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PROPOSAL BY THE CZECH REPUBLIC
CONCERNING THE PRESENTATION OF CHEMICAL FORMULAE
IN PATENT SPECIFICATIONS

Document prepared by the International Bureau

1. By letter of November 18, 1999, the Industrial Property Office of the Czech Republic (CZ) made a proposal on the presentation of chemical formulae in patent specifications and requested its consideration by the Standing Committee on Information Technologies (SCIT). The text of the letter is reproduced in the Annex to this document.
2. The International Bureau recommends to consider the CZ proposal with a view to a possible elaboration of a new WIPO standard which could contain provisions on such issues as structure and layout of patent specifications, paragraph numbering of descriptions, etc. At present, the series of WIPO Standards ST.10/A to 10/D does not contain any provisions regarding content, structure and layout of patent documents.
3. *The SCIT Plenary is invited to consider the proposal made by the CZ Office and, if deemed necessary, to instruct the Standards and Documentation Working Group to deal with the matter.*

[Annex follows]

ANNEX

**TEXT OF THE LETTER FROM
THE INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY OFFICE OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC**

November 18, 1999

The chemical inventions, especially from the field of pharmaceutical chemistry and biocides (IPC C07, A61K, A01N), represent one of the most important parts of the patent activities. Patent documents from this field embody many abnormalities that cause a lot of problems when being subsequently processed because they are not subject to any standardization. These problems are especially perceptible when processing the documents in the e-form, i.e. storing in databases, making available e-versions of the documents or accepting applications in e-form. Hereby we list the main abnormalities we meet:

1. The formal layout of the documents from this field contains graphic elements (formulas, reaction diagram, charts) that appear in all parts of the document, i.e. in the state of the art, the nature of the invention, the examples and the claims. The multiple appearance of the same formula on different places in the document (at least on the title page, in the nature of the invention and in the 1st claim) means higher paper consumption when printing and when storing in the e-form. Hereby I quote EP No. 521768 as an ultimate example in which the following formula is repeated many times:



It has been manifested by the fact that when publishing the parallel document in Czech the capacity of about 10 MB was needed for the storage of the multiple appearance of the formula.

2. The notation of the functional groups structure, e.g. carboxyl group, amino group, ester group, sulfo group, amide group, etc. is not unified. These groups are written sometimes in lines (e.g. $-\text{COOH}$, $-\text{NR}_1\text{R}_2$, $-\text{SO}_3\text{H}$), sometimes in spatial form (e.g. $-\text{C}-\text{OH}$, $-\text{N}-\text{R}_2$).



3. The notation of the functional groups themselves is not unified either. Sometimes they are quoted in words (e.g. hydroxide, ketone group, amino group, chlorine, nitro group, etc.), sometimes in chemical symbols (e.g. OH , $=\text{O}$, NH_2 , NO_2).

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We believe that there exists the need to work out a standard that would, to the maximum extent, guarantee the uniformity of chemical patent documents both from the formal and from the terminological point of view. The formal layout should eliminate the multiple appearance of the chemical formulas in one document. The formulas should be included in an annex, as it is the case of patent documents from other branches. We are convinced that the current practice is the main reason why the chemical formulas are not included in the database ESPACENET, which makes the study of the documents and the search very complicated. Our proposal of the formal presentation of chemical formulas in patent documents is applied in HU patent documents.

The benefit of the unified processing of chemical patent documents will mean, first of all, saving of carriers, better orientation in patent documents, quicker handling of the document and, last but not least, decrease of the costs linked with the filing of applications. Industrial Property Office of the Czech Republic is ready to cooperate on preparation of such standard.

We kindly ask you to review our proposal and to consider its submission to the session of the SCIT Committee.

We are looking forward to further cooperation.

Yours sincerely

Jaroslav Paulík
Director of Patent Information Department

c/o: Mr. Pauwels, EPO

[End of Annex and of document]