

**ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT OF THE HUNGARIAN PATENT OFFICE
ON ITS INDUSTRIAL DESIGN ACTIVITIES
IN 1998**

I. EVOLUTION OF REGISTRATION ACTIVITY

In 1998 544 national applications were filed. Although this number was short of the record of 676 in 1997, the increasing trend of the previous year continued. (see the table)

Of the completed cases the majority (608) ended with a grant, 95 applications were refused and 139 lapsed. As a result of an effective and systematic processing of "old cases", search was carried out in the sixth month, then after publication in the seventh month a decision on the merits could be made in the ninth month with respect to the majority of formally unobjectable applications.

Six requests were received for the revocation of industrial design protection and 1 request for the declaration of non-infringement. Decisions were made on the merits of 8 requests for revocation.

At the end of the year the number of valid industrial designs totalled up to 2356, of which 1578 belong to Hungarian and 778 to foreign owners.

As far as international industrial design protection is concerned, 861 applications were received, all of which were completed during the year, as national search was performed in all cases within the six months available.

Statistical data of industrial designs between 1990 and 1998

	<i>1990</i>	<i>1991</i>	<i>1992</i>	<i>1993</i>	<i>1994</i>	<i>1995</i>	<i>1996</i>	<i>1997</i>	<i>1998</i>
National industrial design applications	946	720	590	533	422	599	471	676	544
Hungarian	905	659	500	446	338	535	332	500	357
Registered industrial designs	461	424	597	485	293	232	659	662	608
Hungarian	433	387	526	225	206	187	489	496	408
Valid industrial designs at the end of the year	2869	3293	3046	3247	3264	1965	2134	2538	2356
Hungarian	2669	3195	2934	3121	3133	1532	1738	1961	1578

II. MATTERS CONCERNING CLASSIFYING, RECLASSIFYING AND INDEXING OF INDUSTRIAL DESIGN INFORMATION ACCORDING TO THE CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM APPLIED

Official publications relating to industrial design applications appear in the official journal of the Hungarian Patent Office, the monthly Gazette of Patents and Trademarks.

After receipt of the application, the bibliographic data are published in the column "Communication of data of industrial design applications", grouped according to the Locarno Classification.

The application is published in the column "Publication of industrial design applications" which contains the bibliographic data, the characteristic photo or drawing and the classification symbol.

Simultaneously with the publication search cards are prepared which are put in the Industrial Design Search Room. The search cards contain the bibliographic data, the classification symbol and all photos or drawings of the design.

After publication the application is available to the public, any person may inspect the files.

Registration takes place in the second month following publication, it is announced in the column "Granted industrial design protection" by indicating the bibliographic data, registration number and date of the registration.

Renewal and lapse of protection are announced in separate columns. Changes in ownership, representation, name and addresses, as well as recording of exploitation contracts in the Register are published in the column "Diverse industrial designs publications".

On registration a registration sheet is prepared which contains the photos or drawings of the design, bibliographic and registration data and the classification symbol. All changes affecting protection are continuously entered in the registration sheet.

Computer-aided process of applications takes place within the framework of the ORACLE-based uniform administration-management system of the Hungarian Patent Office. From the data of the applications the system builds up a database searchable according to various features, supports correspondence with the clients, compiles the data to be published and supplies them for the Gazette in electronic way. Any change in the application or in the protection is entered in the database which, therefore, may serve as an electronic register.

The following data of applications filed with the International Bureau are entered in the database: title of the application, name of the applicant, international registration number, classification symbol and date of international deposit.

The Gazette of Patents and Trademarks done by Corel Ventura 5.0, for which the data are supplied by the uniform administration system. Images and figures are entered by scanning.

The Hungarian Patent Office invites the applicant to correct substantive or formal defects by a decision prepared by a local letter editing system. The program offers draft texts according to the nature of the defect, then edits a uniform letter in an interactive way. The so prepared invitations are printed and mailed through the uniform administration-management system.

III. MATERS CONCERNING CLASSIFYING, RECLASSIFYING AND INDEXING INDUSTRIAL DESIGN INFORMATION ACCORDING TO THE CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS APPLIED

Hungary is a contracting party to the Locarno Agreement, thus industrial design applications are classified according to the Locarno Classification, with the indication of classes and subclasses. The filing of the application is followed by a preliminary classifying which is finalized on publication and, where necessary, new symbols are given.

The uniform administration-management system permits search according to most bibliographic data.

IV. SEARCH FILE ESTABLISHMENT AND UPKEEP

In the Industrial Design Search Room any person may inspect and search free of charge the search cards of published national industrial design applications and of international applications received in the International Designs Bulletin. In addition to the search cards, the registration sheets of every valid industrial design protection, arranged in ascending order of registration numbers, are also available to any person free of charge.

On request, copies are made of the registration sheets and search cards against the payment of a fee.

V. ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF COMPUTERIZED SEARCH SYSTEMS

At present, neither internal, nor external electronic databases are at our disposal. The photos or drawings and bibliographic data (including English titles and classification symbols) of all valid designs registered in national way and of published industrial design applications are stored in electronic form (recordable CD). Hungary is ready to supply data for the SARINDI project of WIPO.

However, the above-mentioned uniform administration-management system is already apt to supply registration and legal status data, to prepare statistics and to perform administrative tasks.

In the Hungarian Patent Office all examiners and the supporting units have PCs that are connected to the server through Novell network.

The terminals are Pentium based PC-s(100 MHz machines or of higher quality). The server is a DEC4100 run under UNIX operation system.

VI. ADMINISTRATION OF INDUSTRIAL DESIGN SERVICES AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC

In the headquarters of the Hungarian Patent Office there is a room solely for industrial design searches. Search cards, registration sheets, bulletins of international publications, periodicals and foreign gazettes relating to industrial designs can be found there. The reference staff of the search room help in finding the documents, make copies and operate the network-connected computers.

After publishing the documents the applications are available to the public, any person may inspect them at the examiner and may get copies against the payment of a fee. Prior to publication the Hungarian Patent Office handles the applications secretly, only the applicant or his/her representative may inspect the files.

The Web site of the Hungarian Patent Office accessible under the address <http://www.hpo.hu> has been serving industrial property information in the Hungarian and English languages since June 1996.

Web-based *Hungarian Industrial Design Database*, called **INDIGO** was introduced in July 1997 (<http://www.hpo.hu/Magyar/db/indigo/>). The database enables visitors to search all the bibliographic data of the **valid** Hungarian industrial designs, and pending applications, except the international applications. All the illustrating images are also available for displaying.

VII. MATTERS CONCERNING MUTUAL EXCHANGE OF INDUSTRIAL DESIGN DOCUMENTATION AND INFORMATION

The Hungarian Patent Office has a number of bilateral relations for data supply, within the framework of which the Gazette of Patents and Trademarks is regularly sent to 53 countries.

VIII. MATTERS CONCERNING EDUCATION AND TRAINING INCLUDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

In order to provide information for applicants and inventors and for prospective clients in a better and quicker way, a "CREATIVE line" has been operated since December 1, 1997 the "*green number*" of which may be called free of charge. Simultaneously, an advertising campaign was launched in several dailies and weeklies.

Bubapest, May, 1999