

Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)

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ANALYSIS OF SURVEY RESULTS ON EXAMPLES AND KINDS OF PATENT DOCUMENTS

Document prepared by the Secretariat

SUMMARY

1. This document reports on the survey conducted to update *Part 7.3 Examples and Kinds of Patent Documents*, of the WIPO Handbook on Intellectual Property Information and Documentation. It presents the survey results and analysis, proposes replacing Parts 7.3.1 and 7.3.2 with a single searchable and sortable online table, and outlines the next steps for validating, publishing and maintaining the information under the hybrid update approach approved by the CWS.

BACKGROUND

2. At its thirteenth session, held in November 2025, the CWS approved a hybrid approach for updating Part 7.3 of the WIPO Handbook. The approach combines periodic surveys with ad hoc submissions from intellectual property (IP) offices whenever their changes occur. The CWS also approved the template for collecting the information and requested the Secretariat to update Part 7.3 the WIPO Handbook accordingly. (See paragraph 36 of document CWS/13/33.)

3. Part 7.3 provides information on the use of letter and numerical codes by Offices for identifying their different kinds of patent documents in accordance with WIPO Standard ST.16. Part 7.3 is published in Portable Document Format (PDF) format in two complementary sections:

- Part 7.3.1, presenting examples of patent documents grouped according to WIPO Standard ST.16 patent document kind codes used by IP offices; and

- Part 7.3.2, presenting an inventory of patent document kinds by issuing IP offices, together with the applicable WIPO Standard ST.16 codes, references to patent legislation, publication details, information on the application of the codes and samples of first pages.

SURVEY RESULTS

4. On July 9, 2026, the Secretariat issued circular C.CWS 214, entitled *Update of Part 7.3 of the WIPO Handbook*, inviting Offices to review and update the information using the template made available through an online survey. The survey was conducted from July to August 2026.

5. Nineteen responses were received from 18 Offices. The difference on the number of responses and the Offices arises because the Russian Federation submitted two sets of data: one relating to its current practices and another relating to historical data previously used by the former Soviet Union (SU). The responses represented the following Member States: Australia (AU), Brazil (BR), Bulgaria (BG), China (CN), Croatia (HR), Finland (FI), Georgia (GE), Israel (IL), Japan (JP), Latvia (LV), Lithuania (LT), Mexico (MX), Republic of Moldova (MD), Russian Federation (RU), Slovakia (SK), Spain (ES), United Kingdom (GB) and United States of America (US).

SURVEY ANALYSIS

6. The 18 responding Offices submitted 290 records on kinds of patent documents currently or formerly used, for inclusion in the updated Part 7.3 of the WIPO Handbook. Five Offices: Croatia, Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania and Slovakia, provided information for the first time. The remaining 44 Offices represented in the existing Part 7.3 have not confirmed or updated their information during the time of conducting the survey.

7. The survey collected information on the codes used by Offices on published patent documents in accordance with WIPO Standard [ST.16](#), which establishes letter and numerical codes to distinguish document series, types and publication levels. Codes 'A', 'B' and 'C' identify the first, second and third publication levels, respectively, of the patent-document series, while 'U', 'Y' and 'Z' identify the corresponding levels for utility-model documents in a separate numbering series. Codes 'M', 'P' and 'S' designate medicament, plant and design patent series, respectively. Codes 'L', 'R', 'T' and 'W' identify documents containing bibliographic information and abstract or claims, separately published search reports, translations of previously published patent documents, and equivalent utility-model documents, respectively. Codes 'E', 'F' and 'G' identify the first, second and third publication levels of other patent-document series; 'H' and 'I' are available for series meeting individual Office requirements; 'N' identifies non-patent literature; and 'X' identifies documents restricted to internal Office use. A one-digit numerical code may supplement the letter code: digits '1' to '7' may be defined by individual Offices, '0' may be used for internal purposes outside the Standard, '8' identifies a correction requiring reprinting of the first page, and '9' identifies a correction requiring partial or complete reprinting of the document.

8. The reported use of kind-of-document code varied among the responding Offices. The most frequently reported series were 'A', appearing in 58 records, followed by 'B' (51), 'T' (39), 'U' (32), 'C' (27) and 'Y' (23). The records cover a wide range of patent-document kinds issued at different stages of the examination process. These include patent and utility model applications, published specifications, granted patents, and documents relating to amendments, corrections, republications, translations, and other post-publication changes. The reported titles and WIPO Standard ST.16 kind codes distinguish both the legal status of a document and its place in the publication sequence; however, their precise meaning remains jurisdiction specific.

9. Reported current practice accounts for 202 records: 89 first-level, 52 second level and 30 third-level publications, with 31 using another or no clearly stated level. The 88 historical records comprise 43 first-level, 25 second level and 15 third-level publications, with 5 other or unstated. Machine-readable use is reported in 212 records, printed or paper use in 148, and online systems or databases in 50.

10. The reported practiced for application of code shows how WIPO Standard ST.16 kind codes are displayed and used across publication formats. Most responses indicate that the codes appear in machine-readable records, while many also refer to printed documents, online databases, or a combination of these channels. Of the 290 records, 212 mention machine-readable use, 148 mentions printed or paper use, and 50 explicitly identify online systems or databases; these categories overlap because a code may be applied in more than one format. Overall, the findings reflect a transition toward digital publication while showing that printed-document conventions and certain historical cases in which no code was regularly used remain part of the reported practice.

PUBLICATION OF THE SURVEY RESULTS

11. Part 7.3 is currently published in two complementary PDF sections. Part 7.3.1 presents examples of patent documents arranged according to the WIPO Standard ST.16 kind of document codes used by Offices. Part 7.3.2 provides an inventory by issuing Office, including the applicable WIPO Standard ST.16 codes, references to patent legislation, publication details, information on the application of the codes and samples of first pages.

12. In order to avoid the need to maintain two extensive static tables containing partially duplicative information, the Secretariat proposes that Parts 7.3.1 and 7.3.2 be consolidated into a single online resource entitled “*Part 7.3: Inventory and Examples of Kinds of Patent Documents Issued by the Intellectual Property Offices*”. Consistent with the approach adopted for Part 4.1 of the WIPO Handbook following its approval by the CWS at its thirteenth session, the resource would be made available as a searchable and sortable dynamic table, with a view to enhancing usability and accessibility. The content of the proposed webpage is reproduced in the Annex to the present document, in which strikethrough text indicates deletions and underlined text indicate additions.

13. A “Last Updated” month and year will be displayed and maintained for each of kind of document entry, while the publication month and year for the consolidated resource would also appear at the top of the webpage. Both dates would be revised whenever the relevant information is confirmed, corrected or otherwise updated, enabling users to assess the currency of the information and identify entries that have been reviewed recently.

14. The Part 7 Task Force agreed on the proposed replacement of the two static PDF sections with a single online inventory and supported the approach. The consolidated resource would preserve the scope of the information currently published while providing a more accessible and user-friendly presentation.

15. On the basis of the survey responses, the Secretariat prepared a consolidated table covering all Offices represented in Part 7.3 of the WIPO Handbook. The entries for the 18 responding Offices were updated to reflect the newly submitted information, while those for the 44 Offices that did not respond were retained to ensure continuity and avoid the loss of information already available to users. The complete data set is available at: <https://www.wipo.int/standards/en/cws-documents/cws14-part-7-3.html>.

16. To ensure that Part 7.3 contains accurate and up-to-date information, the Secretariat invites all Offices to review the webpage referred to in paragraph 16 above. The 18 responding Offices are invited to verify the presentation of their submissions; the 44 non-responding Offices are invited to confirm, correct or update their existing entries; and Offices not currently represented are invited to submit information on their kinds of patent documents for inclusion.

17. Comments, inquiries or requests to receive existing entries in Excel format should be sent to cws.surveys@wipo.int. The deadline for submitting the updated information for inclusion to the Part 7.3 of the WIPO Handbook is December 11, 2026.

18. In the absence of any comments by that date, the Secretariat will consider the relevant information to have been confirmed and will proceed with its publication in the proposed Part 7.3 of the WIPO Handbook.

19. Following publication, Offices could use the ad-hoc submission channel to report corrections or other changes and to provide information on new kinds of patent documents as they arise. To support this, the relevant template and guidance for submitting the required information are available on the Part 7 webpage at: <https://surveys.wipo.int/s3/Template-for-the-update-of-Part-7-3-of-the-WIPO-Handbook>.

PROPOSAL FOR THE REVISION OF WIPO STANDARD ST.16

20. Subject to the approval by the CWS of the merger of Parts 7.3.1 and 7.3.2 into the single online resource, a consequential revision of paragraph 12 of WIPO Standard ST.16 would be required. The revision would remove the separate references to the two existing sections of Part 7.3 and replace them with a reference to the consolidated resource entitled *“Part 7.3: Inventory and Examples of Kinds of Patent Documents Issued by the Intellectual Property Offices”*. It would also align the description of Part 7.3 in WIPO Standard ST.16 with the proposed scope, structure and online format of the resource, including the presentation of the inventory of kinds of patent documents, the corresponding WIPO Standard ST.16 kind of document codes and the available examples of documents issued by IP offices.

21. The proposed revised text of paragraph 12 of WIPO Standard ST.16 is set out below for consideration and approval by the CWS. Strikethrough text indicates deletions and underlined text indicates additions.

“Part 7.3 “Inventory and Examples and of Kinds of Patent Documents Issued by the Intellectual Property Offices” provides, ~~in the first document (Part 7.3.1), inventory and examples of kind patent documents, previously and currently published, or intended to be published, listed according to code. The second document (Part 7.3.2) contains a listing, in alphabetical order of issuing industrial property office, of kinds of patent documents and their codes, as applied by the offices~~ Offices; it also provides access to a collection of samples of first pages of patent documents published by industrial property offices.”

22. The CWS is invited to:

(a) *note the survey results and analysis presented in this document;*

(b) *consider and approve merging of Parts 7.3.1 and 7.3.2 into a consolidated resource titled “Part 7.3: Inventory and Examples of Kinds of Patent Documents”, as indicated in paragraph 12 above;*

(c) *verify the content and approve the format of the proposed update of Part 7.3 of the WIPO Handbook, as indicated in paragraph 12 above and reproduced in the Annex to the present document;*

(d) *request its Members to verify, confirm or submit the updated information to be included in Part 7.3 of the WIPO Handbook, as indicated in paragraphs 15 to 17 above;*

(e) *request the Secretariat to publish Part 7.3 of the WIPO Handbook as indicated in paragraph 18 above;*

(f) *request its Members to verify and continuously use the hybrid approach to inform the Secretariat on any future update on the kind codes issued, as indicated in paragraph 19 above;*

(g) *consider and approve the proposal for the revised paragraph 12 of WIPO Standard ST.16, as indicated in paragraphs 20 and 21 above; and*

(h) *request the Secretariat to update and publish the revised WIPO Standard ST.16 to the Part 3 of the WIPO Handbook.*

[Annex follows]

EXAMPLES AND KINDS OF PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMPLES AND KINDS OF PATENT DOCUMENTS LISTED ACCORDING TO CODE

(Patent documents previously and currently published or intended to be published)

- Examples and kinds of patent documents listed according to code (Part 7.3.1)
- Inventory of kinds of patent documents listed according to the issuing industrial property office (Part 7.3.2)

Part 7.3.1 contains a list of examples of patent documents published by industrial property offices grouped according to their ST.16 kind of document codes.

Part 7.3.2 contains an inventory of different kinds of patent documents ordered by the issuing industrial property office. ST.16 codes are provided for the listed documents along with information about the applicable patent legislation, publication details, specific application of the code and samples of first pages.

For further information concerning letter and numerical codes used for the identification of different kinds of patent documents, please refer to WIPO Standard ST.16

EXAMPLES AND KINDS OF PATENT DOCUMENTS

INVENTORY OF KINDS OF PATENT DOCUMENTS

LISTED ACCORDING TO THE ISSUING INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY OFFICE

(Patent documents previously and currently published or intended to be published)

- Examples and kinds of patent documents listed according to code (Part 7.3.1)
- Inventory of kinds of patent documents listed according to the issuing industrial property offices (Part 7.3.2)

Part 7.3.1 contains a list of examples of patent documents published by industrial property offices grouped according to their ST.16 kind of document codes.

Part 7.3.2 contains an inventory of different kinds of patent documents ordered by the issuing industrial property office. ST.16 codes are provided for the listed documents along with information about the applicable patent legislation, publication details, specific application of the code and samples of first pages.

For further information concerning letter and numerical codes used for the identification of different kinds of patent documents, please refer to WIPO Standard ST.16.

PART 7.3 INVENTORY AND EXAMPLES OF KIND OF PATENT DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICES

Published in [month] [year]

The following information relates to the inventory of the kinds of patent documents currently or previously issued by the intellectual property offices.

Corresponding WIPO Standard ST.16 codes are provided for the listed kind of patents documents along with information about the applicable patent legislation, publication details, specific application of the code and samples of first pages.

There are 11 columns defined within the table below:

(a) The first column, Country/Organization Name, specifies the Country or Organization submitting the information.

(b) The second column, ST.3 Code, specifies the two-letter code assigned to that Country or Organization in accordance with WIPO Standard ST.3.

(c) The third column, Current or Former Practice, specifies whether the publication of this kind of patent document reflects current or previous practice, helping users understand its publication status and history.

(d) The fourth column, Patent Document Kind Code, specifies the kind code of the patent document published in accordance with WIPO Standard ST.16.

(e) The fifth column, "Kind of Document", indicates the name of the document in the official language or languages, its English translation and, where applicable, a transliteration into the Latin script when the original is written in a non-Latin script.

(f) The sixth column, References to Patent Law, specifies the relevant patent law or regulation (title, number, article, and date) and a brief description of how the kind code applies under it.

(g) The seventh column, Publication Details, specifies the publication level (as defined in WIPO Standard ST.16), the means of availability (e.g., paper, online database), the year the code was introduced or discontinued, and a description of the numbering system used.

(h) The eighth column, Application of Code, specifies where the code appears (e.g., online databases) and the starting date or year it was first used, per format.

(i) The ninth column, Sample of First Page URL, specifies a link to a sample first page that illustrates the document's presentation.

(j) The tenth column, Last Update, specifies the date this row's information was last reviewed or updated.

(k) The eleventh column, Additional Information, specifies any other relevant details related to the kind of patent document that are not covered by the above fields.

For further information concerning letter and numerical codes used for the identification of different kinds of patent documents, please refer to WIPO Standard ST.16.

Part 7.3 table: <https://www.wipo.int/standards/en/cws-documents/cws14-part-7-3.html>.

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