

Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)

Thirteenth Session
Geneva, November 10 to 14, 2025

PROPOSAL FOR A NEW WIPO STANDARD SUPPORTING THE DATA CLEANING OF NAMES

Document prepared by the Name Standardization Task Force Co-Leaders

SUMMARY

1. The Name Standardization Task Force hereby presents a final draft of a new WIPO standard on data cleaning of names for consideration and adoption at the thirteenth session of the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS).

BACKGROUND

2. At its eleventh session in 2023, the CWS approved the revised description of Task No. 55 which reads:

“Prepare a proposal for future actions aimed at achieving the standardization of names in Intellectual Property (IP) documents, with the view to developing a WIPO standard to assist IP offices in providing a better “quality at source” in relation to names”

(see paragraphs 75 to 78 of document CWS/11/28).

3. At the same session in 2023, the CWS considered a new set of guidelines proposed by the Name Standardization Task Force to support cleaning applicant names. The CWS agreed to use the term “recommendations” instead of “guidelines” in the name of the proposed new WIPO standard because it is clearer. The CWS also noted the name proposed by the Secretariat, “WIPO Standard ST.93” for recommendations on the data cleaning of names (see paragraph 135 of document CWS/11/28).

4. However, the CWS did not adopt the proposed standard and referred it back to the Task Force for further discussion and improvement. The CWS also noted that the Secretariat would explore the possibility of publishing a collection of transliteration tables on the WIPO website. (See paragraphs 136 and 137 of document CWS/11/28.)
5. At its twelfth session in 2024, the CWS reviewed an improved draft of the proposed WIPO Standard for the data cleaning of names, as presented by the Name Standardization Task Force. Several delegations expressed their support for the proposed standard. However, the CWS did not adopt it, because one delegation requested additional time to thoroughly assess the potential impact of the proposed standard to implement and to conduct consultations both internally and with its customers. The CWS requested that the Task Force revisit and continue to improve the draft standard as necessary. (See paragraphs 85 to 91 of document CWS/12/29.)
6. At the same session in 2024, the CWS requested that the International Bureau organize a workshop on the data cleaning of names in 2025, which would be open to any interested parties. The CWS also encouraged its members and observers to support the International Bureau by actively promoting and participating in the workshop. (See paragraph 92 of document CWS/12/29.)
7. At its twelfth session, the CWS noted that WIPO Standards are recommendations on the basis of best practices. IP offices and IP industry implement WIPO Standards with their own pace and their own way upon their needs in general. Exceptionally IP offices agree on the implementation of a certain Standards as-is at the same time, for examples, WIPO Standard ST.26 or in a harmonized way such as WIPO Standard ST.92. All WIPO Standards can be improved later considering implementation experiences of IP offices or new demands to ensure that they remain practical, effective and responsive to evolving needs. The CWS also noted that the proposed WIPO Standard ST.93 has a general nature of WIPO Standards and IP offices may implement it immediately, gradually, or not at all if existing systems suffice once it is adopted. The Standard can be also improved later considering feedback from implementation experiences of IP offices as usual.
8. Following the decision of the CWS made at its twelfth session, the International Bureau organized the workshop on name standardization, which was held on May 12, 2025. At its subsequent meeting held on May 13, 2025, the Name Standardization Task Force analyzed the outcomes of the workshop and held a final discussion to prepare the final draft of the “Recommendations on Name Data Cleaning”. Details of the history of the Task Force and the progress made since the last session of the CWS can be found in document CWS/13/7.
9. With regard to the transliteration scheme used by IP offices, the Task Force informed the twelfth session of the CWS that the Task Force Offices were invited to provide their transliteration schemes to the Secretariat, if available. This would allow customers and other IP offices to consult the schemes used by offices operating in different languages and scripts. This would facilitate consistent and effective communication between IP offices and their customers rather than modifying existing databases. To support this goal, IP offices are encouraged to share their schemes, if available.

PROPOSAL FOR A NEW STANDARD

Objectives

10. IP offices experience difficulties identifying family members within a patent family because different applicant names may be used within the same patent family. Additionally, the names of applicants may include spelling or typographical errors. Furthermore, the desirability of clean applicant name data for statistical purposes is widely recognized.

Benefit

11. Establishing a standard for cleaning applicant name data in the context of IP provides significant benefits that enhance both operational efficiency and data integrity. This enables effective tracking and management of IP assets, even across jurisdictions and over time. Cleaned name data facilitates reliable linkage between disparate datasets, supporting activities such as portfolio management, legal compliance, ownership tracking and due diligence. Clean, standardized data improves searchability, reduces redundancy and allows for more accurate analytics and competitive intelligence. Additionally, it enables automation and supports the development of artificial intelligence and machine learning models for IP analysis. Importantly, such a standard contributes to global harmonization efforts by resolving issues related to name variations, abbreviations and multilingual discrepancies. Ultimately, a data cleaning standard for applicant names is a foundational step towards improving decision-making, mitigating risk, and managing IP strategically.

Scope

12. The proposed Standard provides general recommendations on the intake, processing, cleaning and publication of clean name data. This standard does not provide recommendations on specific approaches to data cleaning, name localization or transformation, such as transliteration, transcription and translation. Additionally, it does not offer guidance on approaches to name standardization, such as the selection of algorithms, the location and timing of the application of transformations, their frequency, or merging strategies.

Changes made to the last draft

13. In light of discussions regarding the proposal for name data cleaning and the outcome of the Name Standardization Workshop, the Task Force revised the original draft of the proposed guidelines (see Annex to document CWS/12/16 Rev.). The following changes were made:

- Removal of the Annex: The Annex to the proposed standard was removed based on concerns about its incompleteness and the potential for unintended bias expressed at the Name Standardization Workshop.
- Editorial changes to a number of paragraphs to improve clarity, reflecting feedback and analysis of the comments received during the workshop, including:
 - In paragraph 11: Participants at the workshop recommended strengthening the guidance on including applicant names in their native characters, especially when transliteration is involved. It was noted that omitting native characters could result in significant inconsistencies among patent family members due to various transliteration systems. For instance, the name “Чыраев” could be transliterated in Latin script as “Tschugaeff,” “Tchugaev,” “Tchougaev,” “Cugaev,” or “Chugaev,” complicating efforts to accurately link related records or identify the correct applicant. Paragraph 11 has been revised accordingly.
 - In paragraph 22: To avoid potential misinterpretation, the second sentence was removed. It was suggested that replacing an established applicant identification code with a system-generated unique number at the publication stage could cause confusion for users and undermine the consistency of applicant tracking. Paragraph 22 has been updated to reflect this concern.

14. The proposed Standard is included as Annex to this document and all changes made since the last draft are tracked. Strike-through text indicates deletion and underlined text indicates addition.

15. The following name is proposed for the new WIPO standard:

“WIPO Standard ST.93 – Recommendations on the data cleaning of names”

16. If the new standard is adopted by the CWS at the current session, it is proposed that the CWS request the Secretariat to publish these recommendations in [Part 3 of the WIPO Handbook](#).

PROPOSAL FOR PUBLICATION OF TRANSLITERATION SCHEMES USED BY IP OFFICES IN THE WIPO HANDBOOK PART 7

17. Following discussions on the use of transliteration schemes, it is proposed to collect and publish the transliteration schemes used by IP offices for customers names on WIPO website, under Part 7 of the WIPO Handbook on Intellectual Property Information and Documentation. It is expected that this centralized resource will support accurate cross-referencing and verification of customer names across jurisdictions.

18. It is proposed that IP offices are encouraged to provide the URL of their transliteration schemes to the Secretariat for the publication on the WIPO Handbook Part 7.

19. The Secretariat proposes to create a new subsection under Part 7 of the WIPO Handbook, where the transliteration schemes used by IP offices will be published, entitled: “*Transliteration schemes used by Offices*”

20. The CWS is invited to:

(a) take note of the content of the present document and the Annex to the present document;

(b) take note of the request by the Delegation of the Republic of Korea that the Delegation of China join as Co-Leaders of the Name Standardization Task Force;

(c) take note that the Delegation of China will actively participate in the Name Standardization Task Force and will confirm its position on whether it accepts the Co-Leadership as soon as they are able; and

~~(a)~~(d) request that the Name Standardization Task Force revisit and improve the draft WIPO Standard ST.93 and present the final proposal for consideration at the next session of the Committee.

~~(b) — consider and approve the name of the new WIPO Standard as indicated in paragraph 15 above;~~

~~(c) — consider and adopt the new WIPO Standard ST.93 as referred~~

~~to in paragraphs 10 to 14 above and
as reproduced in the Annex to the
present document;~~

~~(d) — request the Secretariat to
publish the new WIPO Standard ST.93
in Part 3 of the WIPO Handbook as
referred to paragraph 16 above; and~~

~~(e) — request the Secretariat to
issue a circular inviting Offices to
provide their transliteration schemes
and publish the provided transliteration
schemes in Part 7 of the WIPO
Handbook as referred to in paragraphs
17 to 19 above.~~

[Annex follows]