

## DRAFT

# SURVEY OF PRACTICES IN INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY OFFICES REGARDING CODES USED FOR INTERNAL PURPOSES OR INDIVIDUAL USE

### Introduction

1. The Standards and Documentation Working Group (SDWG), at its eighth session, held in March 2007, requested the International Bureau (IB) to undertake a survey on the codes regarding patents, trademarks and industrial designs, which are normally used by IPOs for internal purposes or individual use. The intention of the survey was not to collect all of the codes that offices use, but only those codes that could be of interest to the users of industrial property information (see paragraph 36 of document [SCIT/SDWG/8/14](#)).

2. The use of codes is a convenient method of presenting and easily understanding an element of information in a precise, shortened and uniform way. The use of codes is also useful for distinguishing different elements of information, as well as for improving data process and access to information. Industrial property offices (IPOs) use very often codes to identify some elements of industrial property information in their official publications, documents, records, databases, etc. Users of industrial property information may sometimes encounter difficulties in identifying the meaning of the codes. In order to overcome most of these difficulties, WIPO has developed recommendations providing the definitions for a number of codes which are widely used in the field of industrial property information and documentation. There are, however, also codes regarding patents, trademarks and industrial designs that have been developed by IPOs for internal purposes or individual use.

3. WIPO Standard ST.9 provides the list and definitions of numerical codes allotted to bibliographic data relating to patents, the so-called “INID Codes” or “INID Numbers” (“INID” is an acronym for “Internationally agreed Numbers for the Identification of (bibliographic) Data”). WIPO Standards ST.60 and ST.80 cover the lists of INID codes developed for the identification of bibliographic data relating to trademarks and industrial designs, respectively. By these INID codes, it is possible to identify the various data usually printed on the first pages of industrial property documents and certificates, and published in official gazettes, without actual knowledge of the language used and the laws, conventions or treaties applied. WIPO Standard ST.3 recommends the use of the so-called “two-letter country codes”. WIPO Standard ST.16 recommends the letter codes and numerical codes that should be applied for the identification of the different kind of patent documents published by IPOs; moreover, Part 7.3 of the *WIPO Handbook on Industrial Property Information and Documentation* (WIPO Handbook) provides examples of different kinds of patent documents and their corresponding WIPO Standard ST.16 kind-of-document codes published by IPOs.

4. This survey was prepared on the basis of the replies by IPOs to a questionnaire that was distributed along with Circular SCIT 2644 in November 2007. The circular, the questionnaire and the responses received by the IB are available on WIPO’s website at: <http://www.wipo.int/scit/en/mailbox/circ07.html>

## Survey Results

5. The following 26 Offices responded to the survey:

Armenia (AM), Austria (AT), Belgium (BE), Bulgaria (BG), Canada (CA), China (CN), Czech Republic (CZ), Germany (DE), Estonia (EE), European Patent Office (EP), Georgia (GE), Hungary (HU), Kazakhstan (KZ), Monaco (MC), Republic of Moldova (MD), Mexico (MX), Malaysia (MY), Netherlands (NL), Poland (PL), Russian Federation (RU), Serbia (RS), Slovakia (SK), Thailand (TH), United Republic of Tanzania (TZ), Ukraine (UA), United States of America (US).

6. Of the 26 responding Offices, 6 Offices (AM, BG, CZ, MC, NL and TH) informed that they do not have codes for internal purposes or individual use.

7. Nineteen Offices (AT, BE, CN, DE, EE, EP, GE, HU, KZ, MD, MX, MY, PL, RS, RU, SK, TZ, UY and US) provided information regarding patents; 15 Offices (AT, CA, DE, EE, GE, HU, KZ, MD, PL, RS, RU, SK, TZ, UA and US) regarding trademarks and 13 Offices (AT, CN, DE, EE, GE, KZ, MD, MX, PL, RS, RU, SK and UA) regarding industrial designs.

8. The Appendix to this survey present the responses collated in three tables, respectively, for patents, trademarks and industrial designs. In these tables, column “External exposure” indicates whether the corresponding code has been exposed to the industrial property community in external publications and/or fora. If the answer to the “External exposure” is “Yes”, column “Publications/Fora” refers in what publications and/or fora the code has been exposed to the industrial property community.

9. Whenever it was possible to find the information provided by the IPOs in WIPO Standards ST.3, ST.9, ST.16, ST.60, ST.80 and Part 7.3 of the WIPO Handbook, this information was not included in the tables.

10. The RU Office reported the publication, along with the bibliographic data, of some specific entries which are presented using plain language, but no code is used for their representation. This information is also included in the survey.