

# USE OF IDENTIFIERS FOR APPLICANTS BY IPOs

Response ID:35; naxw Data

## 1. Country Code page

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

AU

## 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

Control over the length of names, in particular, ensuring that they fit in database fields or screen forms

Avoiding corrupted diacritic and other specific characters

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

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

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.*

No

**Comments:** We don't use unique codes / numbers we rationalise applicant names where possible

2b. If yes, how:

5. 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?

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No

**Comments:** We don't use unique codes / numbers we rationalise applicant names where possible

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

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Normative (code assigned by a national authority)

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

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In case of national applicants,: Manual data cleansing

In case of foreign applicants,: Manual data cleansing

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**8. 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.***

E-mail address

**Comments:** Presently use name and email address. IPA has commenced a paper on moving towards customer centric data models as oppose to IP Right centric which depending on the outcomes will assist with applicant identity management.

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**9. 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.***

E-mail address

Other. Please specify:: Name

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**10. 7a. Does your Office consider that a Global Identifier (GID) would be a desirable solution for applicant name standardization?**

Yes

**Comments:** Useful for harmonisation

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**11. 7b. If yes, could you suggest how the GID should be established and maintained?**

Framework, Policy work, agreement with member states.

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**12. 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?**

This would depend on situation for example if something came through Madrid or PCT it would be expected we could/ would use GID but if something was purely domestic a national identifier may be more relevant. However, we aren't this far down the path yet.

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**13. PART B - NO IDENTIFIER**

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

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**14. 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.***

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**15. 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.**

16. 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:

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

Set recommendations.

Assistance with move from IP Right Centric data models to Customer Centric Data models

Centralised applicant name search could be useful

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

All IPOs being able to access an externally resolved database that is accurate and up to date would be beneficial. This would reduce re-work and duplication of efforts, particularly when considering International applications / applicants.

19. 12a. Does your Office use (or plan to use) a computer algorithm for the normalization or standardization of applicant names?

Yes

Comments: Presently no automated tool.

20. 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”.**

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**21. 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?**

Transparency and collaboration across all organisations would be beneficial, so that best approaches and tools can be selected. For example, IPA has engaged with NIPO and UKIPO to find out more about their work on centralised party data model and applicant identification.

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