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Re : ***Circular SCIT 2388***

Dear Mr. Takagi,

The EPO has studied the document on "*Inclusion of supplementary Correction Codes in WIPO ST. 14*", ref.: *SCIT/WG/1/7* prepared by the International Bureau.

The opinion of the European Patent Office on the solutions (A) and (B) proposed in this document is as follows :

- The date of issuance of a corrected patent document should always be indicated.
- The additional correction code might
 - a) not always be indicated on the corrected patent document
 - b) not be recordable in databases containing cited documents for cost reasons.

It should not be forgotten that corrected patent documents :

- are relatively rare
- contain mostly format corrections, which do not affect the technical substance.

In addition the patent examiner may be obliged to cite the original document having an earlier publication date, as compared to the filing date of the patent application he is searching against. For these reason we prefer to see your alternative (B) as an option only.

Yours sincerely,

Marc KRIER
Director Research & Development