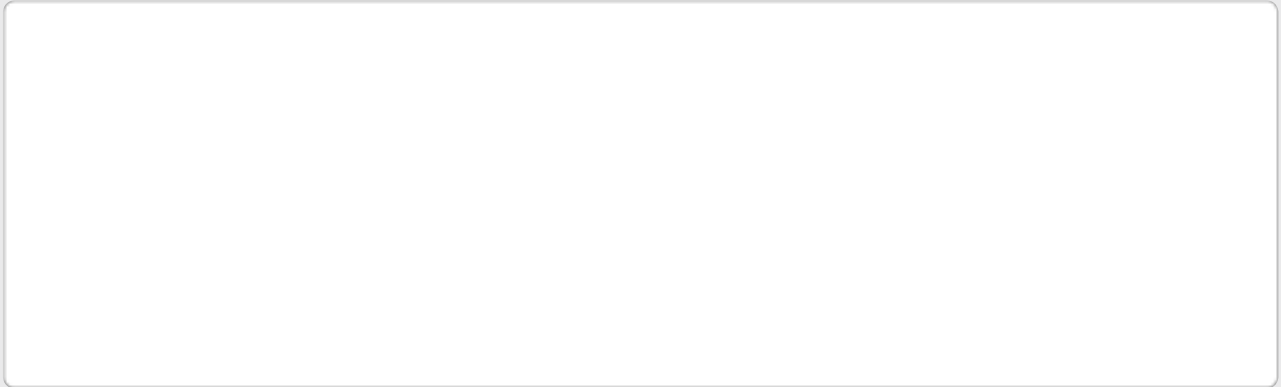
13. 7c. In case a GID is established, will your Office use both the GID and a national identifier at the same time, or will your Office use the GID instead of a national identifier?



14. PART B - NO IDENTIFIER

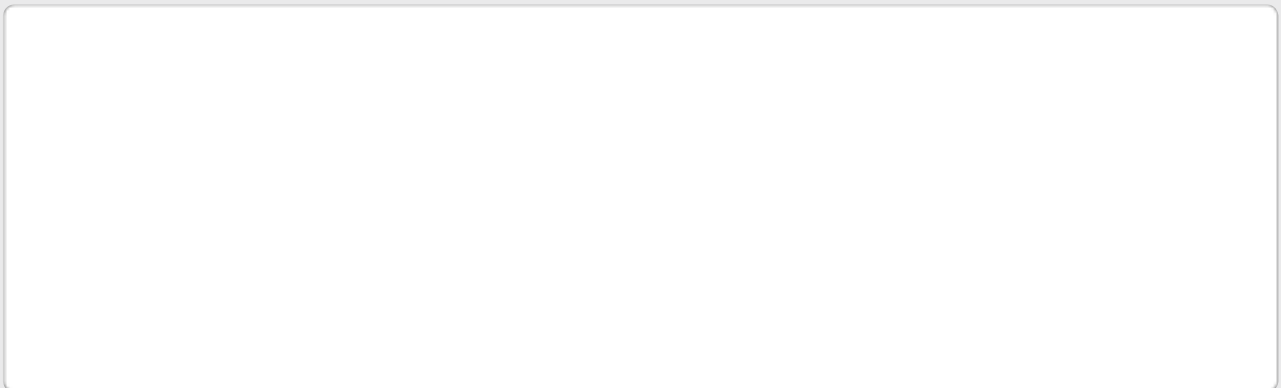
8a. If your Office does not use or does not intend to use identifiers for applicants, please explain why:

For purposes of this survey, applicant identifiers refers to standardized names or numeric codes which belong to a single legal entity. See question 6a for examples.



15. 8b. Please describe any alternative approach to the use of identifiers that your office is using or contemplates using, including how that approach deals with issues of name ambiguity (misspellings, multiple spellings, different character sets, etc):

For purposes of this survey, applicant identifiers refers to standardized names or numeric codes which belong to a single legal entity. See question 6a for examples.



16. 9. Please explain any drawbacks or legal complications your Office may have related to using identifiers:

For purposes of this survey, applicant identifiers refers to standardized names or numeric codes which belong to a single legal entity. See question 6a for examples.



PART C - STANDARDIZATION EFFORTS


17. 10. Which of the following options would you consider for investigation in your Office?

*[Note * Normalization – correction of “trivial” errors (which leave the possibility of multiple name variants for one applicant)*

*** Standardization – using one name variant for an applicant (which might not be the ultimate owner, as IP rights can be registered in the name of a subsidiary when the beneficiary is the parent company)]*


Please mark each option that you choose with (L: Low), (M: Medium) or (H: High) depending on the priority attributed by your office.

L: Low
M: Medium
H: High




Use of identifiers

L: Low
M: Medium
H: High




Normalized* names

L: Low
M: Medium
H: High



Use of “dictionaries” of patentee names by patent information

L: Low
M: Medium
H: High



Use of standardized** names designated by applicants

Other. Please specify:

18. 11. What is your Office's desired outcome from the Name Standardization Task Force (set of recommendations, public database, etc.)? Please explain:

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19. 12. Where should the standardization effort be focused? For example, on internal systems in IPOs or for externally-held IP databases?

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20. 12a. Does your Office use (or plan to use) a computer algorithm for the normalization or standardization of applicant names?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

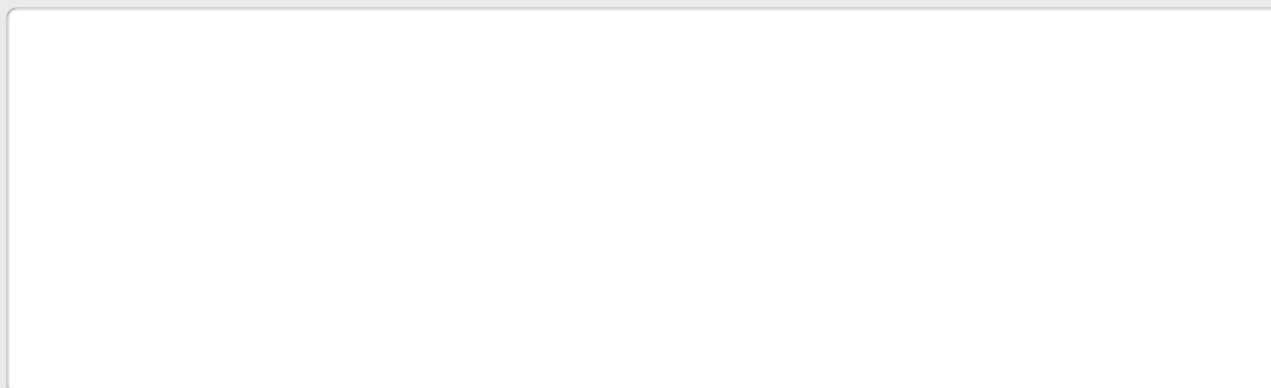
Comments

21. 12b. If yes, please briefly describe the algorithm.

A detailed description is not necessary. If the algorithm has a commonly recognized name, that may be sufficient. If not, a few words or sentences describing the general approach of the algorithm are enough. If multiple algorithms are used in combination, please briefly explain each one.

Example: "The algorithm removes non-latin characters and repeated whitespace, then uses a dictionary to replace known abbreviations with a standard format, such as "L.L.C." and "LLC." being replaced with "LLC".

22. 13. If Offices use different approaches to managing applicant names, should the standardization effort harmonize the different approaches for the purpose of the international exchange of patent information?



Review Page

You have reached the end of the survey questions. Your answers have been saved.

If you or your colleagues wish to revise your answers later, you can use the link that was originally emailed to you to return to this page. Then use the Review (or Back) button below to return to your answers.

You can also use the Save and Continue option at the top of the page to save your answers at any point.

When you are ready to submit your final answers, click the Submit button below. You will no longer be able to edit your responses after clicking Submit.

You may download a copy of your answers:

Thank You!

Thank you for taking our survey. Your response is very important to us.