

USE OF IDENTIFIERS FOR APPLICANTS BY IPOs

Response ID:11; zepu Data

1. Country Code page

1. Please enter the two-letter country code corresponding to your Office or Organization.

EE

2. Question page

2. 1. What are the perceived advantages of using Applicant Identifiers in your Office? Please mark all that apply:
For purposes of this survey, applicant identifiers refers to standardized names or numeric codes which belong to a single legal entity. See question 6a for examples.

1a. advantages for the Office itself:

- Effective management of applicant information
- Easy to change applicant's information in all relevant records simultaneously
- Effective management of foreign applicant names

3. 1b. Advantages for Applicants and Patent Information Users:

- No need to repeatedly input the same information
- Accurate statistics on patent applicants and owners
- Avoiding mistakes, such as where the inventor's name incorrectly appears as the patentee name
- Improving accuracy for re-assignments

4. 2a. Does your Office publish (or intend to publish) the identifier(s) you use (or plan to use) assigned to the applicant?
For purposes of this survey, applicant identifiers refers to standardized names or numeric codes which belong to a single legal entity. See question 6a for examples.

No

Comments:

2b. If yes, how:

5. 3. Does your Office include (or plan to include) the identifiers in the set of data for the exchange of patent information with other IP Offices?

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No

Comments:

6. 4. Which approach to assigning identifiers does your Office use (or plan to use)?

For purposes of this survey, applicant identifiers refers to standardized names or numeric codes which belong to a single legal entity. See question 6a for examples.

Normative (code assigned by a national authority)

7. 5. How does your Office ensure that an applicant has only one identifier?

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which belong to a single legal entity. See question 6a for examples.

In case of national applicants,: a registered business number in a national directory or personal identification code

In case of foreign applicants,: with a query from the database, do we have a person with such a name and address in the database

8. 6a. What information does your Office request in order to determine identifiers for national applicants?

For purposes of this survey, applicant identifiers refers to standardized names or numeric codes which belong to a single legal entity. See question 6a for examples.

Other. Please specify:: a registered business number in a national directory or personal identification code

Comments:

9. 6b. What information does your Office request in order to determine identifiers for foreign applicants?

For purposes of this survey, applicant identifiers refers to standardized names or numeric codes which belong to a single legal entity. See question 6a for examples.

Other. Please specify:: no request

10. 7a. Does your Office consider that a Global Identifier (GID) would be a desirable solution for applicant name standardization?

Not sure

Comments:

11. 7b. If yes, could you suggest how the GID should be established and maintained?

12. 7c. In case a GID is established, will your Office use both the GID and a national identifier at the same time, or will your Office use the GID instead of a national identifier?

Then we will use both because many of our e-services are based on national identifiers.

13. PART B - NO IDENTIFIER

8a. If your Office does not use or does not intend to use identifiers for applicants, please explain why:

For purposes of this survey, applicant identifiers refers to standardized names or numeric codes which belong to a single legal entity. See question 6a for examples.

14. 8b. Please describe any alternative approach to the use of identifiers that your office is using or contemplates using, including how that approach deals with issues of name ambiguity (misspellings, multiple spellings, different character sets, etc):

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15. 9. Please explain any drawbacks or legal complications your Office may have related to using identifiers:

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16. 10. Which of the following options would you consider for investigation in your Office?

*[Note * Normalization – correction of “trivial” errors (which leave the possibility of multiple name variants for one applicant)*

*** Standardization – using one name variant for an applicant (which might not be the ultimate owner, as IP rights can be registered in the name of a subsidiary when the beneficiary is the parent company)]*

Please mark each option that you choose with (L: Low), (M: Medium) or (H: High) depending on the priority attributed by your office.

	L: Low	M: Medium	H: High
Use of identifiers		X	
Normalized* names	X		
Use of “dictionaries” of patentee names by patent information	X		
Use of standardized** names designated by applicants		X	

Other. Please specify:

17. 11. What is your Office’s desired outcome from the Name Standardization Task Force (set of recommendations, public database, etc.)? Please explain:

18. 12. Where should the standardization effort be focused? For example, on internal systems in IPOs or for externally-held IP databases?

19. 12a. Does your Office use (or plan to use) a computer algorithm for the normalization or standardization of applicant names?

No

Comments:

20. 12b. If yes, please briefly describe the algorithm.

A detailed description is not necessary. If the algorithm has a commonly recognized name, that may be sufficient. If not, a few words or sentences describing the general approach of the algorithm are enough. If multiple algorithms are used in combination, please briefly explain each one.

Example: “The algorithm removes non-latin characters and repeated whitespace, then uses a dictionary to replace known abbreviations with a standard format, such as “L.L.C.” and “LLC.” being replaced with “LLC”.

21. 13. If Offices use different approaches to managing applicant names, should the standardization effort harmonize the different approaches for the purpose of the international exchange of patent information?