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STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT

2001

ON INDUSTRIAL DESIGN INFORMATION ACTIVITIES¹

submitted by

BELARUS

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

¹ – 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.

**ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT ON
INDUSTRIAL DESIGN INFORMATION ACTIVITIES**

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I. Evolution of registration activities:

In 2001, as compared to the previous year, there were no changes in conditions of filing applications and granting industrial design patents.

In 2001, Belpatent received 64 applications for granting industrial design patents, that is by 30% less than in 2000. Beginning from 1998, the tendency towards the decrease of the number of annually filed applications has continued. For 4 last years the number of applications decreased twice.

In accordance with the results of examination there were taken 124 decisions on the grant of RB patents. 104 industrial designs were registered in the State Register of Industrial Designs, 71 of them were registered in the names of national and 33 – in the names of foreign patent holders.

In 2001, applications for industrial design patents were filed under 13 classes of the International Classification for Industrial Designs (Locarno Classification). The greatest number of applications was filed in Class 12 “Means of transport or hoisting” (22 applications), Class 9 “Packages and containers for the transport and or handling of goods” (17 applications) and Class 14 “Recording, communication or information retrieval equipment” (5 applications). Then followed Classes 22, 23, 24, 25 (from 4 to 2 applications) and Classes 5, 8, 10, 11, 16, 19 (1 application in each).

As of December 31, 2001, 163 from 496 industrial design patents registered in the State Register of Industrial Designs lapsed because of the nonpayment of fees. 333 industrial design patents have continued to be valid.

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

In 2001, the following official publications of Belpatent were issued:

- the official bulletin “Inventions. Utility Models. Industrial Designs”, No.4/2000 (280 copies), No.1/2001 (270 copies), No.2/2001 (270 copies), No.3/2001 (290 copies);
- the Annual Report of Belpatent for 2000 in the number of 200 copies;
- a collection of normative-methodical materials “Industrial Property”, No.6, with the circulation of 700 copies.

The circulation of official publications is produced at the printing shop provided with copying equipment for reproduction of black-white and colour pictures as well as equipment for carrying out afterprinting operations.

In the official bulletins of 2001 there were published data on 145 industrial design patents. Information about each industrial design includes its bibliographic data and its image. In the official bulletins there is also published information on all amendments of the legal status in respect of industrial property patents, corrections and changes in bibliographic data relating to industrial designs, errors made in a particular official bulletin. The official bulletins contain systematic and numbering indices of industrial design patents.

The official bulletin “Inventions. Utility Models. Industrial Designs” is published on paper.

As media for storing information on industrial design patents of RB, there are used paper carriers (files with application documents) and rigid disks on servers with the reservation system (RAID). The database of industrial designs contains information on industrial designs registered in RB including bibliography and industrial design images.

Input of industrial design images into the database is performed by their scanning and further translation to a machine-readable form. The input data are used for publishing official bulletins with the assistance of the automated publishing system developed on the basis of Visual FoxPro software.

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

In 2001, for the purposes of storage, publishing and distribution the seventh edition of the Locarno Classification was used. Reclassification of the national collection of industrial design documentation to the seventh edition was not made.

IV. Search file establishment and upkeep:

In 2001, searches as to novelty in the course of substantive examination of applications filed with Belpatent were carried out in the national database of industrial designs. Searching throughout the foreign collection was carried out using the database of the Russian Agency for Patents and Trademarks, Moscow.

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

The in-house automated subsystem “Industrial Designs” was constructed on the grounds of the national database of industrial design applications and patents. A searching part giving an opportunity for searches in the above-mentioned database of industrial designs was created.

The subsystem “Industrial Designs” includes:

Hardware:

- 486 workstation;
- 10 MB Ethernet local network.

Software:

- Windows 95 operation system;
- VFoxPro 6.0 database management systems.

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):

Information on industrial designs of foreign countries published in official bulletins received within the framework of international exchange is available to everybody in the Republican Patent Collection of the Republican Scientific and Technical Library (RNTB). The Library renders services as to search patent documents, prepare bibliographic lists, copy patent documentation and others.

Users are also provided with the following services of the Republican Unitary Enterprise of Intellectual Property "RUPIS":

1. Preparation of a priority document and duplication of the first application within 10 days.
2. Duplication of inquiries, decisions or any other documents from application materials at the stage of preliminary examination.
3. Carrying out of a subject-matter search on concrete technical decisions for defining the state of art throughout patent documents of BY, RU, US, EP, FR, DE, GB, CH, WO to the depth of 25 years (a search is carried out throughout the IPC subgroups agreed with clients). As a result, the latter receive a search report and copies of full specifications of documents found.
4. Subject-matter selection of bibliographic data with abstracts of patent documents of leading foreign countries (US, FR, DE, GB, CH, RU) as well as WIPO and the EPO. The depth of search is about 25 years (selection is carried out throughout the IPC subgroups coordinated with clients). The results of searches are delivered on paper or machine-readable carriers. Additionally clients are provided with full specifications of patent documents revealed.
5. Provision of copies of reference materials on paper or machine-readable carriers.
6. Duplication of inquiries, decisions and any other application materials at the stage of patent examination.
7. Duplication of materials from officially published documents of Belpatent: official bulletins, Annual Reports, collections "Industrial Property"; RB patent specifications of inventions; laws and by-laws; normative-methodical materials; lists of RB patent attorneys as well as officially published documents of other countries.
8. Carrying out of searches throughout the file of registered license and cession contracts in respect of industrial design patents.
9. Carrying out of searches to reveal data about validity or lapse of RB industrial design patents.

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

In 2001, Belpatent continued international exchange of patent documentation with 40 countries and 3 international organizations. In exchange for its official bulletins Belpatent received official bulletins of foreign countries containing information about industrial designs on paper. Documentation received allowed to go on with completing the Republican Patent Collection of RNTB.

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

In 2001, the Republican Unitary Enterprise of Intellectual Property "RUPIS" continued its work for retraining and improving professional skill of RB specialists in the patent and innovative activity.

In December of 2001, the WIPO representatives held a seminar on the matters of the Hague system of international registration of industrial designs for the specialists of Belpatent.

On November 28-29, 2001, there was held the seminar on enforcement of intellectual property rights for the judiciary within the framework of cooperation between the government of RB and WIPO. The seminar was organized by WIPO together with the Coalition for Intellectual Property Rights and WIPO. About 120 specialists including representatives of legislative and judicial authorities of RB, specialists of legal support from Belpatent, the Association of Patent Attorneys and the Belarusian Society of Inventors and Innovators took part in its work.

The advertising booklet on industrial property protection in RB with the circulation of 1000 copies was issued with the financial assistance of the EPO.

IX. Other relevant matters.

Nothing to report.

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