

USE OF IDENTIFIERS FOR APPLICANTS BY IPOs

Response ID:21; fgus Data

1. Country Code page

1. Please enter the two-letter country code corresponding to your Office or Organization.

GB

2. Question page

2. 1. What are the perceived advantages of using Applicant Identifiers in your Office? Please mark all that apply:
For purposes of this survey, applicant identifiers refers to standardized names or numeric codes which belong to a single legal entity. See question 6a for examples.

1a. advantages for the Office itself:

Effective management of applicant information

Easy to change applicant's information in all relevant records simultaneously

Effective management of foreign applicant names

Other - Please specify:: Supports our enterprise data strategy for self service of applicant data as part of our Digital Transformation.

3. 1b. Advantages for Applicants and Patent Information Users:

No need to repeatedly input the same information

Accurate statistics on patent applicants and owners

Eliminating confusion and inconsistency by unifying multiple versions of an applicant name into a single, standardized name

Improving accuracy for re-assignments

Other. Please specify:: As section 1 a) above

4. 2a. Does your Office publish (or intend to publish) the identifier(s) you use (or plan to use) assigned to the applicant?
For purposes of this survey, applicant identifiers refers to standardized names or numeric codes which belong to a single legal entity. See question 6a for examples.

Yes

Comments:

5. 2b. If yes, how:

Through our on-line IP Registers

6. 3. Does your Office include (or plan to include) the identifiers in the set of data for the exchange of patent information with other IP Offices?

For purposes of this survey, applicant identifiers refers to standardized names or numeric codes which belong to a single legal entity. See question 6a for examples.

No

Comments: Does not form part of our weekly ST.36 data exchange with EPO or other National Offices.

7. 4. Which approach to assigning identifiers does your Office use (or plan to use)?

For purposes of this survey, applicant identifiers refers to standardized names or numeric codes which belong to a single legal entity. See question 6a for examples.

Normative (code assigned by a national authority)

8. 5. How does your Office ensure that an applicant has only one identifier?

For purposes of this survey, applicant identifiers refers to standardized names or numeric codes which belong to a single legal entity. See question 6a for examples.

In case of national applicants,: We don't currently avoid the duplication of our applicants, however we will look to address this going forward with our Digital Transformation of services for our customers

In case of foreign applicants,: As above

9. 6a. What information does your Office request in order to determine identifiers for national applicants?

For purposes of this survey, applicant identifiers refers to standardized names or numeric codes which belong to a single legal entity. See question 6a for examples.

Other. Please specify:: Name & Address

Comments: None of the above, investigating as part of our digital transformation

10. 6b. What information does your Office request in order to determine identifiers for foreign applicants?

For purposes of this survey, applicant identifiers refers to standardized names or numeric codes which belong to a single legal entity. See question 6a for examples.

Other. Please specify:: Name & Address

11. 7a. Does your Office consider that a Global Identifier (GID) would be a desirable solution for applicant name standardization?

Yes

Comments: On the assumption this is unique

12. 7b. If yes, could you suggest how the GID should be established and maintained?

Across all IP rights (Patents, Trade Marks and Designs) would be preferred to support our vision of a single customer view transacting across all IP Rights.

13. 7c. In case a GID is established, will your Office use both the GID and a national identifier at the same time, or will your Office use the GID instead of a national identifier?

We would support the long term transition to a GID from our current (or new) National Identifiers.

14. PART B - NO IDENTIFIER

8a. If your Office does not use or does not intend to use identifiers for applicants, please explain why:

For purposes of this survey, applicant identifiers refers to standardized names or numeric codes which belong to a single legal entity. See question 6a for examples.

N/A

15. 8b. Please describe any alternative approach to the use of identifiers that your office is using or contemplates using, including how that approach deals with issues of name ambiguity (misspellings, multiple spellings, different character sets, etc):

For purposes of this survey, applicant identifiers refers to standardized names or numeric codes which belong to a single legal entity. See question 6a for examples.

N/A

16. 9. Please explain any drawbacks or legal complications your Office may have related to using identifiers: For purposes of this survey, applicant identifiers refers to standardized names or numeric codes which belong to a single legal entity. See question 6a for examples.

N/A

17. 10. Which of the following options would you consider for investigation in your Office?

[Note * Normalization – correction of “trivial” errors (which leave the possibility of multiple name variants for one applicant)

**** Standardization – using one name variant for an applicant (which might not be the ultimate owner, as IP rights can be registered in the name of a subsidiary when the beneficiary is the parent company)]**

Please mark each option that you choose with (L: Low), (M: Medium) or (H: High) depending on the priority attributed by your office.

	L: Low	M: Medium	H: High
Use of identifiers			X
Normalized* names		X	
Use of “dictionaries” of patentee names by patent information		X	
Use of standardized** names designated by applicants	X		

Other. Please specify:

Company Registration Number, Tax number, reuse of other Government Departments data

18. 11. What is your Office’s desired outcome from the Name Standardization Task Force (set of recommendations, public database, etc.)? Please explain:

1. Explore the possibility of creating a global identifier
2. Understanding other National Office procedures
3. Contributing to shaping the future developments in this area.

19. 12. Where should the standardization effort be focused? For example, on internal systems in IPOs or for externally-held IP databases?

Internally within National Offices and externally through PATSTAT.

20. 12a. Does your Office use (or plan to use) a computer algorithm for the normalization or standardization of applicant names?

No

Comments: For the purpose of analysis only we normalise names using a computer algorithm (fuzzy matching).

21. 12b. If yes, please briefly describe the algorithm.

A detailed description is not necessary. If the algorithm has a commonly recognized name, that may be sufficient. If not, a few words or sentences describing the general approach of the algorithm are enough. If multiple algorithms are used in combination, please briefly explain each one.

Example: "The algorithm removes non-latin characters and repeated whitespace, then uses a dictionary to replace known abbreviations with a standard format, such as "L.L.C." and "LLC." being replaced with "LLC".

N/A

22. 13. If Offices use different approaches to managing applicant names, should the standardization effort harmonize the different approaches for the purpose of the international exchange of patent information?

Ideally yes.
