

SURVEY ON THE PRESENTATION OF PRIORITY APPLICATION NUMBERS

Editorial note by the International Bureau

This document presents a survey of industrial property offices to determine the compliance with the provisions of paragraph 12(a) of WIPO Standard [ST.10/C](#). The International Bureau undertook the survey in the framework of the task of the former Standards and Documentation Working Group (SDWG) to improve the quality of patent family data and to avoid confusion in the presentation of priority application numbers. In May 2017, the fifth session of the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS) agreed to invite IP Offices to provide information to update their entries in Part 7.2.4 and publish the results in the *WIPO Handbook on Industrial Property Information and Documentation* (see document CWS/5/22, paragraph 72).

SURVEY ON THE PRESENTATION OF PRIORITY APPLICATION NUMBERS

*Noted by the Committee on WIPO Standards
at its sixth session on October 19, 2018*

INTRODUCTION

1. The application number of the first filing of a patent application and the WIPO Standard [ST.3](#) two-letter code of the country or organization where the said application was filed are used, respectively, to identify the so-called priority application in accordance with the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property and the country or organization where the priority application was filed. Application numbers, priority application numbers and WIPO Standard ST.3 codes are bibliographic data concerning patent documents widely used for information purposes in patent documents, official certificates, official gazettes, databases, etc.

2. A clear and unambiguous presentation of patent application numbers, and in particular of priority application numbers, is considered necessary and of great importance by industrial property offices (IPOs) and applicants, as well as by patent information providers and users. In order to ensure accurate and consistent references to priority application numbers, and to reduce the risk of error in subsequent applications, IPOs must present priority application numbers in a way that is clearly understood by all applicants. This clarity becomes crucial when presenting the application number in the notification of the first filing and when presenting the application number of a patent document in the certificate of priority.

3. WIPO Standard [ST.10/C](#) provides recommendations concerning the presentation of bibliographic data components of published patent documents. In particular, paragraph 12 sets out the following recommendations concerning the presentation of priority application numbers:

“12. (a) In order to improve the quality of patent family data and to avoid confusion in the presentation of priority application numbers, the following recommendations are made:

“Industrial property offices (IPOs) should always provide priority application numbers complying with the “Recommended Presentation in Abbreviated Form as a Priority Application Number” given in the Appendix to the Standard [ST.10/C](#) when presenting the application number of a patent document in the notification of the first filing and in the certificate of priority. The “Recommended Presentation in Abbreviated Form as a Priority Application Number” should be presented with the Standard [ST.3](#) code (preferably in a specified line or column along with the title “The country code (in case of the international organization, ‘The organization code’) and number of your priority application, to be used for filing abroad under the Paris Convention, is”) to be easily recognized as the priority number by other IPOs and applicants.

“*Example of presentation of “Recommended Presentation in Abbreviated Form as a Priority Application Number”:*

“ (i) in case of the country:

The country code and number of your priority application, to be used for filing abroad under the Paris Convention, is JP2000-001234

“ (ii) in case of the international organization:

The organization code and number of your priority application, to be used for filing abroad under the Paris Convention, is EP79100953

“ (b) IPOs should encourage and facilitate the compliance by applicants of paragraph 12(a) of WIPO Standard [ST.10/C](#) when providing the priority application number in subsequent filings.”

4. The present survey of IPOs to determine their compliance with the provisions of paragraph 12(a) of WIPO Standard [ST.10/C](#) has been prepared by the International Bureau (IB) on the basis of the replies to the questionnaire distributed along with Circulars: [SCIT 2619](#), dated January 31, 2006; [SCIT 2631](#), dated November 15, 2006; and [CWS 88](#), dated October 25, 2017. The survey presents the information provided by the following 48 IPOs: AM, AT, AU, BE, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DZ, EA, EE, EP, ES, FI, GB, GC, GE, GT, HR, HU, IE, JP, KG, KR, LT, MC, MD, MG, MX, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, TH, TR, TT, UA, US, and WO/IB (International Bureau of WIPO in its capacity as a PCT receiving office).

5. The Appendix to the survey, for the purpose of informing as to how to proceed with regard to the priority application numbers of different offices, contains examples of copies of notifications of the first filing and certificates of priority of patent applications used by IPOs.

SURVEY RESULTS

Notifications of the first filing

6. Question 1(a): Does your Office/Organization comply with the provisions of paragraph 12(a) in WIPO Standard [ST.10/C](#) when presenting the application number of a patent document in the notification of the first filing?

Yes: AM, BE, BY, CU, EP, ES, FI, GB, GE, IE, KG, LT, PL, PT, TH, TT, UA, US. (18)

No: AT, AU, BG, BR, CA, CH, CR, CZ, DE, EA, EE, GC, GT, HR, HU, JP, KR, MC, MD, MG, MX, RO, RU, SD, SG, SI, SK, TR, WO/IB. (29)

Remarks:

AT: The formats used by the Office are as follows:

Patents: A 1234/2000
Utility models: GM 1234/2000
SPC: SZ 1234/2000
Topographies: HL 1234/2000
Trademarks: AM 1234/2000
Designs: MU 1234/2000

Each year, the Office starts a serial number starting with 1 for every kind of application. (For example, A 1/2006, GM 1/2006, AM 1/2006, etc.) The Office plans to introduce SOPRANO in 2007; it is not sure whether it will be able to keep this, or will have to change this practice at least in order to have a common series for patents, utility models and perhaps also for Supplementary Protection Certificates (SPCs).

AU: The WIPO Standard [ST.3](#) code is separated from the application number

BE: In January 2007, the Office reported that they intended to implement paragraph 12(a) in the notifications of the first filing as of February 1, 2007.

CA: The Office currently does not include the WIPO Standard [ST.3](#) country code within the application number.

CH: Any changes to the IT systems need to be prioritized and worked on at an appropriate time.

DE: The applicant receives the application number from the Office which is identical to the publication number. An example of such an application number is 10 2005 012345.6, which complies with WIPO Standard [ST.10/C](#), except for the leading country code.

EA: The Office does not use the notification of the first filing.

EE: The letters P (patent) and U (utility model) are used before the application number without [ST.3](#) country code.

ES: The letters P (patent for invention) and U (utility model) are used before the application number to denote the type of industrial property right.

FI: Current FI data format of FI patent application numbers is presented in application number: AN:20060123.

GC: The current format of a patent application number filed at the Office is as follows: GCC/P/4-digits Year No./Serial No. (e.g., GCC/P/2002/2304). This is the format in which the application number of a patent document is currently presented whether in the notification of the first filing or in the certificate of priority.

HR: Instead of issuing notifications of the first filing, the Office prints out the date of filing on the copy of the application form, together with the application number and filing date as well.

KR: The Office does not present the priority application number in the notification of the first filing because the Office does not have an individual numbering system for priority application numbers. When necessary, the Office just uses the application number similar to that of its domestic publications and notifications, excluding the country code "KR", for example "10-2006-0123456".

MC: The Office does not comply with the provision yet, but it will study the possibility of doing so.

- MD:** The Office does not issue the notifications of the first filing. Instead of using such notifications, the Office stamps the date of filing on the applicant's copy of the patent application form and stamps an application number. The application numbers have the same format both for national and PCT applications, the numbers being given successively and do not include the WIPO Standard [ST.3](#) country code.
- RO:** The Romanian State Office for Inventions and Trademarks does not include the WIPO Standard [ST.3](#) country code within the application number. The formats presently used by the Romanian Patent and Trademark Office for the different types of industrial property applications are as follows:
- Patent application:
a 2006 00001 (<character code><year><5 digits serial number>)
The applicant receives from the Office the filing notification bearing the application number. The application numbers have the same format both for national and PCT applications, the numbers being given successively.
- Plant variety patent application:
v 2006 001 (<character code><year><3 digits serial number>)
The Office provides the applicant the filing notification bearing the application number. The notification does not have a standard form, being adapted for each application.
- Industrial design application:
f 2006 0001 (<character code><year><4 digits serial number>)
The applicant receives from the Office the filing notification bearing the application number.
- Topography application:
TCI 2005 0001 (<character code><year><4 digits serial number>)
The Office provides the applicant the filing notification, bearing the application number. The notification does not have a standard form, being adapted for each application.
It is to mention that the Topography of Integrated Circuit Law was amended and the amended law entered into force in March 2006. Further on the character code of the application shall be changed in compliance with the amended law, and shall be TPS instead of TCI.
- Trademark application:
M 2006 00001 (<character code><year><5 digits serial number>)
The Office provides the applicant the filing notification, bearing both the registration number and the application number.
- RU:** The Office does not issue the notifications of the first filing themselves. Instead of using such notifications, the Office prints the date of filing on the inventor's copy of the application and adheres a label with an application number. Its application number format and "Recommended Presentation in Abbreviated Form as Priority Application Number" are the same.
- SD:** In the case of PCT applications, the international application number is written as follows: e.g., PCT/SD 2004/000001. The Office does not have a model form for notification of the first filing.
- SK:** The current format of a patent and utility model application number used by the Office is as follows: PP 59-2017, PUV 89-2017. The letters PP (for patents) and PUV (for utility models) are used before the application number, without WIPO Standard [ST.3](#) code. The digits before the hyphen indicate the serial number of the application and the four-digit number after the hyphen indicates the year of filing of the application.
- TT:** Initially issued on hand-written forms and later on issued correspondence. Not available electronically.

7. Question 1(b): If the answer to Question 1(a) was "NO", is your Office/Organization planning to implement the said paragraph 12(a) in the notifications of the first filing? If so, when?

Yes: CA; CH in 2007; CR; GC; GT; MD; MG; MX; SD; SK; TR; (11)

No: AT, AU, BG, BR, CZ, DE, EA, EE, HR, HU, JP, KR, MC, RO, RU, SE, SG, SI, WO/IB. (19)

Remarks:

AT: At the occasion of this questionnaire, the Office considered introducing a presentation of the application number more compliant with the recommendation by simply changing a sentence of the notification of the first filing:

– Recent version of the sentence:

(We recommend writing the priority application number in the form given by the Austrian Patent Office)

(Es wird empfohlen, bei Auslandsanmeldungen das Aktenzeichen Ihrer prioritätsbegründenden Anmeldung ausschließlich in dem vom österreichischen Patentamt vergebenen Format anzugeben.)

– Planned version of the sentence:

(When taking this application as priority application, please write the number of this application in the form AT2000-012345).

(Sollte diese Anmeldung prioritätsbegründend für Auslandsanmeldungen werden, so wäre im Ausland das Aktenzeichen als AT«AnmJahr»-«AnmNummer» anzugeben.)

The formats planned to use were

(see <https://www.wipo.int/scit/en/standards/pdf/03-13-01.pdf>):

patents: AT2000-001234

utility models: AT2000-001234 U

SPC: AT2000-001234 C

Topographies: AT2000-001234 T

Trademarks: AT2000-001234 TM

Designs: AT2000-001234 S

However, the implementation of this new practice when delivering priority certificates could mean that the applicants would risk having problems when the format of the application number on the cover page of the priority certificate is not exactly the same format as the stamped number on the application. As the stamped format does not comprise the country code "AT" and, furthermore, the order of application number and application year is inversed compared to the recommendation (see above), the AT2000-1234 format is not mentioned on the notifications, nor on the priority certificates.

From the technical point of view, it would be easy to indicate the application number in the format AT2000-001234, as the programs are prepared for it for the filing notifications, and the first page of the priority document is prepared in Word manually; that is, the application number is keyed in for each document.

The bigger problem seems to be that of completely introducing a new format in the Office (new stamps, and especially getting used to a few practice after so many years). But on the other hand, the Office plans to start with SOPRANO as a workflow for patent and utility models in 2007, so perhaps this could be taken as an occasion to change the stamped format of the application numbers too. For this, in addition to the answers to the questionnaire, the Office would like to hear about similar experiences, arguments and reasons for such a change, as this discussion could be helpful in order to "introduce" the new format together with SOPRANO. Please send comments regarding the said experiences to the e-mail katharina.fastenbauer@patentamt.at.

BY: If nothing changes when implementing the said paragraph 12(a), the application numbers will be as follows: Byu 20071234 or Byu 20071234.

CA: Any changes to the IT systems need to be prioritized and worked on at an appropriate time. In March 2006, the Office reported that it would implement paragraph 12(a) in the notifications of the first filing in 6 to 12 months.

CH: WIPO will be informed immediately of the implementation.

CR: In March 2006, the Office reported plans to implement paragraph 12(a) in notifications of the first filing in the second half of 2006.

CZ: The Office does not use "the notification of the first filing".

DE: The Office views the notification as an internal receipt issued by the Office to the applicant. For official documents, the country code will be included, see Question 2(a), below.

- EA: The Office does not plan to use the notification of the first filing in the near future.
- EE: The Office is considering to introduce, in the notification of the first filing, the application number in conformity with paragraph 12(a).
- GC: The Office plans to implement the said paragraph 12(a) after the Office's new patent applications integrated computer system - under construction - becomes ready in the year 2006. The intended format of a patent application number is: GC4-digits Year No./7-digits Serial No. (e.g. GC2002/0002304). Note: the 7-digits serial number is accumulative regardless of the year number.
- GT: The implementation is a work in progress. In March 2006, the Office reported plans to implement paragraph 12(a) in the notification of the first filing in May 2006.
- HR: The Office has not considered the implementation of the said paragraph 12(a) in the near future.
- JP: The Office does not have a concrete plan to change the format for the notification of the filing at this time. The Office electronically processes the notification of the filing, and system developments required for modification of the format for notification could cost time and money. The Office fully understands the importance of properly indicating the application number in the notification of filing; however, the change of the notification of the first filing seems relatively less urgent since applicants usually refer to the priority certificate but not to the notification of first filing when they prepare their filing documents of foreign applications.
- KR: The Office does not have a plan for the implementation of the said paragraph 12(a). However, to apply the provision to the KR numbering system, the Office needs to amend relevant regulations and forms and upgrade the computer programs after an internal review and discussion.
- MC: See remarks to Question 1(a) above.
- MD: In March 2006, the Office reported plans to implement paragraph 12(a) in the notification of the first filing as from April 1, 2006.
- MX: A technical evaluation will be performed in order to modify the automated system. In March 2006, the Office reported plans to implement paragraph 12(a) in the notifications of the first filing in January 2007.
- RO: The Office has not considered the short-term implementation of the said paragraph 12(a). However, such decision could be taken only after a proper assessment of efforts involved.
- RU: Since only less than 10% of applicants in the Russian Federation file subsequent applications for the same or related subject matter abroad in accordance with the Paris Convention, the Office does not plan to implement paragraph 12(a) in the notification of the first filing in the near future.
- SK: The Office intends to implement paragraph 12(a) in notifications of the first filing by the end of the year 2018.
- TR: In January 2007, the Office reported plans to implement paragraph 12(a) in the notification of the first filing during the first quarter of 2007.

Certificates of Priority

8. Question 2(a): Does your Office/Organization comply with the provisions of paragraph 12(a) in WIPO Standard [ST.10/C](#) when presenting the application number of a patent document in the certificate of priority?

Yes: AM, BY, CA, CU, CZ, DE, EA, EP, ES, GE, IE, JP, KG, LT, PL, PT, RU, TH, TT, UA, US. (21)

No: AT, AU, BE, BG, BR, CH, CR, EE, FI, GB, GC, GT, HR, HU, MC, MD, MG, MX, KR, RO, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, TR, WO/IB. (27)

Remarks:

AT: See answer and remarks concerning Question 1, above.

AU: The [ST.3](#) code is separated from the application number.

BR: See example of priority certificate in Appendix.

CA: The Office changed their certification of priority document effective March 6, 2006, to include the WIPO Standard [ST.3](#) code to be compliant with WIPO Standard [ST.10/C](#), e.g., CA2123123. Any documents prior to this date will be in the old format without the WIPO Standard [ST.3](#) code.

BY: The Office uses the following presentation of priority application numbers: BY2007-0001 for patents, and BY2007-0001 U for utility models.

CH: Any changes to the IT systems need to be prioritized and worked on at an appropriate time.

DE: Currently, the priority number complies with WIPO Standard [ST.10/C](#) except for the country code. The Office is in the process of implementing this addition, which it expects to have in place in several months. Please find a draft example of the cover page of a priority document in the Appendix to this Survey.

EE: See remarks concerning Question 1(a), above.

FI: Current FI data format of the priority application number is presented in two fields: NP:US 096495 and WO:US88/02191.

GB: The application number is present on the copy of the application, attached to the certificate.

GC: The current format of a patent application number filed at the Office is as follows: GCC/P/4-digits Year No./Serial No. (e.g., GCC/P/2002/2304). This is the format in which the application number of a patent document is currently presented whether in the notification of the first filing or in the certificate of priority.

JP: The Office has changed the format of the priority certificate to comply with WIPO Standard [ST.10/C](#) as of April 1, 2005.

KR: See answer and remarks concerning Question 1(a), above.

RU: The Office provides a special certificate to the applicants inquiring a copy of the priority application for the abroad filing. In this certificate, the recommendations of paragraph 12 (a) are included.

RO: Patent application: The same format of the application number is mentioned on the priority certificate.
Industrial design application: The number of the application without the character code "f" is mentioned on the priority certificate.
Trademark application: The priority certificate bears both the registration number and the application number.

SD: The Office does not have a model form for the certificate of priority.

SE: Preamble says "Application number ", no [ST.3](#) code given

TT: Initially issued on hand-written forms and later on issued correspondence. Not available electronically.

9. Question 2(b): If the answer to Question 2(a) was "NO", is your Office/ Organization planning to implement the said paragraph 12(a) in the certificates of priority? If so, when?

Yes: BE on January 1, 2008, or later; BR; CH in 2007; CR; FI in 2007; GC; GT; HR in 2007; MD; MG; MX; SD; SK; TR. (14)

No: AT, AU, BG, EE, GB, HU, KR, MC, RO, SE, SG, SI, WO/IB. (13)

Remarks:

AT: See answer and remarks concerning Question 1, above.

BR: The Office is implementing a computer plan that will allow for compliance with paragraph 12(a) in the certificates of priority.

CH: WIPO will be informed immediately after implementation.

CR: The Office intends to implement paragraph 12(a) in the certificates of priority in the first half of 2006.

EE: See remarks concerning Question 1(b), above.

FI: Current FI bibliographic data format are as follows:

FINLAND BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATA FORMAT INCLUDING CHANGES IN PATENT CLASSIFICATION FROM 1.1.2006 ONWARDS OF FINNISH PATENT AND UTILITY MODEL DATA (IPC 8 / WIPO [ST.8](#))
→ desired data format according to WIPO [ST.10/C](#)

A = PUBLISHED FI PATENT APPLICATION (after 18 months from filing);
B = GRANTED FI PATENTS SINCE 1.4.1997 (new patent law: PN:100001 -)
C = GRANTED FI PATENTS (old patent law: PN:40000 - 99999);
U1 = REGISTERED FI UTILITY MODELS (from PN: 1 -)
T3 = VALIDATED EUROPEAN PATENT IN FINLAND (from PN: FI/EP0729863 -)

Field number	Field code	Field name	Format
<110>	PN	Patent publication number	NNNNN
<TYP>	KI	Kind of document	A0, A, B, C, U0 or U1
<140>	DP	Publication date of grant	YYYYMMDD
<210>	AN	Application number	YYYYNNNN
<220>	AD	Application date	YYYYMMDD
<320>	PD	Priority date	YYYYMMDD
<410>	AP	Publication date of application (18 mths)	YYYYMMDD
<450>	VD	Validation date of Finnish translation	YYYYMMDD
<510>	IC	New IPC 8 class contains 30 characters: - positions 1-15 contain IPC - positions 16-19 are blank - pos. 20-27 contain version indicator - pos. 28 contain classification level - pos. 29 contain position - pos. 30 contain classification value	B28B...5/05.....(2006.01) C (core) or A (advanced) or S (subclass) F (first) or L (later) I (inventive) or N (non-inventive)
<310> <320> <330>	NP	Priority information: Priority country Priority number and Priority date	CC NNNNNN P DD.MM.YYYY → CC(YY)YY-NNNNNN
<541>	FT SE	Finnish title Swedish title	TEXT
<710>	PA AA AL	Patent applicant Applicant's address Applicant's country	NAME ADDR CC
<720>	IN IA IL	Inventor Inventor's address Inventor's country	NAME ADDR CC
<740>	RN RA	Representative's name Representative's address	NAME ADDR
<861>	WO	PCT Publication number	CCYY/NNNNNN DD.MM.YYYY → PCT/CC(YY)YY/NNNNNN

Current bibliographic data format of granted patent in Finland kind FI B → desired data format according to WIPO [ST.10/C](#)
N.B. Published patent applications (FI A) do not have PN (patent number) nor DP (date of grant) fields

AN:20055562
PN:117377
KI:B

DP:29.09.2006
AD:19.10.2005
AP:19.10.2005
IC:A61K 38/21 (2006.01)AFI
IC:A61K 47/00 (2006.01)ALI
IC:A61K 47/02 (2006.01)ALN
PD:11.10.1994
NP:US 329813 P 11.10.1994 → **US1994-329813**
FT:Kelatointiaineen käyttö alfatyyppistä interferoniasisältävässä, stabiilissa vesiformulaatiossa
SE:Användning av kelatbildningsämne i stabila vattenformulat, som innehåller interferon av alfa-typ
PA:Schering Corporation,
AA:2000 Galloping Hill Road, Kenilworth, NJ 07033-0530
AL:US
IN:Yuen, Pui-Ho C.
IA:1 Stanford Place, Princeton Junction, NJ 08550
IL:US
RN:Leitzinger Oy,
RA:High Tech Center, Tammasaarekatu 1, Helsinki
WO:US95/12362 10.10.1995 → **PCT/US95/12362**

GB: None planned.

GC: The Office plans to implement the said paragraph 12(a) after the Office's new patent applications integrated computer system - under construction - becomes ready in the year 2006. The intended format of a patent application number is: GC4-digits Year No./7-digits Serial No. (e.g., GC2002/0002304). Note: the 7-digits serial number is accumulative regardless of the year number.

GT: The implementation is a work in progress.

KR: See answer and remarks concerning Question 1(b).

MD: In March 2006, the Office reported plans to implement paragraph 12(a) in the certificates of priority in April 2006.

MX: A technical evaluation will be performed in order to modify the automated system. In March 2006, the Office reported plans to implement paragraph 12(a) in the priority certificates in January 2007.

RO: The Office has not considered the short-term implementation of the said paragraph 12(a). However, such decision could be taken only after a proper assessment of efforts involved.

SK: The Office intends to implement paragraph 12(a) in the certificates of priority by the end of the year 2007.

TR: On January 10, 2007, the Office reported plans to implement paragraph 12(a) in priority certificates by January 15, 2007.

Comments and conclusions

10. Paragraphs 1 and 2, above, refer to the reasons for emphasizing the importance of recording priority data accurately and consistently. The critical need to implement the recommendations set out in paragraph 12 of WIPO Standard [ST.10/C](#), i.e., the importance of avoiding confusion in the presentation of priority application numbers in order to improve the quality of patent family data, is also explained in paragraph 11 of the said Standard, which reads as follows:

“11. Priority application numbers are provided to applicants by industrial property offices in the notifications of the first filing and in the certificates of priority under the Paris Convention. Priority application numbers are then cited by applicants when filing a subsequent application for the same or related subject matter before a subsequent industrial property office in accordance with the Paris Convention. The priority application number can then be used by industrial property offices to link all related patent document “families” together in databases and computerized search systems. This ability to create patent families is tremendously valuable to industrial property offices for examination purposes, for example, when a better date of filing is needed during the prosecution of a later unrelated application. Patent families also permit patent examiners to review previously published patent documents in a preferred language, if available. Patent families can help offices save significant classification resources (financial, staffing, etc.) by allowing industrial property offices to use the classifications of one patent family member for all members of the patent family. These and other uses of patent families make the accurate recording of the priority application number by applicants a critical concern of all industrial property offices. Even small deviations from the correct priority application number format can cause patent documents not to be collected into a patent family. Correction of errors in priority data cause huge expense for industrial property offices. Therefore, it is critical that the provisions of this section of the Standard be implemented by IPOs as soon as possible.”

11. An important number of the offices that completed the questionnaires on the implementation of paragraph 12(a) of WIPO Standard [ST.10/C](#) reported either compliance with the provisions of that paragraph, or plans to comply with them. However, the figures regarding the notifications of the first filing are not as high as for the certificates of priority. The number of offices that already comply with the provisions of the said paragraph 12(a) is 18 for the notifications of the first filing, and 21 for the certificates of priority. The number of offices reporting plans to implement the provisions is 11 for the notifications of the first filing, and 14 for the certificates of priority. This means that 29 offices out of 48 have already implemented or intend to implement the provisions in the notifications of the first filing, and 35 out of 48 in the certificates of priority.

12. Among the offices that do not yet comply with the provisions of paragraph 12(a), the prospects for compliance are better for the certificates of priority than for the notifications of the first filing. Among the 27 offices which have not yet implemented the provisions in the priority certificates, over half of them (i.e., 14 offices) intend to do so while 13 offices do not report any such plans. However, with regard to the 29 offices that do not comply with the provisions in the notifications of the first filing, the number of offices that intend to implement them is about a third(11) while about two-thirds (19) of the offices do not yet have any plan to do so.

13. In the previous version of WIPO Standard [ST.10/C](#), there was no recommendation equivalent or similar to that given in current paragraph 12(a). The addition of paragraph 12 to WIPO Standard [ST.10/C](#) in 2004, as well as the preparation of responses to the questionnaire, have given IPOs an occasion to consider and discuss the implementation of a new practice aimed at facilitating accuracy and consistency by applicants when presenting priority application numbers in their filings abroad under the Paris Convention.

14. The results of the survey allow for a certain optimism regarding compliance with paragraph 12(a), mainly with regard to priority certificates, since the implementation of the recommendations is either already a reality or a work in progress in many IPOs (see paragraph 11, above). However, it should be emphasized that further efforts should be made to implement the said recommendations in both filing notifications and priority certificates. The current practices of IPOs, as described in their responses to the questionnaire and showed by the example copies of filing notifications and priority certificates provided by the IPOs, indicate that a relevant number of IPOs do not yet provide application numbers complying with paragraph 12(a) in order to avoid confusion in the presentation of priority application numbers (see paragraph 12, above). Also, 12 IPOs responded to the request for updated information in 2017. Therefore, the survey results may be out of date for non-responding IPOs whose position may have changed since the original survey in 2007, or IPOs who indicated plans to implement in years which have now past. It should be noted that there have been more advances made in implementing the recommendation concerning priority certificates as compared to that concerning notifications of the first filing. Hopefully, the increasing number of offices complying with the recommendations, and the information and examples provided in this survey will encourage and help IPOs, which have not yet done so, to join the group of IPOs that are already compliant with the provisions of paragraph 12(a).

[Annex follows]