

From: "Geoff Court" <Geoff.Court@patent.gov.uk>
To: <scit.mail@wipo.int>
Date: 1/11/05 12:05PM
Subject: Re: Circular C. SCIT 2605 - Questionnaire on the Harmonization and Identificatin of the Parts of Patent Specifications

Please see the attached completed questionnaire.

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

Questionnaire on the Harmonization and Identification
of the Parts of Patent Specifications

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

Task No. 36: Prepare a questionnaire and carry out a survey in order to clarify the different practices by industrial property offices regarding difficulties in citing specific parts of the description of the invention text in a patent document. 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) <u>United Kingdom</u>
Person to contact	Name: <u>Geoff Court</u>
	Tel. number: <u>0044 1633 813603</u>
	E-mail: <u>geoff.court@patent.gov.uk</u>

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

1. Does your Office use any practices to make citing of specific parts of patent documents possible independent of the media and formats on which the document is stored or published?

YES NO

2. In the light of new developments in media and formats, is your Office planning to introduce new practices regarding citing of specific parts of patent documents?

YES NO

3. If your Office is planning to introduce those practices, when will they be introduced?

We have no immediate plans, we currently use EPOLINE for our electronic filing means and are developing an electronic case management system based on the EPO's Phoenix system, we will therefore be guided by the XML developments of EPOLINE, PatXML and Phoenix.

4. In WIPO Standard ST.36 paragraph numbering in patent document is foreseen. If your Office is using or planning to use practices for unambiguous citing of the text, which practices are or will be used?

- Paragraph numbering
- Sentence counting
- Word Counting
- Other – Please specify:

5. If paragraph numbering is done or foreseen by your Office, who defines or will define the paragraphs to be numbered?

- (a) Basically the applicants
- (b) The Office, e.g. the examiners
- (c) Other –Please specify: *it is foreseen that it would be a combination of (a) and/or (b) and driven by the XML developments of E Filing and Electronic case management.*

6. If according to 5 (a) the applicants define or will define the paragraphs, does or will your Office give guidance as to, e.g., how long a paragraph should ideally be?

YES NO

Comments, if necessary:

7. If your Office is using or planning to use practices for unambiguous citing of the text, how are the claims treated (or how will they be treated)?

No change to current UK Legislation is foreseen, the claims will be identified and start on a separate page to the description and abstract. Claims are numbered consecutively.

8. Does your Office count or intend to count other parts of the specification apart from textual parts, e.g., embedded images, tables, etc.? Please specify:

No

9. Do you plan to create within the user interface of your electronic patent information products or services an option to suppress the display of the numbers allotted to paragraphs, sentences, etc.? Please specify the products or services and the methods used:

This will be dependant on the electronic product development as identified in question 3 above.

10. If your Office has introduced or is planning to introduce e-filing, does it intend to implement or change its practices concerning the citing of specific parts of patent documents with regard to e-filing?

YES NO

Please elaborate: *Developments in the epoline (RTM) system and also the development of a UK version of PatXML will allow this Office to reassess the format of the patent applications it receives, however, there are no changes in practice planned at present.*

11. What are, according to the position of your Office, aspects which seem to be difficult?

- Long paragraphs – Comments, if necessary:
- Other –Please specify:

12. Do you intend to introduce additional measures to solve the problem of unambiguous citing?

- Instructions to the applicant
- Other –Please specify: *No*

[End of Annex and Questionnaire]