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**Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)**

**Seventh Session**

**Geneva, July 1 to 5, 2019**

RevIsion of WIPO Standard ST.26

*Document prepared by the International Bureau*

## INTRODUCTION

At the sixth session of the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS), held in Geneva in 2018, the Sequence Listing Task Force (SEQL TF) proposed a series of amendments to the WIPO Standard ST.26 (see document CWS/6/16). These amendments included modifications to the Main Body of the Standard, amendments to Annexes I, II, III, IV and VI of WIPO ST.26 and the addition of a new Annex VII which provides a transformation mapping between WIPO Standard ST.25 and WIPO Standard ST.26. The CWS approved a new version of the Standard, version 1.2, which included the proposed changes captured in document CWS/6/16 but also with the addition of the following:

* replacement of the word ‘legal’ with ‘permitted’ in three separate instances;
* replacement of the word ‘portion(s)’ with ‘regions’ in 15 separate instances within the Annex VI Guidance Documents; and
* addition of a new sentence: ‘The nucleotide sequence feature key “modified base” is also present in both WIPO ST.25 and ST.26; however, Scenario 7 contains appropriate recommendations’ after the first in Scenario 9 for Annex VII Recommendation for the Transformation of a Sequence Listing from ST.25 to ST.26.

2. At its sixth session of the CWS also agreed to modify the description of Task No. 44 to read as follows:

* “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 revisions of PCT Administrative Instructions; and prepare necessary revisions of WIPO ST.26.”

As a result, that latest version of WIPO ST.26, version 1.2, was published in February 2019.

There have been two Task Force meetings to discuss revisions to WIPO ST.26: one during the sixth session of the CWS in October 2018 in person and one in April 2019 via online conference.

## SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED REVISION

### Editorial Changes

Within the framework of Task No.44, the SEQL TF carried out a review of the currently published version of WIPO ST.26 version 1.2. During this review, they uncovered a series of required editorial changes, such as unnecessary spaces or typographical errors. There were also corrections required to ensure that the WIPO Style Guide was being reflected properly within this document such as ensuring that the Latin abbreviation used to replace ‘for example’ was consistently ‘e.g.,’.

These corrections are identified in the Annex to this document (Annex I of WIPO ST.26) using green highlighted text for consideration by the CWS during the seventh session. There were editorial changes identified by the Task Force in Annexes I to VII of WIPO ST.26, although only Annex I is produced as part of this document.

### Substantive Changes

The following changes are proposed by the SEQL TF to further revise Annexes I and VII of WIPO ST.26, as identified in the Annex using yellow highlight for additions and purple highlight for deletions. No substantial changes are proposed for the Main Body of WIPO ST.26:

* 1. An update to Annex I, Table 9 to incorporate updates provided in INSDC feature table version 10.8;
  2. In Annex I, Section 5.27, including the following additional optional qualifiers:
* function
* gene
* gene\_synonym
* map
  1. In Annex I, section 5.33, including the following additional optional qualifiers:
* allele
* direction
* gene
* gene\_synonym
* map
* note
* standard\_name
  1. In Annex I, Section 5.43, including the following additional optional qualifier:
* operon
  1. In Annex I, Section 6.16, include the following additional lines:
* In the ‘Example’ column: <INSDQualifier\_value>1.1.2.n1</INSDQualifier\_value>; and
* In the ‘Comment’ column, include the following text: “Symbols including an “n”, e.g. “n”, “n1” and so on.”
  1. An update to Annex VII, third paragraph “Recommendations for potential added or deleted subject matter”, first sentence: to replace the term ‘conversion’ with ‘transformation’. The term ‘conversion’ implies that there is a one-to-one mapping between components, where this is technically incorrect.
  2. An update to Annex VII, scenario 8, number 24: to replace the term ‘SITE’ with ‘REGION’. This change was proposed by the developers who noted there is a conflict between the functional specification outlining ST.25 sequence importing and this example; XML Instances as a separate file.

It is further proposed by the SEQL TF, that in line with the proposed amendments to other WIPO Standards, that the contents of WIPO ST.26 Annex III and the Appendix to WIPO ST.26 Annex VI, which are both XML instances, be provided as two separate files and that the Standard should instead include a link to these files. It is expected that this will make these examples more accessible to readers of the Standard.

For further information on these changes, please refer to the Annex.

*The CWS is invited to:*

*(a) take note of the content of the present document; and*

*(b) consider and decide on the approval of the proposed revision of WIPO ST.26, as described in the paragraphs 4 to 6, above, and reproduced in the Annex to the present document; and*

*(c) consider and approve the suggestion to provide the content of Annex III and the Appendix to Annex VI of WIPO ST.26 as two separate files, linked to the Standard, as indicated in paragraph 7 above.*

[Annex (ST.26 Annex I) follows]