

USE OF IDENTIFIERS FOR APPLICANTS BY IPOs

Response ID:29; vujm Data

1. Country Code page

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

US

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:

Other - Please specify:: N/A

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

Other. Please specify:: N/A

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.

Comments: N/A

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?

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.

Comments: N/A

6. 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:: N/A

7. 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.

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.

Other. Please specify::

Comments: N/A

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.

Other. Please specify:: N/A

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

Comments: N/A

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

N/A

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?

N/A

13. 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.

When an application is filed, the USPTO does not require the applicant to use a unique identifier. At this time, the USPTO does not intend to use identifiers for applicants however we would be interested in the results of this survey and will continue to monitor the topic.

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.

There are no alternative approaches under consideration at this time.

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.

The USPTO does not presume to assume applicants intention when they enter applicant name. The USPTO takes at face value the information applicants provide. It is up to the applicant to correct this information as needed.

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:

To identify situations where applicants would find this necessary.

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

N/A

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

No

Comments:

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”.

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?

N/A