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The International
Patent System



PCT ST.26 Implementation

Meeting of International Authorities Twenty-Ninth Session

Geneva
June 20 to 22, 2022

ST.26 Implementation at IB – WIPO

Sequence developments

- WIPO Sequence version 2.1.0 is expected at the end of week commencing June 20, 2022
- The validator will also be released at this time (on the validator wiki)
- <https://www.wipo.int/standards/en/sequence/index.html>
- New knowledge base created



ST.26 Implementation at IB – Rules and AIs

- Updated Rules 5.2, 12.3, 12.4 13*ter.*1, 19.1-3 and 49.5 – adopted October 2021
- New Annex C and updated AIs February 2022
- Updated Annex F (main body and DTDs) promulgated in March 2022
- Updated to the GLs circulated in May 2022

(All available on the WIPO website)

ST.26 Implementation at IB – e-filing

- Annex F DTDs for filing updated in 2021, updated for Demand and IPER - enters into force on July 1, 2022
- PCT-SAFE updated UI, DTD and Stylesheet in 2021
- ePCT v4.10 will be deployed in June 2022
- DTDs and stylesheets have been sent to Offices the IB is testing servers to validate readiness
- ST.26 files may be filed in XML or Zipped XML format, the size limit has been set at 50MB (20MB for other file uploads in ePCT)

ST.26 Implementation at IB – RO Processing in ePCT

- RO processing in ePCT has been updated to process IAs filed on or after July 1, 2022 in ST.26 XML format
 - The RO/151 form has been updated for the additional reasoning for sending IAs to RO/IB
 - The upload of sequence listing files has been updated for IAs filed on or after July 1, 2022
- ROs are not expected to validate ST.26 XML and may/may not inspect the language(s) submitted
- ROs should notify the languages they accept for the language dependent free text
- ST.26 validation log files can be uploaded in ePCT

ST.26 Implementation at IB – IB Processing

- IB has implemented limited validation in RO/IB (checks that the XML file must be valid vs the DTD)
- Sequence listings must be in XML or ZIP format files and should be provided as a single ST.26 instance
- Sequence listings are forwarded onto the ISA/IPEA without checks on the language dependent free text
- RO/IB certified copies will include a sheet explaining that the sequence listing file is available from the IB

ST.26 Implementation at IB – ISA/IPEA Processing in ePCT

- ISA/IPEA processing in ePCT has been updated to process IAs filed on or after July 1, 2022 in ST.26 XML
- The ISA/202, ISA/225, ISA/210, ISA/237, IPEA/408 and IPEA/409 have been updated, the ISA/233 is deleted
- ISA/IPEAs are expected, as part of search and examination, to validate ST.26 XML and ensure that the language of the language dependent free text meets their needs
- ISA/IPEAs are expected to apply their normal language requirements for the language dependent free text

ST.26 Implementation at IB – PATENTSCOPE

- ST.26 sequence listings will be made available on PATENTSCOPE for published International Applications (as are ST.25 files) in ST.26 XML format as received from the applicant.
- A viewer is planned to be developed in PATENTSCOPE to present the XML files in HTML
- PATENTSCOPE FTP and web services use the same structure and document types as before for the sequence listing (new codes for the translations)

ST.26 Implementation at IB – Not included

- The IB has chosen not to render ST.26 XML files into pages and has thus chosen to make them available via PATENTSCOPE as the original XML files submitted by the applicant
- The IB is not validating ST.26 XML files to ensure that the language dependent free text is a language of search
- Certified copies will be provided to DAS without the ST.26 XML file

ST.26 Implementation at IB – key points

- The IB is ready for the processing of ST.26 applications and has provided for the majority of possible use cases
- ePCT updates have been implemented dependent on the filing date of each International Application so that the system behavior will present applicant and Office users the appropriate functionality and forms for that application

