

Analysis of Citation Information

Provided by: the Patent Documentation Group IMPACT group

Date: November 9, 2007

Context: Reference material for the Standards and Documentation Working Group Citation Practices Task Force

| Country | CC | Search | Relevance indicators | Opposition period (Months) | Online availability search report | Online availability opposition citations |
|------------------|----|--------|----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Australia | AU | + | | 3 | | |
| Austria | AT | + | + | 4 | | |
| Belgium | BE | + | + | | | |
| Brazil | BR | + | | 6 | | |
| Canada | CA | | | File objections ¹ | | |
| China | CN | + | | | | |
| Czech Republic | CZ | | | | | |
| Czechoslovakia | CS | | | | | |
| Denmark | DK | + | + | 9 | | |
| Estonia | EE | + | | | | |
| European Patents | EP | + | + | 9 | + | + |
| Finland | FI | + | | 9 | | |
| France | FR | + | + | File objections ² | (+) | |
| Germany | DE | + | (+) ³ | 3 | + | (+) ⁴ |
| Hungary | HU | + | | | | |
| Iceland | IS | | | 9 | | |
| India | IN | | | 4 | | |
| Ireland | IE | + | | | | |
| Israel | IL | + | | 3 | | |
| Italy | IT | - | | | | |
| Japan | JP | + | | 6 | | |
| Kazakstan | KZ | + | | | | |

¹ CA: Opposition is not possible, but a third party may file objections against granting, based on existing prior art.

² FR: "File" indicates that opposition is not possible in France; third party persons may file objections with the Patent Office after publication of the granted patent.

³ DE: It is under discussion within the German Patent Office whether the relevance indicators will be made available to the public. If so, these relevance indicators will only be available for part of the examinations.

⁴ DE: Opposition citations during the opposition procedure will only be available after the opposition procedure, and only for a part of the cases

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|--------------------|----|----------------|----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Korea | KR | + | | 3 | + | |
| Latvia | LV | + | | 3 | | |
| Lichtenstein | LI | | | | | |
| Luxembourg | LU | + | + | | | |
| Mongolia | MN | + | | | | |
| Netherlands | NL | + ⁵ | + | + | + | |
| New Zealand | NZ | + | | 3 | | |
| Norway | NO | + | | 9 | - | |
| PCT | WO | + | + | | + | |
| Poland | PL | + | | 6 | | |
| Portugal | PT | | | 3 | | |
| Romania | RO | + | | 6 | | |
| Russian Federation | RU | + | | | | |
| Saudi Arabia | | | | 3 | | |
| Slovakia | SK | | | | | |
| South Africa | ZA | | | | | |
| Spain | ES | + | + | 2 | + | (+) ⁶ |
| Sweden | SE | + | + | 9 | | |
| Switzerland | CH | + | | 3 | | |
| Taiwan | TW | | | 3 | | |
| Turkey | TR | + | + | | | |
| United Kingdom | GB | + | + | File | + | |
| USA | US | + | | Re-exam ⁷ | + | |
| WIPO | WO | + | + | - | + | - |

Source: Hans-Scheer Fachverlag, 97th edition-2007 "International Table to Patents"

⁵ NL: Since 1995 the patent law in NL has changed. This means that opposition is possible on granted patents that were filed before 1995. For granted patents, filed after 1995, third parties can file objections.

⁶ ES: Opposition citations are not available yet to the public.

⁷ US: The US does not have an opposition procedure. A third party can request for re-examination proceedings of a granted patent.