

From: "Geoff Court" <Geoff.Court@patent.gov.uk>
To: <scit.mail@wipo.int>
Date: 1/11/05 12:03PM
Subject: Re: Circular C. SCIT 2604 - Questionnaire on Correction Procedures in Patent Offices

Please see the attached completed questionnaire.

Happy to discuss
Thanks
Geoff Court
Senior Classification & Documentation Manager
0044 1633 813603

Questionnaire on Correction Procedures in Patent Offices

*approved by the SCIT Standards and Documentation Working Group
at its fifth session on November 11, 2004*

Task No. 35: Prepare a questionnaire and carry out a survey on the implementation of WIPO Standard ST.50 and on the status of the correction procedures in the industrial property offices. Prepare a proposal regarding this matter for consideration by the SDWG.

Please provide the following contact information in order for us to contact the person responsible for the Questionnaire in case of need:

<u>Contact details of the Reporting Office:</u>	
Name of the Reporting Office	<u>GB</u> (ST.3 two-letter country/organization code) <i>United Kingdom</i>
Person to contact	Name: <i>Geoff Court</i>
	Tel. number: <i>0044 1633 813603</i>
	E-mail: <i>geoff.court@patent.gov.uk</i>

Q U E S T I O N N A I R E

The Guidelines given by WIPO Standard ST.50 aim at providing guidance to industrial property offices and other suppliers of patent information on how to issue corrections, alterations and supplements relating to patent information published in paper form or on machine-readable media.

COMPLIANCE WITH WIPO STANDARD ST.50

1. Does your Office use these guidelines?

(a) Guidelines for corrections (paragraphs 7 - 32)

ALL

PARTLY

NO

(i) If your answer was "PARTLY", which parts of WIPO Standard ST.50 are used?

- Kind-of-document codes according to WIPO Standard ST.16, e.g., A8, A9, etc.
- Data element "publication date" of the correction (INID code (48))
- Additional correction information, e.g., supplementary correction codes (example: codes on EP CD-ROMs like W, Z, etc.), together with INID code (15)
- Other – Please specify: *We re-publish (in paper format only) either just the front page or the whole specification depending on the type of correction. A footnote is added to the front page with information concerning the type of correction. The corrected front page/specification is sent to the EPO, the applicant/agent, UK Patent Information libraries and the recipients of our CD Rom A Publication Data.*

We are currently investigating supplying our corrections electronically to the EPO in ST33 Format as part of our publication contract with Xerox. This will include using the A8 and A9 codes on the documents, it is hoped that this information would then be made available through Esp@cenet.

(ii) If your answer was "NO", is your Office planning to introduce the guidelines according to WIPO Standard ST.50? If so, when?

YES NO

When?

Comments, if necessary:

b) Guidelines for alterations (paragraphs 33 – 36) ?

ALL PARTLY NO

(i) If your answer was "PARTLY", please specify the practice of your Office:

(ii) If your answer was "NO", is your Office planning to introduce the guidelines according to WIPO Standard ST.50? If so, when?

YES NO

When?

Comments, if necessary:

c) Guidelines for supplements (paragraphs 37 – 44) ?

ALL PARTLY NO

(i) If your answer was "PARTLY" please specify the practice of your Office:

(ii) If your answer was "NO", is your Office planning to introduce the guidelines according to ST.50? If so, when?

YES NO

When?

Comments, if necessary:

2. On which media are the guidelines according to WIPO Standard ST.50 used? Please indicate the guidelines used in the different media below. Please provide the requested media information for both (1) patent documents, and (2) patent gazettes, for any media on which they are provided.

(a) Paper:

(i) Patent documents: *All corrections/amendments "Errata" are re-published in the form of patent specifications or a new front page depending on the type of correction.*

(ii) Patent gazettes: *Alterations are announced in our weekly Patents Journal*

(b) CD-ROMs/DVDs:

(i) Patent documents:

(ii) Patent gazettes:

(c) Machine-readable carriers other than CD-ROMs/DVDs:

(i) Patent documents:

(ii) Patent gazettes:

3. Does your Office use other correction procedures than provided in WIPO Standard ST.50?

Paper Patent Documents: *Please see the answer to question 1 above.*

Patent Documents on CD-ROMs/DVDs:

Patent Gazettes/Bulletins (please specify media used):

Machine-readable carriers other than CD-ROMs/DVDs

(Please specify product, e.g., patent document, patent gazette, etc.):

List the WIPO Standard ST.16 kind-of-document codes used for each kind of corrected patent document. Please indicate if your Office does not change the ST.16 kind-of-document code for corrected documents:

We do not use ST.16 kind codes for our corrected patent documents. We are currently investigating supplying our corrections electronically to the EPO in ST33 Format as part of our publication contract with Xerox. This will include using the A8 and A9 codes on the documents, it is hoped that this information would then be made available through Esp@cenet.

4. In the case that your Office publishes corrections on machine-readable media:

Please indicate if corrections to image data (e.g., WIPO Standard ST.33 data) are handled differently from corrections to full text versions of the same data (e.g., WIPO Standard ST.32 data).

The production and publication of our corrections in ST.33 format is currently under review with the EPO and our publishers Xerox

Please indicate if corrections are handled differently on different media (e.g., differently on CD/DVD-ROM, magnetic tape, on-line, etc.):

Only in paper format at present, as mentioned above it is hoped to develop corrections on CD Rom in ST.33 format in 2005 using the ST.16 kind codes A8 and A9.

5. If you use correction procedures that are not fully in accordance with WIPO Standard ST.50 and do not plan to be fully in line with this Standard in the future, please explain why. In particular, please indicate any concerns you have with WIPO Standard ST.50 that cause problems with its implementation.

N/A

6. Do you see a necessity to update or amend WIPO Standard ST.50? In which area(s)?

No

TYPE AND CAUSE OF ERRORS

7. Is the origin of errors leading to corrections mainly due to the applicant or to the internal processes of your Office?

- More from the applicant side
- More from the Patent Office side
- About equally from applicant and Patent Office

Comments, if necessary: *66% of are corrections are as a result of incorrect internal actions/procedures.*

8. What is the number of corrections published by your Office every year, in absolute values and/or percentage of the overall publication volume?

500 on average per annum for both A and B publications (2.1%)

9. Has a significant change occurred in the number of corrections issued in the past years?

More corrections

Stable

Fewer corrections

Comments, if necessary:

10. Who makes the final decision of publishing a correction?

The examiner

The formality officer

The publication department

All, in cooperation

Other – Please specify: *Any of the above, it is dependant on the type of correction*

Comments, if necessary: *It is dependant on the type of correction*

11. Is a request for correction from an applicant usually granted?

YES NO

Comments, if necessary: *It depends on the nature of the correction and the supporting evidence if required.*

12. How long, on average, does your Office take to publish a correction once an error becomes known?

Between 1 and 2 weeks

Comments, if necessary: *Some corrections may take longer if additional evidence to support the request is required.*