

WIPO



SCIT/SDWG/6/2

ORIGINAL: English

DATE: August 8, 2005

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
GENEVA

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES
STANDARDS AND DOCUMENTATION WORKING GROUP

Sixth Session
Geneva, September 19 to 22, 2005

REVISION OF WIPO STANDARD ST.10/C

Document prepared by the Secretariat

1. The Standing Committee on Information Technologies (SCIT), at its seventh session, held in June 2002, created Task No. 30 for the revision of WIPO Standard ST.10/C in order to improve the quality of patent family data and to avoid confusion in the presentation of priority application numbers, and also established the ST.10/C Task Force to handle such revision. (See document SCIT/7/17, paragraph 27.)
2. The SCIT Standards and Documentation Working Group (SDWG), at its second session, held in December 2002, in accordance with the proposal made by the ST.10/C Task Force, agreed on a two-phase process for the revision of WIPO Standard ST.10/C; a first phase consisting of a moderate and pragmatic solution, and a second phase with a standardized format solution in which the Task Force would present a proposal on a unified format for priority application numbers. (See document SCIT/SDWG/2/14, paragraphs 34 to 38.)
3. During the year 2003, a revision and update of the Appendix to WIPO Standard ST.10/C was completed. The SDWG, at its fourth session, held in January 2004, adopted a revision of the Standard itself, to reflect, in paragraphs 11 and 12, a recommendation concerning the presentation of priority application numbers. Thus, the first phase was considered completed by the SDWG at that fourth session. (See document SCIT/SDWG/4/14, paragraphs 20 to 30.)

4. The SDWG, at its fifth session in November 2004, slightly modified the recommendation set out in paragraphs 11 and 12 of WIPO Standard ST.10/C. During the years 2003 and 2004, with the contribution of the ST.8 Task Force, other revisions of WIPO Standard ST.10/C were also adopted by the SDWG at its third and fifth sessions, in order to bring the said Standard into line with the reform of the International Patent Classification. (See document SCIT/SDWG/5/13, paragraphs 27 to 31; and SCIT/SDWG/3/9, paragraphs 20, 21, and 27 to 30.)
5. The SDWG, at its fourth session, recommended that, during the second phase of the discussions of the ST.10/C Task Force, proposals concerning WIPO Standard ST.13 be considered at the same time as the proposal on a unified format for priority application numbers to be included in WIPO Standard ST.10/C, in order to avoid inconsistent recommendations between these two Standards. The SDWG approved the proposal by the ST.10/C Task Force to include within the scope of the Task No. 30 the revision of the recommendations set out in WIPO Standard ST.13, at its fifth session. (See document SCIT/SDWG/5/13, paragraph 26; and SCIT/SDWG/4/14, paragraphs 31 t to 33.)
6. As a follow-up to the above-mentioned decisions by the SDWG concerning WIPO Standards ST.10/C and ST.13, the ST.10/C Task Force focused its work on the second phase, in particular on a discussion paper (Study on the Numbering of Applications for Industrial Property Rights) presented by the Task Force Leader for consideration and comments by the Task Force members. In this paper, WIPO standards, as well as current practices by industrial property offices, relating to application number formats, are analyzed in order to present a proposal on a prototype format for application numbers for different industrial property rights.
7. On June 10, 2005, the Japan Patent Office (JPO), as Leader of the ST.10/C Task Force, submitted a report by the Task Force on its progress, conclusions, proposals and remaining work to be completed, for consideration by the SDWG. This report is reproduced as Annex I to this document. An oral report on the status of the revision of WIPO Standard ST.10/C will also be presented at the sixth session of the SDWG.
8. Annex II to this document contains a revised version of the Study on the Numbering of Applications for Industrial Property Rights, referred to in paragraph 6, above, including a revised draft of the proposal on the application number prototype format for the revision of WIPO Standard ST.13. The said proposal is still a work in progress and is accompanied by a list of issues to be considered during the remaining discussions (see paragraphs 32 to 36 of Annex II).
9. Appendix 1 of Annex II to this document reproduces a comparison table of WIPO Standards ST.10/C and ST.13.
10. Appendix 2 of the Annex II to this document provides a breakdown table of application number formats taken from the Appendix to WIPO Standard ST.10/C.
11. Paragraphs 24 of Annex I, and 37 of Annex II, present a proposal by the ST.10/C Task Force on further actions concerning the second phase of its discussions, as well as the corresponding time frames, for consideration and approval by the SDWG. In this proposal, the ST.10/C Task Force invites SDWG members to provide preliminary comments on the

proposal referred to in paragraph 8, above, and updated information on application number formats, in order to further discuss and examine an ideal format for application numbers for industrial property rights.

12. The SDWG is invited:

(a) to note the report of the ST.10/C Task Force and the oral report referred to in paragraph 7, above;

(b) to consider and approve the proposal referred to in paragraph 11, above, including the invitation to SDWG members to provide comments on the proposal referred to in paragraph 8, above, and updated information on application number formats.

[Annexes follow]