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November 10, 2005

Madam,
Sir,

Proposed modification to the front page of the published international application and PCT Gazette in electronic form

This Circular is addressed to your Office in its capacity as receiving Office, International Searching Authority (ISA), International Preliminary Examining Authority (IPEA) or designated and/or elected Office under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT). It is also addressed to certain intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and certain other users of PCT data.

This Circular concerns proposed modifications of the format of the front page of the published International Application and the *PCT Gazette* in electronic form which have become necessary in light of the changes resulting from the introduction of the 8th edition of the International Patent Classification (IPC) with effect from January 1, 2006.

It is recalled that according to the IPC Reform, as of January 1, 2006, all international applications should be published with an IPC symbol reflecting the current version of the 8th edition of the IPC. In accordance with PCT Rule 43.3, the classification of international applications according to the IPC is to be effected by the ISA.

In accordance with revised WIPO Standard ST.10/C, it is proposed that the IPC symbols will be presented on the front page of the published international application in tabular, instead of the current linear, format. For an illustration of the proposed modified format, please see the attached sample of a front page of a published international application. Since all IPC symbols of the 8th edition will be followed by a validity date (for example, **B 28B 5/02** (2006.01)), the edition indicator previously indicated on the front page will no longer be used.

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An important element of the 8th edition of the IPC is that the document classification will be updated on an ongoing basis. In order to ensure that the classification provided by the ISAs is correct and current in relation to the projected publication date, as considered at the PCT Meeting of International Authorities held in Geneva from February 21 to 25, 2005 (see document PCT/MIA/11/14, paragraph 26), in addition to introducing in the ISAs a system of monitoring of the validity of IPC symbols assigned, the International Bureau would also perform a validity check in respect of each 8th edition classification contained in an international search report.

It is proposed that in a case where the validity check of the International Bureau results in the conclusion that the 8th edition IPC symbol is either not correct or not current, the International Bureau will invite the ISA concerned to furnish a corrected or updated version of the symbol. A separate Circular (Circular C.PCT 1037 dated July 8, 2005) has been addressed to ISAs concerning the details of this invitation procedure to enable the International Bureau to obtain from the ISAs the correct and most current IPC symbol prior to international publication.

If, however, the correct and most current version of the IPC symbol is not furnished before completion of technical preparations for international publication, it is proposed that the International Bureau would publish the IPC symbol as furnished. In a case where no classification has been received at the time of completion of technical preparations by the International Bureau, the international application concerned is published as “not classified”.

If the correct and most current version of the IPC symbol is received from the ISA only after completion of technical preparation for international publication, it is proposed that the International Bureau will not republish the international application concerned. Instead, the corrected or altered IPC symbol would be made available as part of the “Bibliographic Data” page in the “Online File Inspection” system on WIPO’s web site (see <http://www.wipo.int/patentscope/en/database/search-adv.jsp>). The “Online File Inspection” system is expected to become an integral part of the *PCT Gazette* in electronic form in the future.

If, however, in a particular case, the ISA issues a corrected or revised international search report, in addition to the procedure outlined in the preceding paragraph, that report would be republished, as is the case today, by the International Bureau.

Moreover, in order to reflect the history of any corrections or updates to the IPC symbols in respect of a particular international application, it is proposed that the “Online File Inspection” system will also contain an entry for each modification to the IPC symbols under “Documents” or at some other convenient location in the system. /...

Entry into force and comments

In order to comply with the recommendations of revised Standard ST.10/C, the above proposed modifications would have to take effect as from January 1, 2006. Comments, if any, are therefore invited to be provided by December 7, 2005, preferably by fax to (+41 22) 910 00 30 or by e-mail to pct.legal@wipo.int.

Yours sincerely,



Francis Gurry
Deputy Director General

Enclosure: Annex – Sample of a front page of a published international application containing tabular IPC symbols

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

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International Bureau***WO,2004/123456***(43) International Publication Date:
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Edmonton, VA 21091 (US).**(81) Designated States** (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.**(84) Designated States** (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian Patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European Patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).**Publication:**

— With international search report.

*For two-letter codes, language codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.***(54) Title:** DIGITAL HIGH-SPEED PRINTING SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE**(57) Abstract:** A digital high-speed printing system architecture for processing contiguous raster-image data blocks for transmission to a marking engine, comprises a central processing unit ("CPU") (42) and at least one video RAM device (44). Each video RAM device (44) includes a dynamic band RAM (46), a serial access memory (48), a random access port for transmitting and receiving image data blocks to and from the dynamic band RAM (46), and a serial port for transmitting and receiving image data blocks to and from the serial access memory (48). The video RAM devices (44) perform bi-directional image data block transfers between the dynamic band RAM (46) and the serial access memory (48). Furthermore, the video RAM devices (44) transfer image data blocks to and from the serial access port, and simultaneously transfer of image data blocks to and from the random access port. A digital high-speed printing system architecture for processing contiguous raster-image data blocks for transmission to a marking engine, comprises a central processing unit ("CPU") (42) and at least one video RAM device (44). Each video RAM device (44) includes a dynamic band RAM (46), a serial access memory (48), a random access port for transmitting and receiving image data blocks to and from the dynamic band RAM (46), and a serial port for transmitting and receiving image data blocks to and from the serial access memory (48). Each video RAM device (44) includes a dynamic band RAM (46), a serial access memory (48), a random access port for transmitting and receiving image data blocks to and from the dynamic band RAM (46), and a serial port for transmitting and receiving image data blocks to and from the serial access memory (48). Furthermore, the video RAM devices (44) transfer image data blocks to and from the serial access port, and simultaneously transfer of image data blocks to and from the random access port. A digital high-speed printing system architecture for processing contiguous raster-image data blocks for transmission to a marking engine, comprises a central processing unit ("CPU") (42) and at least one video RAM device (44).