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**To:** <scit.mail@wipo.int>  
**Date:** 2/9/05 5:12PM  
**Subject:** circ2604; circ2605.

(See attached file: circ2605.doc)(See attached file: circ2604.doc)

Dr. Karen Ryan,  
Patents Office,  
Government Buildings,  
Hebron Road,  
Kilkenny,  
Ireland.

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>IE</u> (ST.3 two-letter country/organization code) <u>IRISH PATENT OFFICE</u>
Person to contact	Name: <u>DR. KAREN RYAN</u>
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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?

*There are currently no plans to introduce new measures for citing specific parts of patent documents.*

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: *Page and line numbering, e.g. Pg 16, lines 22-30.*

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:

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: *The description should be clear and intelligible, therefore the paragraph length used should anticipate this.*

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)?

*The claim text is cited using page, claim and line numbering, e.g. Pg 18, claim 4, lines 34-36.*

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:

*Tables are allowed amidst the descriptive text to aid understanding of the inventive concept. These are dealt with using page, table and line numbering, e.g. Pg 25, table 1, line 28.*

*Each image/drawing is allocated a reference number, e.g. Figure 1, which allows easy citing of a particular image.*

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:

*No. All electronic patent information products display a PDF version of the original patent document, therefore removal of numbers allotted to lines, etc. is not possible.*

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: *There are currently no plans to introduce e-filing in the short or medium term, therefore no changes shall be made to the current practices for citing specific parts of patent documents.*

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

Long paragraphs – Comments, if necessary:

Other –Please specify: *The current system is sufficient at the moment, but any change in the format of citing specific parts of patent text will require revision of Irish patent legislation.*

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

Instructions to the applicant

Other –Please specify:

[End of Annex and Questionnaire]