

WIPO



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STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES STANDARDS AND DOCUMENTATION WORKING GROUP

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REVISION OF WIPO STANDARD ST.6

Document prepared by the Secretariat

1. At its first session, the Standards and Documentation Working Group (SDWG) of the Standing Committee on Information Technologies (SCIT) agreed to set up a task force in order to discuss the revision of WIPO Standard ST.6. (See document SCIT/SDWG/1/9, paragraphs 18 to 22.)
2. In accordance with the above-mentioned decision by the SDWG, the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), as leader of the Task Force, submitted on August 2, 2001, a draft project brief to the International Bureau to be circulated for comments by the ST.6 Task Force members. Following the establishment of the electronic forum for the discussion of the Task Force on February 25, 2002, the Task Force began its consideration on the basis of this draft Project Brief. As a first step, the Task Force agreed on a final version of the Project Brief. This said Project Brief was presented along with an oral progress report given by the Task Force leader, on the work carried out by the Task Force, for consideration by the SCIT Plenary at its seventh session, held in June 2002. Following discussions, the SCIT Plenary agreed to establish a task which includes the following:

(a) Revise WIPO Standard ST.6, considering in particular:

(i) the total maximum number of digits that should be allowed for the publication number of patent documents;

(ii) the implications of having a code for each kind of industrial property right mentioned in this Standard included in the format of the publication numbers; and

(iii) better guidance for defining publication numbers in view of electronic data processing and use by the public.

(b) To review the impact of the revision of WIPO Standard ST.6 on other WIPO standards, as well as an appropriate delay for the implementation of the revisions agreed upon.

(See document SCIT/7/17, paragraphs 19 to 21.)

3. Subsequently, the Task Force continued its discussions in accordance with the decision by the SCIT Plenary referred to in paragraph 2, above. On September 13, 2002, the UPSTO, as leader of the Task Force, submitted the report of the Task Force on its progress, conclusions and proposals, for consideration by the SDWG. The Task Force requested, through the Secretariat, input from the Electronic Data Processing and Exchange Standards (EDPES) Task Force in order to complete the mandate given to it. The report of the Task Force, as well as its request to the EDPESTask Force, are reproduced as an Annex to this document and Appendices I and II thereto.

4. The results of the deliberations of the EDPESTask Force shall be presented as an oral progress report to the SDWG.

5. *The SDWG is invited:*

(a) *to consider and approve the report of the WIPO Standard ST.6 Task Force reproduced in the Annex to this document;*

(b) *to consider and adopt the proposals concerning amendments to WIPO Standard ST.6, other non -electronic WIPO standards and Part 7 of the WIPO Handbook reproduced in Appendix I to the Annex to this document.*

(c) *to consider the oral progress report by the EDPESTask Force, on the request received from the ST.6 Task Force; and to adopt any recommendations by the EDPES Task Force concerning the revision of electronic WIPO standards.*

[Annex follows]

ANNEX

REPORT OF THE WIPO STANDARD ST.6 TASK FORCE
SEPTEMBER 13, 2002

The WIPO Standard ST.6 Task Force (ST.6 Task Force) began discussions regarding the improvement of WIPO Standard ST.6 in May 2002 after finalizing the Project Brief. A useful exchange of concerns, needs and possible options took place throughout the summer. Two meetings in person by Task Force members in attendance at the SCIT 7 Plenary meeting in May were also held and were quite productive.

The ST.6 Task Force has addressed the problems set forth in the Project Brief and come up with recommended revisions to WIPO Standard ST.6. Some significant change to the format of an ST.6 publication number are being proposed by the ST.6 Task Force. Offices expressed the need to increase the number of digits to allow for over a million documents being published in a single year, to provide information regarding the type of industrial property right and to provide information regarding the regional office publishing the document.

After a detailed exchange of views, it was determined that it may be necessary for some offices to be able to provide additional identifiers to establish sufficiently unique document numbers. Further clarification of the subparagraphs under paragraph 13 of WIPO Standard ST.6 were made to enable the text to be more readily understood. Details regarding the format of the number and additional examples were also provided.

A brief summary of the proposed changes to WIPO Standard ST.6, paragraph 13, is given below. The full text of the recommended changes to ST.6 and other impacted WIPO standards are provided in Appendix 1.

ST.6, Paragraph 13

1. Subparagraph (a) – Confirmed and clarified recommendation to limit the publication number to digits (i.e., numerals) only
2. Subparagraph (b) – Increased the maximum number of digits from 10 to 13
3. Subparagraph (c) – Clarified the meaning of the text
4. Subparagraph (d) (old) – Deleted since subparagraph (c) is now sufficient, as revised
5. Subparagraph (d) (new) – Moved old subparagraph (e) here in order to group the subparagraphs better, add examples and a reference to WIPO Standard ST.1
6. Subparagraph (e) (old) – See subparagraph (d) (new)
7. Subparagraph (e) (new) – Completely new paragraph recommending the number should only be used for patent documents resulting from a single application. To establish sufficiently unique document numbers, offices may use additional identifiers.
8. Subparagraph (f) – Clarified and expanded to incorporate recommendations of subparagraph (e) (new)
9. Subparagraph (g) – Updated and broadened to include visual forms other than a printed form.
10. Examples – Examples expanded to reflect changes in paragraph 13

A number of problems and concerns were raised in the Project Brief for this task. They are addressed individually below:

A. In the Project Brief, under “1. Clear indication of the problem or specific need to be addressed,” three problems are identified:

1. The maximum number of digits that should be allowed for the publication of patent documents

The Task Force revision of paragraph 13(b) (copy inserted below) recommends 13 digits as a maximum. Given the structure of the publication number (2 digits for the identifier, 4 for the year and 7 for the serial number), the recommended usage (the potential to restart the serial number each year) and that only one publication number should be used for one application (instead of new publication numbers for subsequent publications of the same application) this will allow for 10 million publications per year. This should allow for significant future expansion.

“(b) the total number of digits, subject to a maximum of 13, is to be determined by each industrial property office according to its needs. The number of digits should be as short as possible to satisfy those needs;”

2. The implications of having a code for each kind of industrial property right mentioned in Standard ST.6 included in the format of the publications numbers

The Task Force revisions to paragraph 13 have resulted from our considering these implications in depth. Subparagraph 13(e), in particular, provides the option of using “additional identifiers” to help establish sufficiently unique document numbers.

3. Better guidance for defining publication numbers in view of electronic data processing and use by the public.

The Task Force has considered this problem and has revised paragraph 13 accordingly. Clearer explanations and additional examples are provided to help users understand the recommendations. Electronic data processing has been considered and will be further considered by the Electronic Data Processing and Exchange Standards Task Force (EDPES Task Force) as it considers the impact on related electronic standards (e.g., ST.32, ST.33, ST.35 and ST.40). See discussion under C below.

B. In the Project Brief, under “3. The objectives of the task,” the main objective was “to create improved publication numbers for better use (1) in document exchange between industrial property offices and (2) by examiners and the public. The indication of the kind of industrial property rights should be clarified, in particular when the same numbering series is used for more than one kind of right.”

The Task Force considered these objectives and its revisions to paragraph 13 addresses these concerns in detail. In particular, subparagraph 13(e) provides guidance regarding the use of “additional identifiers” for designating the type of industrial property right or regional office, when needed to help establish sufficiently unique document numbers.

C. Finally, in the Project Brief, under, “4. Options for solution,” the Task Force is directed to:

1. take the identified needs into consideration in amending ST.6;
2. consider the impact any such changes might have on other WIPO standards; and
3. consider any delay that may be needed for the implementation of the revisions agreed upon.

Each of these items separately below:

1. Take the identified needs into consideration in amending ST.6

The Task Force has taken all of the identified needs into consideration and amended ST.6, paragraph 13 accordingly. See discussion above.

2. Consider the impact any such changes might have on other WIPO standards

The ST.6 Task Force has searched the WIPO Handbook on Industrial Property Information and Documentation (WIPO Handbook) for Standards and other documentation impacted by ST.6 and/or referring to publication numbers or document numbers.

The ST.6 Task Force has considered the impacts to the standards in general, but must rely on the expertise of the Electronic Data Processing and Exchange Standards (EDPES) Task Force for detailed impacts on the electronic standards (e.g., ST.32, ST.33, ST.35 and ST.40). Therefore, impacts on the “Electronic standards” have been considered separately from the other standards.

At the recommendation of the International Bureau (IB), the Task Force has sent its proposals to the IB for forwarding to and coordination with the EDPES Task Force. The EDPES Task Force has been asked to provide an assessment of the impact on electronic standards before the December SDWG meeting, if at all possible (see Appendix II). The SDWG could then consider the changes and, if approved, implement them according to a recommended schedule.

Impacts on non-electronic WIPO standards and other parts of the WIPO Handbook are discussed in Appendix 1.

3. Consider any delay that may be needed for the implementation of the revisions agreed upon

Paragraph 1 of WIPO Standard ST.6 states:

1. The aim of this Recommendation is to give guidance to industrial property offices wishing to change their present numbering systems or to start new numbering systems for published patent documents. For those industrial property offices wishing to use the application number as publication number, reference is made to WIPO Standard ST.13.

Therefore, it should be safe to assume that only a few offices should be directly impacted in the near future, since most offices do not plan on changing or starting new numbering systems. The ST.6 Task Force wants to encourage use of the standard as

soon as possible, to avoid having an office create yet another non-standard format publication number. Of course, the recommendations of WIPO Standard ST.6 prior to revision should still apply until such date as the new recommendations can begin being implemented. The previous version of WIPO Standard ST.6, of course, would not be of much assistance to offices needing to employ “additional identifiers” to establish sufficiently unique document numbers or unable to follow the existing standard due to some other limitation (e.g., maximum number of digits).

As noted above, a delay in this task may be needed to allow the EDPES Task Force time to consider the impacts on the electronic standards as well as impacts on databases and search systems. The EDPES Task Force was asked, if at all possible, to provide input to the ST.6 Task Force and the Standards and Documentation Working Group (SDWG) prior to its December 2 to 6, 2002 meeting in Geneva. If work on this task cannot be completed by that time, the EDPES Task Force should provide a progress report and anticipated schedule for completion to the SDWG at its December meeting.

Conclusion

Revision of WIPO Standard ST.6 is necessary to allow for larger publication numbers and to establish sufficiently unique document numbers. Impacts on other non-electronic standards and the WIPO Handbook are for the most part minor. Since the ST.6 Task Force has been asked to submit this report by September 15 so that it can be processed for translation in time for the December SDWG meeting, the input from the EDPES Task Force cannot be included. A progress report and any recommendations from the EDPES Task Force will hopefully be available prior to the SDWG meeting. It is hoped that this task can be completed at the December SDWG meeting or soon thereafter.

Enclosures:

ST6 Task Force–Revisions to Standards–Appendix 1
ST6 Task Force–Request for EDPES input–Appendix 2

[Appendix I follows]

APPENDIX I

CHANGES TO THE WIPO HANDBOOK AND WIPO STANDARDS

Several parts of the WIPO *Handbook on Industrial Property Information and Documentation* (WIPO Handbook) and particularly the WIPO standards (in Part 3 of the Handbook) could be potentially impacted by the changes proposed for WIPO Standard ST.6. For the sake of completeness, all potentially impacted WIPO standards have been listed. The text for many of the standards, however, will not need to be changed.

The changes have been grouped below into one of three groups:

1. Non-electronic standards
2. Electronic standards*
3. Other parts of the WIPO Handbook

* The Electronic Data Processing and Exchange Standards (EDPES) Task Force has been asked to provide input and revisions related to the electronic standards (see Appendix 2).

Non-electronic standards:

ST.1, Paragraphs 3, 4 and 5(b) – No changes are necessary.

ST.6, Paragraphs 3 and 13 – Changes to ST.6 are discussed in more detail in the accompanying report by the ST.6 Task Force.

Paragraph 3 – Insert the following reference to WIPO Standard ST.1:

WIPO Standard ST.1 Recommendation Concerning the Minimum Data Elements
Required to Uniquely Identify a Patent Document;

Paragraph 13 – Replace this paragraph with the following new paragraph 13:

13. The following recommendations are made to give guidance to industrial property offices wishing to change their present numbering systems or to start new numbering systems for published patent documents:

(a) the publication number should consist of digits (i.e., numerals) only;

(b) the total number of digits, subject to a maximum of 13, is to be determined by each industrial property office according to its needs. The number of digits should be as short as possible to satisfy those needs;

(c) the number given to a published patent document (first-level publication according to WIPO Standard ST.16) should increase in a numerical sequence within a given year or longer period of time;

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(d) the number given to a second or subsequent published patent document resulting from an application should be the same number as that given to the first published patent document resulting from that application; for example, 1/2002/000002 would be used for the first level publication (e.g., 18 month publication of an application), for the granted patent publication and for any corrections resulting from a single application and its publications. For complete identification of a patent document, see WIPO Standard ST.1;

(e) the number should only be used for patent documents resulting from a single application. For example, in the case where the same numbering sequence is used for more than one type of industrial property right (e.g., patent for invention and utility model) or more than one regional office within a country or organization, then the same publication number should not be used more than once:

(i) to establish sufficiently unique document numbers, offices may use additional identifiers of one or two digits, e.g. for the designation of the type of Industrial Property Right or the Regional Office, if necessary. Any additional identifiers must be considered to be included within the maximum number of digits as set forth in paragraph 13 (b) above. WIPO Standard ST.16 codes, when used as recommended by WIPO Standard ST.1, provide the recommended way of providing publication level information. WIPO Standard ST.16 also provides information on some types of industrial property rights when related only to patent documents;

(ii) where an application spawns additional applications (e.g. an application claiming domestic priority, a continuation of a prior application, a divisional application, etc.), these additional application(s) should be considered to be separate application(s) and thus should be assigned different publication number(s);

(f) if found suitable, the year of publication of the patent document may form part of the publication number; in that case, the publication number may be formed by a year, the serial number and if required, an additional identifier as provided for in subparagraph e:

(i) in case of a year, the year should be represented by four digits according to the Gregorian calendar and preceding the serial number;

(ii) in case of a serial number it is recommended that a maximum of 7 digit serial number be unique, in the sense of subparagraph (e), for all patent document publications;

(iii) the order of the components should be:

- a. the identifier, if necessary;
- b. the year, if found suitable;
- c. the serial number;

(g) for the sake of readability of a publication number, when presented in visual form, the identifier, year designation and serial number may be separated from each other, e.g., by a slash, a dash, or a space.

Examples of presentation of publication numbers according to this Recommendation:

1 234 567 890	2001-12345
7000123	2001 4321
2000/1234567	

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If different types of industrial property rights share a number sequence:

2003/123456 for a patent for invention
2003/123457 for a utility model publication
2003/123458 for a design patent, etc.

or, where is an overlap in the numbering sequence between different types of industrial property rights and an additional identifier is used to establish uniqueness, e.g., 10 for a patent for invention, 20 a utility model, 30 a design patent:

10/ 2003/123456 for a patent for invention
20/2003/123456 for a utility model publication
30/2003/123456 for a design patent, etc.

or, where is an overlap in the numbering sequence between different regional offices within a country or organization and an identifier is used to establish uniqueness

1/ 2003/123456 for a patent for invention from Region A using 1 as an identifier
2/2003/1234567 for a patent for invention from Region B using 2 as an identifier

ST.7/A – Revisions to paragraphs 18 and 19 to take into account the possibility of 13 digits for publication numbers instead of 12 (columns 4–15) are not recommended at this time by the ST.6 Task Force. It should also be noted that possible changes to the IPC classification symbols by another SDWG task force due to IPC reform might result in further changes needing to be made to this Standard.

According to the last “Survey on the Use of WIPO Standards, Recommendations and Guidelines” (P852/88 Rev.5 dated 1994–08–31), only two Offices (ES and HU) follow ST.7/A for patent documents. It is extremely unlikely that this Standard will be used in the future. Therefore, a short statement alerting users to the possible discrepancy with ST.6 has been inserted as a footnote.

Title – Add a reference to a footnote explaining the potential conflict with ST.6. The footnote itself could be provided at the end of the Standard following paragraph 25.

8–UP APERTURE CARD MICROFORM¹

¹ This Standard has not been updated to incorporate revisions to WIPO Standard ST.6 due to very limited use of this media by industrial property offices. It is not expected that any additional offices will be providing data on this media in the future.

Paragraph 18 – Add a reference to the same footnote.

4–15 document number according to WIPO Standard ST.6¹ (or ST.13 if application numbers are used as publication numbers)

Paragraph 19 – Add a reference to the same footnote.

19. As a consequence of amending the punch fields to indicate the document number, the publication date and three symbols of the International Patent Classification, columns 36 to 52 of the punch field reserved for free punching by the receiving office will be reduced to columns 49 to 52¹.

ST.7/E, Paragraph 19(a) – No changes are necessary.

ST.10, Paragraph 3 – No changes are necessary.

ST.10/B, Paragraphs 5(a), 8, 10, 12, 15, 18 and 19– No changes are necessary.

Paragraph 11(b) – The number of positions should be changed from 10 to 13. The second sentence has been deleted since it no longer is necessary. Application numbers used as publication numbers (12 characters maximum) would not exceed the 13 character positions now recommended in paragraph 11(b).

11(b) the publication number of the patent document as given by the publishing authority in accordance with WIPO Standard ST.6 (13 character positions in the bar code).

Paragraph 14 – The barcode would need to include the possibility of a total of 13 instead of 10 characters according to ST.6. ST.10/B already allowed for the larger 12-character application number (one-character code indicating the type of industrial property right plus an 11-character number) where the application number was used as the publication number. The total number of characters possible for a barcode will therefore increase from 18 to 19 although the position of each component may change. It is not expected that an office would use both the two-digit ST.6 identifier and one-character ST.13 type of industrial property right code in the same publication number. A tabular listing of the positions has been provided to simplify the presentation of the information.

Substitute the following for paragraph 14:

14. For industrial property offices intending to change their present numbering systems or to start new numbering systems for published patent documents or applications (in case application numbers are used as publication numbers), it is recommended that the bar code consist of 19 characters.

Position	Description
1	Start/stop code (□);
2, 3	ST.3 code
4, 5	Reserved for offices that intend to indicate, according to WIPO Standard ST.6, a one or two-digit identifier. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If only a one-digit identifier is used, position 4 should be left blank, i.e., coded as a “space” character according to Table I, and position 5 should be reserved for the identifier. • If such an identifier is not indicated at all, positions 4 and 5 should be left blank.
4,5 (only for situations where the application number is also used as the publication number)	Position 4 – Should always be left blank, i.e., be coded as a “space” character according to Table I. Position 5 – Reserved for offices that intend to indicate, according to WIPO Standard ST.13, the type of industrial property right as part of the application number by a letter code. If such a letter code is not indicated, position 5 should also be left blank.

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6–16	a) Remainder of the publication number (11 remaining characters according to WIPO Standard ST.6, i.e., 4-digit year and 7-digit serial number), or b) Application number used as the publication number (11 characters according to WIPO Standard ST.13).
17, 18	ST.16 code
19	Start/stop code (<input type="checkbox"/>)

If the document number, which is represented by characters in positions 6 through 16, is less than 11 characters, it should be zero filled to the left, e.g., CC••00000679439B5. If the document number contains a year designation of four digits preceding the serial number and the serial number has less than seven digits, it should be zero filled to the left of the serial number, e.g., CC••20010012345A1. If the ST.16 code does not include a digit in the second position, a space should be coded, e.g., CC••20010012345A•*.

Paragraph 16 – Additional examples have been provided showing new possibilities due to changes in ST.6 and the expanded size of the bar code.

16. Examples of bar code data according to paragraphs 14 and 15, above, are shown below:*

(a)

- CC••00002540533B1 (publication number according to Standard ST.6)
- CC•220030654321A1 (publication number according to Standard ST.6)
- CC3020031234567B1 (publication number according to Standard ST.6)
- CC••20001234567A1 (application number according to Standard ST.13)
- CC•a20001234567A1 (application number according to Standard ST.13)

ST.10/C, Paragraphs 9, 10 – No changes are necessary.

ST.11, Paragraphs 4, 6, 8, 9 – No changes are necessary.

ST.13, Paragraph 3(b) – No changes are necessary.

ST.14, Paragraph 12(a) – No changes are necessary.

ST.16, Paragraph 3(ii) – No changes are necessary.

ST.18, Paragraph 17 – No changes are necessary.

ST.25, Appendix 1, Numeric Identifier <310> – No changes appear necessary.

Electronic Standards:

Detailed changes to WIPO Standards ST.32, ST.33, ST.35 and ST.40 are the responsibility of the Electronic Data Processing and Exchange Standards (EDPES) Task Force. Details of the some of the changes possibly needed to those standards are provided in Appendix 2 in a message to WIPO requesting the EDPES Task Force be requested to consider any possible impacts to the standards and other related matters.

Other parts of the WIPO Handbook on Industrial Property Information and Documentation:

Part 7, KINDS AND CONTENTS OF INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY DOCUMENTATION
INCLUDING NUMBERING SYSTEMS USED

Paragraphs 4, 8, 9 and 11 – No changes are necessary for paragraphs 4, 8 and 9.

Paragraph 11 refers to a publication “number of up to 10 digits” which will need to be changed. A specific reference to document numbers according to ST.6 has also been added. The use of the words “publication number” in the introductory sentence has been modified to eliminate conflict with WIPO Standard ST.6, paragraph 14.

11. The complete identification of a published document also usually comprises three elements, namely: the two-letter code of the issuing office or organization according to Standard ST.3, a document number according to Standard ST.6 of up to 13 digits and the kind-of-document code according to Standard ST.16 to indicate the publication level. The publication numbers of some offices contain, as part of the second element, an indication of the year of publication of the patent document. See WIPO Standard ST.1 for further details regarding unique identification of patent documents.

Part 7.5.1, SURVEY OF NUMBERING SYSTEMS USED, OR INTENDED TO BE USED,
BY INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY OFFICES WITH REGARD TO APPLICATIONS,
PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS AND REGISTERED RIGHTS

Paragraph 3 – No changes are necessary.

Glossary – Under term “Numerical Collection (of Patent Documents)” – No changes are necessary.

[Appendix II follows]

APPENDIX II

September 13, 2002

Mr. Angel Lopez Solanas
Head, Standards and Documentation Service
World Intellectual Property Organization
34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20
SWITZERLAND

Dear Mr. Lopez Solanas:

The WIPO Standard ST.6 Task Force has concluded its deliberations regarding changes to WIPO Standard ST.6. In order to complete its Task (Revision of WIPO Standard ST.6) as set forth in its Project Brief (copy attached), a few remaining matters must be addressed. Some of these matters require the expertise of the Electronic Data Processing and Exchange Standards Task Force (EDPES Task Force).

The WIPO Standard ST.6 Task Force requests that you forward the concerns listed below to the EDPES Task Force and request they begin work on this task as soon as possible. If at all possible, input from the EDPES Task Force should be provided to the ST.6 Task Force and the Standards and Documentation Working Group (SDWG) prior to its December 2–6, 2002 meeting in Geneva. If work on this task cannot be completed by that time, a progress report and anticipated schedule for completion should be provided to the SDWG at its December meeting.

The cooperation of WIPO and the EDPES Task Force on this matter is extremely important due to the importance of this task. Publication numbers are an essential to the unique identification of patent documents as set forth in WIPO Standard ST.1. In order to give industrial property offices (IPOs) guidance in creating and revising publication numbers, revision of WIPO Standard ST.6 and other WIPO standards impacted by ST.6 must be given a very high priority.

The EDPES Task Force is requested to consider the following matters set forth in the Project Brief for this task:

1. Better guidance for defining publication numbers in view of electronic data processing and use by the public (Project Brief, Problem 3)

The ST.6 Task Force has considered this problem in depth and has revised paragraph 13 accordingly. Clearer explanations and additional examples are provided to help users understand the recommendations.

The ST.6 Task Force, in revising ST.6, has considered electronic data processing. Further guidance needs to be provided with regard to the impact on related electronic standards (e.g., ST.32, ST.33, ST.35 and ST.40) by the EDPES Task Force.

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2. Consider the impact any such changes might have on other WIPO standards
(Project Brief, Part 4, Options for solution)

The ST.6 Task Force is considering the impacts to the WIPO standards in general, but must rely on the expertise of the EDPEs Task Force for detailed impacts on the electronic standards (e.g., ST.32, ST.33, ST.35 and ST.40). A brief overview of some of the most obvious possible impacts for each of those standards follows:

ST.32, Attributes/Tags DNUM, PNUM, B110 and elsewhere

The Standard may need to take into account the changes in document number length and format.

ST.33, Appendix II and IV Item Number 4, 8, 9.1 and 9.3 (multiple tables)

Items 4, 8 and 9.1 add up to 10 positions (8+1+1) and Item 9.3 provides for 12 positions. Thirteen positions will now be possible.

ST.35, Paragraphs 11 and 13 (in text following the example figure); Appendix 2, Item No. 4, 18, 19, 23.2, 23.3, 34; Appendix 4, ID 269.

The Standard may need to take into account the changes in document number length and format. Appendix 4, ID 269, in particular, refers to a 12-character document number, but in the EP example limits it to 8 characters (plus 2 for publication office and 2 for document kind code).

ST.40, Paragraph 18.2, 18.3, 19, 20 Annexes F and H

Paragraph 18.2 and 18.3, in particular, recommend using the document number in the file name. Paragraphs 19 and 20 include the document number as part of the minimum information provided in the document location index. Annex F gives current or proposed practices, which may be impacted by the changes. Annex H gives the format for the publication number, PN.

3. Consider any delay that may be needed for the implementation of the revisions agreed upon (also Project Brief, Part 4, Options for solution)

Paragraph 1 of WIPO Standard ST.6 states:

1. The aim of this Recommendation is to give guidance to industrial property offices wishing to change their present numbering systems or to start new numbering systems for published patent documents. For those industrial property offices wishing to use the application number as publication number, reference is made to WIPO Standard ST.13.

Therefore, it is assumed that only a few offices should be directly impacted in the near future since most offices do not plan on changing or starting new numbering systems. Use of the standard as soon as possible should be encouraged, however, to avoid having an office create yet another non-standard format publication number. The old provisions

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of ST.6, of course, should still apply until such date as the new ones could begin being implemented, but it would not be of much assistance to offices needing to employ “additional identifiers” to establish sufficiently unique document numbers or unable to follow the existing standard due to some other limitation (e.g., maximum number of digits).

Any delay that might be needed would significantly depend upon the recommendations of the EDPEs Task Force after it considers the detailed impacts on the electronic standards, databases and search systems. The EDPEs Task Force should recommend a timeline for implementation of the changes.

Please let me know if you or the EDPEs Task Force needs further information or clarification with regard to this request.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the WIPO Standard ST.6 Task Force,

/ Ed Rishell /

Ed Rishell
WIPO Standard ST.6 Task Force Leader

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Enclosures:
WIPO Standard ST.6 Project Brief
ST6 Task Force–Revisions to Standards–Appendix I.doc

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