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STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT

1999

ON INDUSTRIAL DESIGN INFORMATION ACTIVITIES*

submitted by

ESTONIA

An annual series of reports on the industrial design information activities
of members of the Standing Committee on Information Technologies

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– The expression “industrial design” covers designs and models.
– Information related to design patent activities reported by industrial property offices issuing design patents is included in this series of documents.

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ON INDUSTRIAL DESIGN INFORMATION ACTIVITIES

I. Evolution of registration activities:

The Industrial Design Protection Act is in force since January 11, 1998. The subject matter, contents and the order for filing of registration applications of industrial design were confirmed by the Regulation of the Ministry of Economics on January 8, 1998.

Registration applications may be filed with the Patent Office in person or by post. According to the Industrial Design Protection Act the registration system of industrial designs is applied in the Republic of Estonia. In registration system Estonia does not check the novelty, an individual character of the industrial design or whether industrial designs may be used for manufacturing industrial or handicraft products. The owner of the industrial design is responsible for the novelty, an individual character of the industrial designs or the possibility to use industrial designs for manufacturing industrial or handicraft products.

The registration application may cover a single industrial design, variants of one industrial design or an industrial design set. The registration application shall contain the following documents:

- 1) the request for the registration of the industrial design;
- 2) the reproduction of the industrial design;
- 3) the document proving the payment of the fee;
- 4) the power of attorney if the registration application is filed through an Estonian patent attorney or if the applicants have a common representative;
- 5) where priority is claimed, the documents certifying the priority claim.

The documents of the registration application shall be filed in Estonian. The documents certifying priority claim may be submitted in a foreign language.

II. Matters concerning the generation, reproduction and distribution of industrial design documents and of secondary sources of industrial design information, i.e. official gazettes

The official publication of the Estonian Patent Office is the Estonian Industrial Design Gazette.

The Statutes of the Estonian Industrial Design Gazette was confirmed by the Regulation of the Minister of Economics of May 15, 1998. The Estonian Industrial Design Gazette comprises of the following parts:

- 1) Registered industrial designs,
- 2) Renewal of term of industrial design,
- 3) Change in data relating to the registration of industrial design,
- 4) Transfer of rights of proprietor of industrial design into usufruct,
- 5) Deletion of industrial design registration,
- 6) Issue of a duplicate of industrial design certificate,
- 7) Lists,
- 8) Legal acts and information.

The Estonian Industrial Design Gazette is published 4 times a year.

III. Matters concerning classifying, reclassifying and indexing of industrial design information according to the classification systems applied

The Estonian Patent Office uses the International Classification for Industrial Designs (Locarno Agreement). The Republic of Estonia became party to the said Agreement on Oct. 31, 1996.

WIPO Standard St. 80 is used for bibliographic data coding.

IV. Search file establishment and upkeep

The Estonian Patent Office uses the following manual search files:

- database concerning processing of industrial design registration applications comprises of the files of industrial design registration applications.
- the card file of industrial designs are used for the purpose of trademark examination,
- the State Register of Industrial Designs.

The files are updated continually.

V. Activities in the field of computerised search systems for industrial designs

In-house search system (offline) is under development phase.

VI. Administration of industrial design services available to the public

The computerised Estonian industrial designs database can be exploited at the reading room of the Estonian Patent Library during the working hours. The search is carried out upon a

request by the biographer and the customers pay a moderate fee for the computerised services.

The clients of the Patent Library have at their disposal various publications concerning the industrial designs, mostly on publications on paper but also the US CD-ROM database USABIB and the Swiss CD-ROM industrial design database Patent-, Muster- und Markenblatt. There is a great demand for the computerised industrial design services.

VII. Matters concerning mutual exchange of industrial design documentation and information

The Estonian Patent Library has agreements with WIPO and 33 patent offices on the exchange of industrial design bulletins on paper carrier. Information concerning industrial designs is mostly included in bulletins containing various types of industrial property documents, although there are also specialised publications dealing exclusively with industrial designs.

At present information concerning the Estonian industrial design on machine-readable carriers is not being forwarded to our exchange partners.