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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
GENEVA

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT

1999

ON INDUSTRIAL DESIGN INFORMATION ACTIVITIES*

submitted by

NORWAY

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

*
– 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.

Re: Task No.24 of the SCIT Work Program

ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT ON INDUSTRIAL DESIGN INFORMATION
ACTIVITIES IN 1999
NORWAY

I. Evolution of registration activities:

The Norwegian Patent Office received 938 design applications in 1999 (888 in 1998). The increase in applications filed, compared to 1998, was 6 %. The trend the last few years shows an even and modest increase in design applications. The office examined 953 applications (907 in 1998). The number of design applications granted were 725 (695 in 1998).

The national applications are still being filed on paper, if filed by telefacsimile, the original document must promptly follow in the mail.

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 design application journal and design register are manual. The Norwegian Patent Office publishes a design gazette every fortnight; The Norwegian Industrial Design Gazette. The Gazette contains bibliographic data and images of the registered design. It also contains announcements in respect of designs extended for a second or third period of protection and other proceedings under the Designs Act.

The bibliographic data of the gazette is made in a Microsoft Word file. The file is then imported into Adobe Page Maker, where it is merged with the design reproductions, which are being scanned. Then the RDF-file is transmitted over Extranett (ISDN) to a private company, which produces the print pages on a Rank Xerox Docu-Tec machine.

About 170 copies are made and laid open to public inspection. The design gazette retails at NOK 40 per single issue, and the annual subscription fee is NOK 1200, the annual index included. Subscriptions can be made at the Office and in Narvesen shops, a chain of kiosks, with outlets all over Norway. The design gazette is also made available in PDF-format on the web page (www.patentstyret.no - Norwegian only).

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

Norway is a member of the Locarno Classification Agreement, and the search files are classified in accordance with the agreement. There is no Norwegian translation of the Locarno Classification list of goods. A list of classes and subclasses with explanatory notes is translated into Norwegian and published.

The Norwegian Patent Office has also a journal containing the applicants sorted alphabetically due to the origin of the applicants.

IV. Search file establishment and upkeep:

The Norwegian Patent Office examines ex officio the applications regarding novelty. The examination includes Norwegian design registrations and applications filed under the Designs Act.

All search files are in paper form, only.

The search files are updated on a daily basis.

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

There is no computerized search system for industrial designs at present. In 1998 the Norwegian Patent Office set up the SANT programme, a comprehensive project aimed at establishing systems for the electronic handling of documents and procedure, also within designs. It will also make information on industrial rights electronically accessible to our customers. The project is going according to plan and is estimated to be completed by the end of the year 2001.

VI. Administration of industrial design services available to the public (relating to facilities, e.g., for lodging applications, registering designs, assisting clients with search procedures, obtaining official publications and registry extracts):

The Norwegian Patent Office is situated in Oslo. The office is open to the public, and is most frequently used by agents/attorneys for information purposes. The official design register is open to the public inspection Monday - Friday between 0900 and 1500. In 1998 The Info Centre was opened. The Centre can answer questions and make inquiries and give general information concerning industrial property rights to the public.

In addition to the mentioned services, we also serve the public with general advices within the field of industrial design.

The search files and applications are available to the public, except the applications where publication has been deferred. Customers may visit the Office to examine the search files, or they may send an inquiry to the Office. In the latter case, a service fee is charged.

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

The Norwegian Patent Office exchanges official gazettes with a number of national offices. Samples from the other Nordic countries are circulated weekly among the executive officers in the Office.

The Romarin CD ROM and all data on industrial design deposits from WIPO are received in machine-readable form. The Office does not forward any machine-readable information.

The Office also exchanges our final decisions with respect to registration of design application with the other offices of the Nordic countries.

VIII. Matters concerning education and training including technical assistance to developing countries:

The Norwegian Patent Office regularly has exhibits at fairs for industry, trade and agriculture in order to promote the use of design information and industrial property rights. There has been established a Service which has given 7 courses and 17 lectures and seminars in the field of industrial property law and designs. The courses are attended by professionals working in industry and trade, or with industrial property rights agencies. In 1999 there was no planned interaction regarding design in developing countries. The staff situation at the Office has not allowed for the disposal of resources for activities outside Norway, except cooperative Nordic, EFTA and WIPO projects.

IX. Other relevant matters

Nothing to report.