

USE OF IDENTIFIERS FOR APPLICANTS BY IPOs

Response ID:15; owok Data

1. Country Code page

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

JP

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

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

Other. Please specify:: The burden of applicants can be reduced. For example, when addresses or names, etc. of applicants granted identification numbers are changed, information on cases of applications continuing are all changed to the updated one by submitting just one notification of change of the applicant address or name, etc.

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:

JPO describes the identifiers on our official gazettes.

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.

Yes

Comments:

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.

Other. Please specify:: JPO itself assigns identification numbers to applicants.(We've selected "other" because the word "Normative" is unclear in meaning.)

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,: JPO ensures it by matching the name, address and seal of the applicant (a person or a legal entity).

In case of foreign applicants,: JPO ensures it by matching the name and address of the applicant (a person or a legal entity).

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:: In the case of procedures in writing, JPO requests names, addresses and seals of national applicants (persons or legal entities). In the case of procedures by online, JPO requests names, addresses and digital certificates of national applicants (persons or legal entities).

Comments:

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:: JPO requests names and addresses of foreign applicants (persons or legal entities).

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

Not sure

Comments: Although what "GID" means in the context is not clear, if it means unified identifiers used in common at each IPO, then JPO considers that it could be a certain solution for applicant name standardization. For that, GID is required to be adopted by at least a large majority of IPOs. However, the feasibility is unknown. In addition, solutions for legal and technical issues for adoption of GID at each IPO are also unknown. Therefore, JPO cannot decide whether GID would be a desirable solution for applicant name standardization.

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

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?

As mentioned above, JPO cannot decide whether GID would be a desirable solution. Therefore, even if GID is established, the adoption is undecided.

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.

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.

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.

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			
Use of “dictionaries” of patentee names by patent information			
Use of standardized** names designated by applicants			

Other. Please specify:

As to "Use of identifiers" above, at JPO, identifiers are used for identification of applicants.

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

Based on only the outcome from the Name Standardization Task Force, JPO cannot impose legal constraints on applicants of JPO.

Therefore, the outcome from the Name Standardization Task Force should be confined to provision of legally non-binding set of recommendations for the Name Standardization, etc.

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

Owing to the standardization effort by IPOs, the effort should be confined to internal systems in IPOs in principle. Moreover, the outcome of the effort should not bind on applicants legally.

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

Not sure

Comments:

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”.

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?

Even if the issue cannot be solved directly by set of recommendations, etc. presented by the Name Standardization Task Force, JPO considers that it is important to facilitate harmony of approaches to managing applicant names at each IPO.