

WIPO



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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
GENEVA

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT

2001

ON INDUSTRIAL DESIGN INFORMATION ACTIVITIES¹

submitted by

CANADA

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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CANADA

I. Evolution of registration activities:

- Changes experienced in terms of application filings and grants (registrations) with respect to the previous year;
- Trends or areas experiencing rapid changes with respect to the previous year.

Changes experienced in terms of application filings and grants (registrations) with respect to the previous year

Industrial Design Applications

<u>Year</u>	<u>Residents</u>	<u>Non-residents</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>% change</u>
1997	844	2,379	3,223	
1998	661	2,420	3,081	-4.40%
1999	709	2,524	3,233	4.93%
2000	751	2,665	3,416	5.66%
2001	640	2,058	2,698	-21.1%

Industrial Design Registrations

<u>Year</u>	<u>Residents</u>	<u>Non-residents</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>% change</u>
1997	819	2,422	3,241	
1998	675	2,032	2,707	-16.47%
1999	678	2,328	3,006	11.04%
2000	511	2,250	2,761	-8.15%
2001	479	2,366	2,845	3.04%

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

- Publishing, including printing, copying techniques and electronic printing;
- Main types of announcements of the Office in the field of industrial design information;
- Mass storage media and microforms used;
- Databases and office automation.

Publishing, including printing, copying techniques and electronic printing

CIPO does not at this time publish an industrial design gazette. Word processing software, microfiche, fiche readers/printers and photocopiers are used to produce industrial design certificates, index cards and the industrial design search files.

Main types of announcements of the Office in the field of industrial design information

CIPO has developed and published industrial design examination practice notices on descriptions, drawings and icons.

Mass storage media and microforms used

Paper, microfiche and CD-Roms are used as the main media for the archival of industrial design documents.

Databases and office automation

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

- Classification and reclassification activities; Classification system used, e.g., International Classification for Industrial Designs (Locarno Classification), other classification (please indicate whether industrial designs are classified by your Office and, if so, which classification is used);
- Bibliographic data and processing for search purposes.

Classification and reclassification activities

Industrial design documents are classified according to the Canadian industrial design classification system which closely follows the Locarno classification. Ongoing reclassification activities continue to take place in refining the various art classes.

The Locarno classification system is not currently used by CIPO.

Bibliographic data and processing for search purposes

The primary industrial design search file is organized according to the Canadian industrial design classification system.

IV. Search file establishment and upkeep:

- File building;
- Updating;
- Storage, including mass storage media;
- Documentation from other offices maintained and/or considered part of the available search file.

File building

The Canadian industrial design prior art search file comprises over 89,000 registered designs.

CIPO maintains three principal search files and an alphabetical index card system as follows:

Primary search file: this paper search file contains bibliographic data such as filing date, registration date, classification, title, ownership, and drawings, arranged according to the Canadian industrial design classification system.

Secondary search file: this search file in microfiche and CD-Rom form has the complete registration document including the certificate and application, the owner's address, declaration of novelty, description, drawings, signatures, and any assignments or renewal documents. The secondary search file is maintained in numerical order by registration number.

Tertiary search file: this paper search file contains a complete file history of registered industrial designs including prosecution and correspondence. These are maintained in numerical order by application number.

Index cards: an alphabetical index card system arranged by owner, assignee and licensee is maintained as a means of obtaining the registration number of a particular design.

Updating

The Canadian industrial design prior art search file is updated on a daily basis.

Storage

Industrial design documents are currently stored in paper and microfiche.

Documentation from other offices maintained and/or considered part of the available search file

CIPO maintains a collection of WIPO International Design Bulletins and United States patent gazettes.

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

- In-house systems (online/offline);
- External databases;
- Administrative management systems (e.g., register, legal status, statistics, administrative support, etc.);
- Equipment used (hardware, including the types of terminal and network used, and software), data carriers used.

In-house systems

The Industrial Design Office is presently automating the operational and administrative processes of the office. Phase 1 of the Industrial Designs Automation Project is underway and will be implemented in June 2002. For electronic search purposes the Canadian Patent Database is used for internal searching.

External databases

The design patent database maintained on the United States Patent and Trademark Office's Internet website is accessible to industrial design examiners for search purposes.

Administration management systems

None at this time.

Equipment used

Pentium 1Ghz computers and the Windows 95 operating system are used. Plans are underway to upgrade the current operation system to Windows 2000. WordPerfect, Freelance Graphics, Lotus 123 and MS Outlook comprise the standard CIPO desktop software. Industrial design staff are connected via a Novell network.

- 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):
- Planning, administration, automation, security;
 - Collection management, preservation;
 - Information services available to the public (including computerized services and search files contained in libraries remote from your Office and industrial design information posted by your Office on the World Wide Web).

Planning, administration, automation, security

The Copyright and Industrial Design Branch (CID) manages three product lines: copyrights, industrial designs and integrated circuit topographies. In each of these product lines, the primary function is the maintenance of registers describing intellectual property rights under the corresponding legislation. The Branch also provides registration documents for use in civil proceedings and criminal investigations, furnishes information to the public by making the registers accessible, answers detailed questions, distributes information materials, advises on appropriate legislative change, and manages new and revised regulations.

The Copyright and Industrial Design Branch and the industrial design search files are located on the commercial level at CIPO Headquarters.

Collection management, preservation

The Copyright and Industrial Design Branch maintains a complete historical register in paper and microfiche form. Archival material is disposed of in accordance with National Library and National Archives requirements.

Information services available to the public

The CIPO Internet website first established in 1995, continued with major enhancements in 1999. These enhancements included the use of the website for major consultations on new intellectual property legislation, the posting of new industrial design regulations, and now provide for electronic filing.

The Industrial Design Guide and procedures manual are on the CIPO website.

Industrial design examination staff are available to provide guidance and assistance to the public interested in searching the prior art.

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

- International or regional cooperation in the exchange of industrial design information, e.g., in the form of official gazettes;
- Exchange of machine-readable information, e.g., data contained on CD-ROM or magnetic tape.

There is no mutual exchange of industrial design documentation and information at this time. However, information exchange with respect to classification issues and other matters of mutual interest continue to be exchanged with counterparts from the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Discussions are continuing with the USPTO with respect to the potential exchange of registered designs between Offices over the Internet.

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

- Promotional activities (seminars, exhibitions, visits, advertising, etc.);
- Training courses for national and foreign participants;
- Assistance to developing countries (sending consultants and experts, receiving trainees from developing countries, etc.).

Promotional Activities

CIPO continued to promote the benefits of intellectual property and industrial designs, and to disseminate the associated technological and business information to Canadians. Over the years it has established a number of intellectual property education and promotion programs. In particular, CIPO continued its efforts to foster intellectual property awareness among Canadians through its Public Education Program (PEP). The program targets researchers, innovators, academics, small and medium size businesses, educators as well as the general public. Office experts have taken part in numerous seminars and tradeshow across the country and have visited many educational institutions.

In 2001, CIPO staff attended tradeshow, gave numerous seminar presentations on intellectual property. They also conducted in-house visits for students, business and professional groups, produced pamphlets and brochures on intellectual property, and arranged for the publication of articles in various trade and professional association newsletters. Intellectual property advisors, located in Vancouver, Toronto, Montréal and Halifax, continued to improve contacts with various client groups in the regions.

Assistance to Developing Countries

CIPO has provided, in cooperation with WIPO, the following Copyright and Industrial Design Study Visits to developing countries:

- In November 2001, CIPO provided assistance to two officials from the Mexican IP Institute.

IX. Other relevant matters.

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