

February 9, 2026

Re: Request for IP offices to provide their Authority Files

Madam,
Sir,

At its eighth session, held in 2020, the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS) requested that the Secretariat issue an annual Circular inviting Intellectual Property Offices (IPOs) to provide the International Bureau with updates to their authority file data, by the deadline of March 1 each year.

IPOs are hereby invited to provide any updates to their existing [WIPO Standard ST.37](#)-compliant authority file(s), or alternatively any updates to the date coverage range or update frequency if they host their own authority file(s).

IPOs which have not previously provided their authority file(s) are also encouraged to provide their authority file data for the first time. In this regard, an IPO must provide, in addition, information regarding the date range for which the authority file is valid and any remarks regarding the frequency of the update that will be provided by that Office. The International Bureau recommends that IPOs provide a definition file as it supports the use of the authority file(s). An example is provided as Annex I to WIPO Standard ST.37.

It is recommended that IPOs host their own authority file and provide the International Bureau with a URL link for publication on the [WIPO Authority File Portal](#). If the IPO prefers to provide the International Bureau with its own authority file, then please contact the International Bureau at: standards@wipo.int for further instructions on means to provide it.

A set of general guidelines on how to produce a WIPO Standard ST.37-compliant authority file is already available on the WIPO website in [English](#), [French](#) and [Spanish](#).

With the coming into force of the latest version of the Administrative Instructions under the Patent Treaty Cooperation (PCT) on January 1, 2026, it is expected to see an increase in the number of authority files compliant with WIPO Standard ST.37 available on the Authority File Portal.

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At its thirteenth session, the CWS approved version 3.0 of WIPO Standard ST.37. In this new version, the provision of a definition file is now mandatory. It is up to the Office to decide whether to upgrade to this new version or whether to continue to use an earlier version. The PCT International Searching Authorities must use either version 2.2 or version 3.0. At the same session, the CWS Authority File Task Force presented a proposal to improve the Authority File Portal. If your Office has any suggestion to improve the Portal, or join the Task Force to participate in future discussions, please contact us at: cws.mail@wipo.int.

Your Office is invited to provide your authority file data or information on any updates to your existing authority file data by March 1, 2026 to the International Bureau at: standards@wipo.int. It would be appreciated if the number of this circular could be quoted as a reference in all correspondence.

Yours sincerely,



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