

WIPO



SCIT/ATR/ID/2001/LV

E

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
GENEVA

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT

2001

ON INDUSTRIAL DESIGN INFORMATION ACTIVITIES¹

submitted by

LATVIA

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**

submitted by

LATVIA

I. Evolution of registration activities:

The amount of filed industrial design (ID) patent applications in 2001 has slightly increased - 88 applications (69 in the previous year). The amount of granted ID patents was 53 - in 1999, 65 - in 2000, and 70 - in 2001. The share of domestic applications in 2001 makes 62.5 %. Total number of ID patents in force at the end of year 2001 was 488.

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

II.-1. Publishing, including printing, copying techniques and electronic printing:

The ID bibliographical data for the industrial design documents, as well as for the Gazette, are semi-automatically extracted from the Latvian Patent Office (LPO) database and manually (on the PC screen) completed with scanned black & white or gray-scale images.

Design documents (ID Patent Certificates, official letters, etc.) are printed out by means of electronic laser printer.

Each issue of the Official Gazette of the Latvian Patent Office 'PATENTI UN PRECU ZIMES' contains publications on patents of inventions, on trademarks, as well as on industrial designs. The layout of pages is carried out and a camera-ready copy of each issue is prepared in LPO, using the desk-top publishing technology. The Gazette is printed in offset technique in multiple copies, by external typographic company. It is issued once per month and distributed on subscription, by sales, and on the basis of mutual exchange.

II.-2. Main types of announcements of the Office in the field of industrial design information:

II.-2.1. GRANTED INDUSTRIAL DESIGN PATENTS:

the publication date usually is the same as the date of granting; with this announcement ID-patents come into force and are open for six-months opposition period;

II.-2.2. INDUSTRIAL DESIGN INDEXES:

- (a) Application Number Index;
- (b) ID-Patents Listed by Locarno Classes;
- (c) Name Index of Designers and ID-Patent Owners.

The ID indexes are published once a year, in the last issue of the year.

II.-2.3. CHANGES IN THE INDUSTRIAL DESIGN REGISTER:

- renewals, transfers, changes in the names and/or addresses of ID-patent owners and their representatives, license agreements registered, etc.;

II.-2.4. INFORMATION ON THE DECISIONS OF THE BOARD OF APPEAL:

reduced versions of the Board of Appeal decisions. Although trademark disputes are prevailing, also a few decisions on submitted appeals or oppositions on design matters have been published.

II.-3. Mass storage media and microforms used:

Excluding the main database, the storage media is paper; electronic media and microforms are not yet in use within the ID procedure.

II.-4. Databases and office automation.

LPO database is developed in FoxPro for Windows.

Word processing: MS WORD for Windows 95 / MS WORD 2000 / MS WORD XP.

Edition of images: ZSoft PhotoFinish; CorelDraw 5.0.

Layout of the Gazette: Aldus PageMaker 5.0 / Adobe PageMaker 6.5.

Database is being stored in the LPO local network hard drives.

The main operations produced by the assistance of the database (and the built-in FoxPro Report-writer):

- keying-in of the application data,
- choice (or keying-in) of the applicant/agent data,
- scanning of the images,
- semi-automatic compilation and printing of the main official correspondence letters and the ID-patent certificates,
- generation of the Gazette publications, etc.

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

III.-1. Classification and reclassification activities:

Locarno Classification (Seventh edition) is used by LPO for the industrial designs classification. Till the time being the reclassification problem seems to be not burning.

III.-2. Bibliographic data and processing for search purposes:

The bibliographic data fixed in the Register are included in the publications of the granted ID-patents. ID publications in the Gazette are prefaced by the explanation of INID-codes (WIPO ST. 80).

Simplified computer searching possibility is available.

IV. Search file establishment and upkeep:

Folder files are used for

- industrial designs applied;
- ID applications withdrawn / abandoned / refused;
- industrial designs granted (the State Industrial Design Register);
- ID-patents annulled / invalidated / expired.

These files are organized accordingly the sequence of application numbers or patent numbers, respectively, and are being updated continuously.

Computerised files contain the main data of ID applications, continuously updated.

Mass storage media and microforms are not used. Documentation from other offices is partially available in the Latvian Patent and Technology Library; since the Law does not provide for novelty examination, this information is used mainly by the applicants or owners and not by the LPO staff.

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

Due to very little amount of ID applications, only simplified searches are available, e.g., for the applicant / owner, for the Locarno class, for the title (or key-words of the title) of industrial design.

External databases are not used. INTERNET access is available at each workstation.

Administrative management systems are not yet developed; although the main data for the statistics may be extracted from the database.

The LPO local network is built on ETHERNET principles, using Novell Netware Network. For the time being the LPO network includes:

- Novell Netware file server (common for all LPO procedures);
- more than 30 IBM-compatible PCs (including 3 PCs of Pentium type, used, inter alia, for ID procedure purposes;
- several printers, including HP LaserJet 4M/4M Plus and HP LaserJet 8550 GN;

- a HP ScanJet Iip B-W scanner.

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):

ID information services available to the public in LPO:

- consultations on the filing of ID applications, on the administrative and legal matters of ID protection;

- sales of the Gazette;

- inspection of ID application materials (after the publication), extracts from the State Register - on request.

In the Latvian Patent and Technology Library there is available also ID documentation from several foreign countries in the form of the official gazettes or microfilms.

For the time being ID information of the LPO is not being distributed by means of electronic media and is not posted on the INTERNET.

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

Mutual exchange of the gazettes is established with more than 20 Offices. Machine readable information for mutual exchange is not available.

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

During the year 2001 several representatives of the LPO staff have visited foreign patent offices in compliance with the mutual cooperation agreements and exchanged experience with their colleagues at several international meetings on the industrial property matters, including industrial design issues.

IX. Other relevant matters.

[End of document]