

WIPO



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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
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STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT

2001

ON TRADEMARK INFORMATION ACTIVITIES

submitted by

SWEDEN

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

ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT ON TRADEMARK INFORMATION ACTIVITIES

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SWEDEN**I. Evolution of registration activities:**

The Trademark department is responsible for national applications, international applications (Madrid), search report for OHIM, renewal and changes in applications.

In the Trademark Department it is total 121 employees. 67 employees are working as lawyers, examiners, assistance and administrative staff specific for trademark issues.

A decrease of national applications compared to previous years was observed. Furthermore, there were also a small decreasing number of international designations and an increasing of the search reports for OHIM. The level of interest in the EU trademark has been much higher than expected.

In the early 1997 there was a political decision of moving the Trademark 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 national applications. The large balance within the national trademark applications has, during the year 2001, been reduced by 32 % to 10,000. The production capacity has built up continues and is in the end of year 2001 about 23,000 applications. This exceeds the receiving applications with 1/3. In the year 2001 the total number of registration applications was 15,000. This was a decreasing with 12 % compared with year 2000.

By the end of year 2001, the average processing time was around 12 months for national trademark applications. During the year the average processing time has been reduced by 6 months.

National trademark, received applications

1998	9,600
1999	9,500
2000	9,600
2001	8,000

International trademark, registrations

1998	5,750
1999	6,300
2000	7,400
2001	7,000

National trademark, renewal

1999	4,200
2000	5,200
2001	6,800

National trademark, changes in databases

1999	6,400
2000	8,100
2001	7,400

Search reports from OHIM

1999	40,000
2000	49,000
2001	54,000

II. Matters concerning the generation, reproduction, and distribution of secondary sources of trademark information, i.e., trademark gazettes:

The official gazette "Trademark Gazette" is issued every week. This gazette contains the announcements of the official data concerning new registrations, modifications, renewals, cancellations and corrections. At the end of every year a complete, bounded, gazette is published containing every changes during the year. Only word processing in the mainframe computer is used and the automation is not very high.

An annual technical report is published for the whole government.

III. Matters concerning classifying, reclassifying and indexing of trademark information:

Trademarks are classified according to the Nice Classification of Goods and Services, 7th edition.

Applicants have to state the classifications according to the Nice system. The specifications must be specified and not in terms of "all available goods for the class". The employees in the department then convert the information into actual class. By doing this they use either the Trademark Gazette or the computer system.

The figurative elements of trademarks are classified according to the Vienna Classification 4th edition.

For internal use in the department some of the big Vienna classes are completed with sub-classes. The purpose is to enhance the quality on comparing figurative marks. This is done in the manual register only and it is not open to the public.

Mostly of the Nice and Vienna checking are done manually.

Bibliographic data used for search purpose are Nice class number, goods and services respectively, name of applicant/holder and name of counsel.

IV. Trademark manual search file establishment and upkeep:

A manual search file is kept for figurative marks. This file is updated continually on a weekly basis. Bibliographic data are kept manually and updated regularly. All paper documents related to national and international applications are kept on a paper-built archive.

In 1998 the department started to scan all the national figurative marks (images). At the end of year 2000 the department continues the process by building up a new electronic database consisted of all the figurative marks. The information will be reachable by use of the computer-system and the manual work for searching will be reduced.

During the year 2001 the process has continued to change from manual to electronic search file. Since the beginning of 2002 an electronic search file system is up and running for the national figurative marks.

All applications are microfilmed for backup reasons.

V. Activities in the field of computerized trademark search systems:

The department continues to use the IBM mainframe system under operating system Cics. The system is developed by the IT-department and has been in use since 1979. 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 trademark search system, Marksman, is designed to search for identical or similar trademarks by batch processing during the night. The system is using phonetic data as one of search keys and has been modernised and improved during the year 1998. Also United Kingdom and Finland use the same system.

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

External databases used are Wipo Roman, Article 6ter, CD-Com and dictionaries. Furthermore the employees use relevant databases, which are reachable through Internet.

Every employee has his own p.c., which is connected in a local area network with two local NTservers. 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 develop a new IT-system for national and international trademarks. The implementation will consist of three parts and each part of four phases.

- 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 Designs management

The four phases are

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

In the end of year 2001 the Trademark Department is in the middle of the development phase. The first part is planned to be up and running in the later part of year 2002.

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

Public can search for registered trademarks and applications (word marks only) 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 may 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 Trademark Gazette is available on Internet. 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.

Since the information from the trademark database is available from the homepage the department can observe a movement against more qualified information from our customers.

The public can use different kind of supports for the application forms. An easy way is just to download the application form and print it out. Furthermore the public can use a « smart form » for checking of the keyed-in data before sending the application to the office.

VII. Matters concerning mutual exchange of trademark documentation and information:

Requests for search reports from the OHIM are received on diskettes (floppy disks). After examination the results, search reports, are sent to the OHIM in an electronic way by e-mail with appendix files.

Bibliographic data concerning WIPO applications designation Sweden are received On-line from WIPO.

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 Trademark department is invited as lectures.

IX. Other relevant matters.

In March 1998, the Trademark Department was relocated from Stockholm to Söderhamn. A completely new organisation 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.

Due to special efforts in this area, the Trademark Division has managed to handle the WIPO applications in both directions within the prescribed time limits.

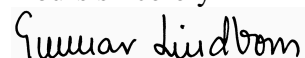
By the end of year 2001, the average processing time was around 12 months for national trademark applications. The average time has been reduced rapidly since the year 1999 and 2000.

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 image processing and figure examination. During the year 2002 a new system for examination of national and international trademark applications will be implemented.

At SPRO level, a project is running with the objective of improving the Internet homepage. This implies that the Trademark Department will take a more active part in the Internet activities. Publications such as the Trademark Gazette are accessible via the homepage and there is a lot of information for the applicants and also possibilities to improve the quality when making applicants in an electronic way.

Yours sincerely



Mr Gunnar Lindbom

IT-controller

Trademark Department

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