



Topic 14:

WIPO Standards ST.25 and ST.26

Dr. Lutz Mailänder

Head, Cooperation on Examination and Training Section

PCT International Cooperation Division

Manila
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ST.25 and Annex C of Administrative Instructions

- Annex C of the PCT Administrative Instructions defines requirements for submission of sequence listings
- WIPO Standard ST. 25 is fully equivalent to Annex C
- ST. 25 recommends to apply the requirements of Annex C not only to PCT applications but any patent application
- Sequence listings are usually part of the disclosure, i.e. they are filed with the International Application
- ISAs can require the applicant to submit sequence listings (SL) if the initially submitted SL doesn't meet the requirements of Annex C and search is not possible (Rule 13ter of the regulations)
 - Such submissions after the filing date do not form part of The international application (initial disclosure) and are identified as such.
 - Shall not go beyond the SL initially disclosed as part of the description

New ST.26

- Developed by Committee of WIPO Standards ([CWS](#); sequence listing task force)
- Entry into force is envisaged for Jan 1, 2022
- no parallel usage of St.25 and ST.26 after Jan 1, 2022
- Applies to national and international applications
- Still consultation processes under way (with PCT WG....)
 - See document [PCT/WG/12/13](#) and [PCT/WG/12/14](#)
- Regulations, AI and Annex of AI will have to be adapted (currently considered by PCT WG; adoption by GA in 2020)
- Authoring and validation tools under development by IB
- does not cater for the submission of a sequence listing on paper or in an electronic format other than XML
- "Receiving Offices will not be required to perform any checks on the contents of purported sequence listing files. Rather, the contents will be checked by the International Authorities"

Major differences between ST.25 and ST.26

	ST.25	ST.26
Format	Text	XML
Standalone document	No Contains the text of PCT AI Annex C	Yes
PCT Procedural Requirements	Yes	No
Sequences with <10 specific nucleotides <4 specific amino acids	Not prohibited	Prohibited
Sequences with D amino acids	Not required	Required
Branched sequences	Not required	Required – linear regions
Thymidine and uracil	“t” is thymidine and “u” is uracil	“t” is both thymidine in DNA and uracil in RNA
Annotations	Feature keys only	Enhanced Feature keys Qualifiers
Annotation of variant sequences	Not standardized	Standardized
Location descriptors	Not standardized	Standardized
Free text field	Max – 260 characters (4 lines of 65 characters/line)	Max – 1,000 characters
Bibliographic references	Provided for	Not provided for

Disclosure of origin of Genetic Resources

- ST.26 does not include explicit references to disclosure requirements for GR
- It includes however in section 6 qualifiers that can be used for that purpose, namely
 - 6.10 collected_by
 - 6.11 collection date
 - 6.13 cultivar
 - 6.14 dev_stage
 - 6.17 ecotype
 - 6.27 host
 - 6.28 identified_by
 - 6.29 isolate
 - 6.30 isolation_source
 - 6.32 lat_lon

Thank you

lutz.mailander@wipo.int