

CLASSIFICATION OF GOODS AND SERVICES

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Classification is a balancing act

■ Terminology that describe the products/services precisely enough – not too narrow and not too broad

Avoid irregularities from the IB and refusals in Designated states





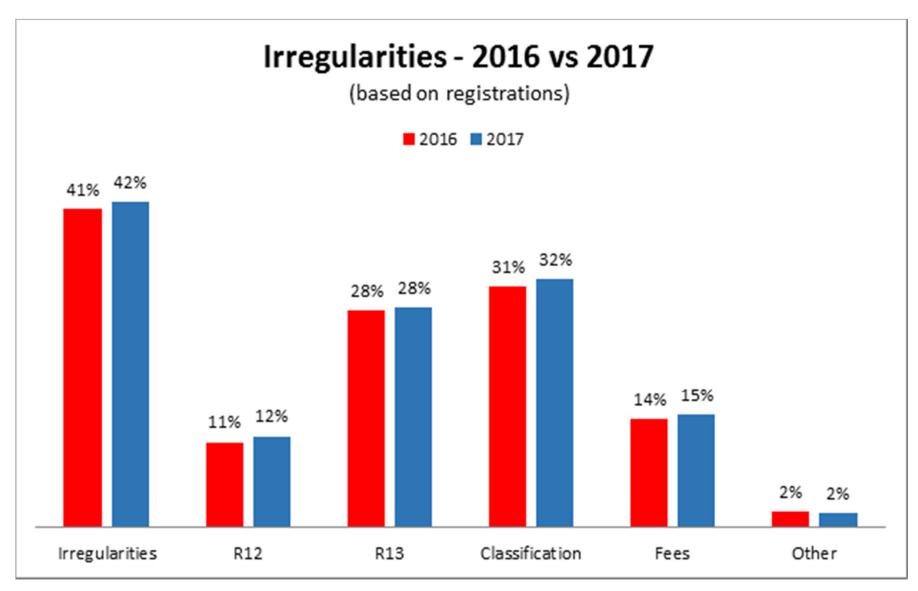
Facts affecting the classification

- Nice Classification changes every year
- New products and services on the market
- Languages, translation, terminology
- Case Law
- Different practices of the IP Offices



IRREGULARITIES







MADRID GOODS AND SERVICES DATABASE



Madrid Goods & Services

- Intitially a project in 2009
- Aim:
 - Develop and deply a database of acceptable indications of goods and services
 - Cooperating with interested Contracting parties on the translation of the database
 - Check acceptance information added later



Madrid Goods & Services Manager



- Database with a collection of acceptable terms for goods and services
- Highest volume in English
- Fully aligned with the Nice 11th edition
- "Check acceptance features" for 34 Member states and Canada



MGS - languages

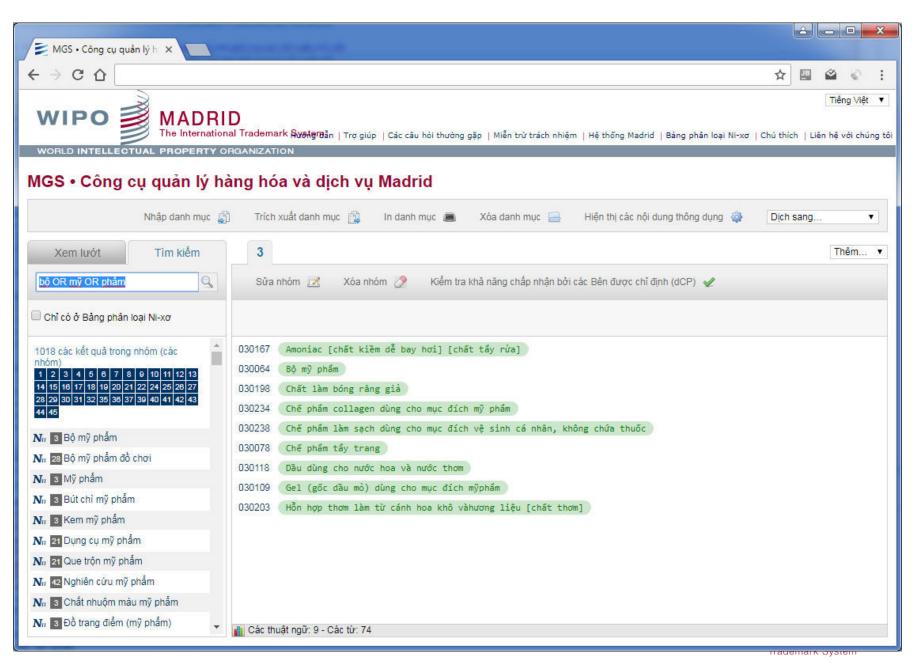
- Acceptable terms in the three working languages
 - English
 - French
 - Spanish
- 15 additional languages
- In the pipeline
 - Vietnamese, Khmer, Georgian, Thai, Indonesian



Chào mừng tiếng Việt được sử dụng trong MGS!







IPAS and MGS

- IPAS is a back office system used by several Madrid members states
- English, French and Spanish version of MGS will be made available in IPAS
- Other languages could be added later



2018 EXAMINATION GUIDELINES



Background

- Introduced in the Roundtable of the Working Group for the Legal Development of the Madrid System in June 2016. (1st version)
- Contracting Parties of the Madrid System and users' organizations were given opportunities to send their comments
- Updated version was introduced in the Roundatable in June 2017. (2nd version)



Background

- Same procedure was repeated after the Roundtable meeting in June 2017
- 25 actual feedbacks / comments received from Member States and other Organizations
 - 19 Member States (AU, BX, CH, CO, DE, EM, HU, JP, MD, ME, MG, MX, NZ, PH, PT, RU, SE, SG and US)
 - IP Office of El Salvador (observer)
 - 4 Organizations (ECTA, INTA, JIPA and JPAA)



Background

- 11 Team meetings (IB) held from December 2017 until April 2018 on the possibility of taking into consideration the comments / feedbacks received
- Sent to the International Classifications and Standards Division for further comments
- The 2018 Examination Guidelines is the 3rd version
- Also made available in French and Spanish. Next plan is to have the Examination Guidelines available in Chinese, Arabic and Russian



Contracting	Guideline Section Heading																				
Parties	1	2	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.5.1	2.5.2	2.5.3	2.5.4	2.6	2.7	3	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.6	ОС
AU						х															х
BX				х	х	х	х					х									
CH						х															х
CO				х	х								х	Х							х
DE					х		х						х								х
EM				х	х	х		x			x	х	х								х
HU				х																	х
JP									х							х				х	х
MD													х								Х
ME												х									
MG				х	х	х	х							Х							х
MX											x		х	х							х
NZ					х	X					x	х									
PH													х								х
PT						х					Х	х									
RU													х								х
SE													х								
SG				х				х													
US				х		X								х							х

Other	Guideline Section Heading																				
Organizations	1	2	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.5.1	2.5.2	2.5.3	2.5.4	2.6	2.7	3	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.6	ОС
ECTA				х	х	х		х					х		х	х					х
INTA								х				х									х
JIPA													х								
JPAA													х								х



- 2.2. General principles for the control of the indications of goods and services listed in an international application – 8 feedbacks
- 2.3. Class headings 7 feedbacks
- 2.4. Indications that can be classified in more than one class – 9 feedbacks
- 2.5. Use of certain expressions in the list of goods and services 3 feedbacks



- 2.5.1. Use of "namely", "in particular" or "i.e." to specify products or services *4 feedbacks*
- 2.5.2. Use of "and the like" or "etc." 1 feedback
- 2.5.4. Reference to other classes within the list 4 feedbacks
- 2.6. Classification of specific goods and services 6 feedbacks
- 2.7. Use of proprietary names 11 feedbacks



- 3. Formatting the list of goods and services 4 feedbacks
- 3.1. Punctuation 1 feedback
- 3.2. Use of capital letters and special characters 2 feedbacks
- 3.6. Use of brackets 1 feedback
- Other comments 16 feedbacks



Substantial changes

- 2.5.4. Reference to other classes within the list
 - Practice change such references are not accepted

Indications of goods and services which are based upon a reference to what is contained in another class <u>are not accepted</u> by the International Bureau for the purposes of classification.

For example, the expressions *computer software for services in Class 36* or *installation services in relation to the goods mentioned in Class 11 above* are not accepted.

Accordingly, when reference is made to other classes in the list of goods and services, the International Bureau will raise an irregularity under Rule 13 of the Common Regulations.



■ 2.2. General principles

Expanded explanation about classification principles of services

International Bureau will not accept indications such as *providing a* website featuring business information in Class 35 as it is unclear in respect of the nature of service and the branch of activity in which the service is provided.

On the contrary, the International Bureau will accept the indication providing business information via a website in Class 35.

Likewise, the International Bureau <u>will accept</u> the indication *providing* financial information via a website in Class 36, but <u>will not accept</u> providing a website featuring financial information in class 36.



■ 2.2. Class headings

■ Clarification regarding the effect of changes to the Class Headings vis-à-vis prior registrations

Once a mark is registered by the International Bureau, changes to a particular Class Heading will not have an impact on international registrations that list an older version of that Class Heading (i.e., changes would not be applied retroactively to international registrations).



- 2.4. Indications that can be classified in more than one class
 - Examples added to illustrate better the examination policy

3. Function:

When a particular product may be classified in more than one class according to its function and any of the applicable classes has been indicated, the International Bureau will accept this indication.

For example, the term *robots* would be accepted in

- Class 7, which includes *industrial robots*
- Class 10, which includes *surgical robots*
- Class 28, which includes *toy robots*



- 3.7. Use of brackets
 - Square brackets

Nice Classification includes certain typical national or regional products followed by a definition or explanation of the product in square brackets, e.g. *huqin* [Chinese violins] NCL 150081, randsels [Japanese school satchels] NCL 180127, kimchi [fermented vegetable dish] NCL 290162.

To the same extent, the International Bureau also accepts the use of typical national or regional products in square brackets provided that they are preceded by a definition or explanation of the product in English, French or Spanish, *rice crackers [senbei]* in Class 30.



