

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
ORGANIZATION

世界知识产权组织

ORGANIZACIÓN MUNDIAL
DE LA PROPIEDAD INTELECTUAL



ORGANISATION MONDIALE
DE LA PROPRIÉTÉ INTELLECTUELLE

المنظمة العالمية للملكية الفكرية

ВСЕМИРНАЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ
ИНТЕЛЛЕКТУАЛЬНОЙ СОБСТВЕННОСТИ

C. PCT 1031
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April 25, 2005

Re: Implications of IPC Reform for the PCT International Authorities

Madam,
Sir,

At its eleventh session, held in February 2005, the Meeting of International Authorities under the PCT (PCT/MIA) discussed implications of International Patent Classification (IPC) reform for International Authorities, noted the effects of changes resulting from the reform to the classification of PCT applications in international search reports (ISRs) established by International Searching Authorities (ISAs) and agreed that further investigation of the effects of IPC reform was necessary (see document PCT/MIA/11/14, paragraphs 23 to 28).

The purpose of this circular is to collect information from the Authorities concerning their plans in respect of recording IPC symbols in ISRs when IPC reform comes into effect.

You are kindly invited to complete the attached questionnaire in light of explanations provided. It would be appreciated if the electronic version of the questionnaire could be returned to the PCT/MIA Electronic Forum of the International Bureau by May 25, 2005.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in green ink, which appears to be 'Francis Gurry', is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Francis Gurry
Deputy Director General

QUESTIONNAIRE RELATING TO IMPLICATIONS OF IPC REFORM FOR THE
PCT INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITIES

To be returned to: World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
PCT/MIA Electronic Forum

Reply submitted by:

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General Information

The International Bureau (IB) assigns to PCT applications the IPC symbols which are indicated in ISRs established by ISAs. The next eighth edition of the IPC (reformed IPC) will be published in June 2005 and will enter into force on January 1, 2006. The eighth edition will consist of the core and the advanced levels but only the advanced level should be used for classification of PCT applications.

PCT applications published on or after January 1, 2006, should bear the IPC symbols of the eighth edition. The international publication of the PCT application is effected in general after the expiration of 18 months from the priority date of that application. ISAs should ensure, therefore, that ISRs for PCT applications with priority date on or after July 1, 2004, contain the IPC symbols of the eighth edition of the IPC.

Monitoring the validity of the IPC symbols of the eighth edition indicated in ISRs

The IPC valid symbols file produced by the IB is used by offices for checking the validity of IPC symbols assigned to patent documents before their publication. The IB will produce the IPC valid symbols file for the eighth edition well in advance before its entering into force and ISAs should establish a system of monitoring the validity of IPC symbols assigned on the basis of the said IPC valid symbols file.

A system of monitoring the validity of IPC symbols will also be established at the IB. Where invalid symbols are found to have been entered on an ISR, the Authority concerned will be notified and requested to update or correct the classification.

1. Will your Office be able to implement a system of monitoring the validity of IPC symbols of the eighth edition of the IPC by the time when the eighth edition comes into effect?

Yes

No

2. If the response to question 1 is “No”, when does your Office plan to implement a system of monitoring the validity of IPC symbols?

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Periodical update of the IPC valid symbols file

After the entering into force of the eighth edition of the IPC, the IB plans to update the IPC valid symbols file every three months, according to the revision amendments of the advanced level of the IPC. ISAs will need to foresee the periodical replacement of the valid symbols file in their internal IT systems.

3. Please describe any problems with the periodical update of the IPC valid symbols file that your Office can foresee.

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Transmission of ISRs to the IB

ISRs are currently transmitted to the IB on paper or electronically. If an ISR containing classification data according to the eighth edition of the IPC is submitted on paper, IPC symbols should be presented according to the revised version of WIPO Standard ST.10/C (“Presentation of Bibliographic Data Components”) which will be valid from January 1, 2006, onwards. If an ISR containing classification data according to the eighth edition of the IPC is submitted electronically, IPC symbols should be recorded according to the revised version of WIPO Standard ST.8 (“Standard Recording of International Patent Classification (IPC) Symbols on Machine-Readable Records”) which will also be valid from January 1, 2006, onwards.

4. Does your Office plan to transmit ISRs to the IB on paper or electronically by the time when the eighth edition of the IPC comes into effect?

on paper

electronically

5. If the response to question 4 is “On paper”, please describe any problems that your Office may have with regard to the use of the revised WIPO Standard ST.10/C and how your Office plans to implement this Standard.

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6. If the response to question 4 is “On paper”, when does your Office plan to move to the electronic transmission of ISRs to the IB?

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7. If the response to question 4 is “Electronically”, please describe any problems that your Office may have with regard to the use of the revised WIPO Standard ST.8 and how your Office plans to implement this Standard.

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8. Does your Office plan to use the new WIPO Standard ST.36 (“Recommendation for the Processing of Patent Information using XML (Extensible Markup Language)”) for the electronic transmission of ISRs when the eighth edition of the IPC comes into effect?

Yes

No

9. If the response to question 8 is “No”, what other Standard does your Office plan to use for the electronic transmission of ISRs?

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10. Remarks

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