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STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT

2001

ON INDUSTRIAL DESIGN INFORMATION ACTIVITIES¹

submitted by

SWEDEN

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:

The Design and Trademark department (Department) is responsible for handling with the Industrial design applications.

In the Department it is total 121 employees. 13 employees are working as lawyers, examiners, assistance and administrative staff specific for Industrial design issues.

A decrease of Industrial design applications compared to previous years was observed.

In the early 1997 there was a political decision of moving the Department from Stockholm to Söderhamn. This decision caused a rapid drainage of some of the most competent staff. The heads of office immediately started the recruitment and education of new staff for Söderhamn. However, it has not been possible to avoid longer handling of applications. The balance within the Industrial design has, during the year 2001, been reduced by 25 % to 2,300. The production capacity has built up continues and is in the end of year 2001 about 2,800 applications.

By the end of year 2001, the average processing time was around 12 months for Industrial design applications. The average processing time has been reduced by 1 month.

Industrial design, received applications

2000	2,340
2001	2,000

Industrial design, decided applications

2000	2,800
2001	2,800

Industrial design, balance

2000	3,100
2001	2,300

- 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 gazette "Industrial design Gazette" is published with 2 issues every month. This Gazette contains the announcements of the official data concerning new registrations, modifications, renewals, cancellations and corrections.

The Gazette is available in an electronic way on the homepage on Internet. It is also possible to order the Gazette in a paperformat.

At the end of every year a complete, bounded, gazette is published containing every changes during the year.

Word processing combined with scanned forms is used for producing the Gazette.

An annual technical report is published for the whole government.

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

Industrial designs are classified according to the Locarno Classification, 7th edition. The employee in the office does this.

Applicants have to state the classifications according to the Locarno system. The specifications must be specified and not in general terms. The employees in the department then convert the information into actual class. By doing this they use either the classification document or the information in the computer system.

For internal use in the department some of the Locarnoclasses are completed with sub-classes.

Bibliographic data used for search purpose are application number, registrations number, Locarnaclasses, name of applicant/holder and name of counsel.

- IV. Search file establishment and upkeep:

In 1998 the department started to scan the forms. At the end of year 2001 the department have built up an electronic database of Industrial design forms. The information is reachable by use of the computer-system. The manual work for searching has been reduced. All forms are stored in separate bibliographies with maps. The maps have the same structure as the Locarno classification system. The separate bibliopgrahics that are used are for application, examination and publication.

Since the beginning of 2002 the office is studying how to continue the improvement of searching and handling with the scanned forms.

Paper documents related to Industrial design applications are kept on a paper-built archive.

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

The department continues to use the IBM mainframe system under operating system Cics. The system is developed by the IT-department. It is an online system combined with some batch-routines. This administrative management system, is not modern, but includes normal functions for administration of the applicants.

The search system, Indesign, is designed to search for identical or similar forms in different Locarna classes. The forms are later on used for producing the Gazette.

The department is connected to the system Internet and to E-mail. All employees have their own e-mail address and there are also official e-mail addresses for the department.

External databases used are dictionaries, design-newsletter and brochures and other office homepages.

Every employee has his own p.c., which is connected in a local area network with two local NT servers. By an ATM communication-line the department in the city Söderhamn then is connected with the IBM mainframe in Stockholm.

In 1999 the department started a project to implement a new IT-system for national and international trademarks. That implementation will consist of three steps and each step of four phases. Part 3 includes the area of Industrial design.

Part 1: automation of internal procedures for managing national and international trademarks

Part 2: evolved automation to handle in particular electronic filing, and Internet support more generally

Part 3: later developments, in particular automation of Industrial design management

The four phases are

- Design phase
- Development phase
- Installation and delivery testing phase
- Acceptance testing phase

In the end of year 2001 the Design division is working with the requirement for their system. That process continues during year 2002.

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):

Public can search for registered Industrial designs and applications when visiting the facilities in the patent office. Security is upheld via a guest password. Applications may be filed electronically (facsimile), but legal demands for a hand written signature make confirmation on paper compulsory.

Register excerpts may be ordered through our Sales department. The fee is low and should only cover the printing and paper costs.

Trademarks attorneys, law firms and other commercial entities any acquire access to a special On-line service, called patlink. The link offers a compilation of bibliographic data from the SPRO trademark, patents and industrial designer's registers. The Sales department administers the service.

The work with making the SPRO homepage (www.prv.se) has continued. The Industrial Design Gazette is available on Internet. But there is also possible to request issues of the newspaper in printed forms.

The administrative staff gives information from the databases by telephone, fax and e-mail.

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

There is cooperation with the other Nordic countries. No established cooperation with other offices or Wipo or OHIM exists.

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

The SPRO has a department for external training courses. The department represents the SPRO at exhibitions etc. For seminars and advanced courses, experts from other departments, e.g., the Industrial Design division is invited as lectures.

IX. Other relevant matters.

In March 1998, the Department was relocated from Stockholm to Söderhamn. A completely new organization was build up. The department now consists of the Trademark Division, the Industrial Design, Surname and Registry of Periodical Division and Administrative Division.

Furthermore there are specials for questions concerning law, information, information technology and quality. Since the Government decision in the early 1997, intense measures have been taken for recruiting and training new staff.

By the end of year 2001, the average processing time was around 13 months for Industrial design applications. The average time has been reduced by 1 month since the year 2000.

A new vision and strategy plan for the information technology has been made for the department. In accordance with these intentions the department will work very hard to develop and implement new working processes and new systems within modern technology.

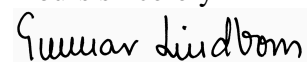
The department has already started with a system for form examination and producing the Gazette.

During the year 2002 a new system for examination of national and international trademark applications will be implemented. That solution will also become the basis for the development for Industrial design.

At SPRO level, a project is running with the objective of improving the Internet homepage. This implies that the Department will take an active part in the Internet activities. Publications such as the Industrial design Gazette are accessible via the homepage.

On the homepage there is also information for the applicants and possibilities to improve the quality when making applications in an electronic way.

Yours sincerely



Mr Gunnar Lindbom

IT-controller

Trademark Department

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