

## Latvian Patent Office

### ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT on INDUSTRIAL DESIGN INFORMATION ACTIVITIES in 1998

#### I. Evolution of registration activities.

The amount of filed industrial design (ID) patent applications oscillates at about 100 per year: 95 ID applications in 1996, 116 - in 1997, 106 - in 1998; the amount of granted ID patents is similar (96 patents granted in 1997, 100 patents - in 1998). The share of domestic applications among them is increasing and has reached 80% in 1998.

Total number of ID patents in force at the end of the year 1998 is 436 patents.

#### 2. Matters concerning the generation, reproduction, and distribution of secondary sources of industrial design information.

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. Since January, 1998 the Gazette is being issued once per month. The Gazette is distributed on subscription, by sales and on the basis of mutual exchange. (See sample copy).

##### 2.1. Publishing, printing, copying techniques.

The ID bibliographical data for the Gazette are semi-automatically extracted from the LPO database and manually (on the PC screen) completed with scanned black & white or gray-scale images. 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.

##### 2.2. Main types of announcements:

###### 2.2.1. GRANTED INDUSTRIAL DESIGNS:

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;

###### 2.2.2. 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 only once a year, in the last issue of the year.

### 2.2.3. CHANGES IN THE INDUSTRIAL DESIGN REGISTER:

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

### 2.2.4. INFORMATION ON THE DECISIONS OF THE BOARD OF APPEAL:

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

### 2.3. Mass storage media and microforms.

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

### 2.4. Databases and office automation.

LPO database is developed in FoxPro for Windows.

Word processing: MS WORD 6.0, 7.0.

Edition of images: ZSoft PhotoFinish; CorelDraw 5.0.

Layout of the Gazette: Aldus PageMaker 5.0.

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.

### 3. Matters concerning classifying, reclassifying and indexing of industrial design information.

#### 3.1. Classification and reclassification activities

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

#### 3.2. 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.

#### 4. Search file establishment and upkeep.

Folder files are used for

- industrial designs applied;
- ID applications withdrawn / abandoned / refused;
- industrial designs granted (the State Industrial Designs 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 by applicants and not by the LPO staff.

#### 5. Activities in the field of computerization of industrial design procedure.

Due to the 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 on every 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 3.11. For the time being the LPO network includes:

- Novell Netware file server (common for all LPO procedures);
- more than 30 IBM-compatible PCs, including 2 PCs of Pentium type and 1 PC of 486 type used, inter alia, for ID procedure purposes;
- several printers, including a HP LaserJet 4Si/4Si MX;
- a HP ScanJet IIP black & white scanner.

#### 6. Administration of industrial design services available to the public.

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 countries in the form of the gazettes or microfilms.

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

7. 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 such exchange is not available for the time being.

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

LPO staff took part in the WIPO Baltic Seminar on Industrial Property Litigation (November, 1997).

During the year 1998 the representatives of the staff of the LPO participated in educational activities organized by EPO - within the RIPP/PHARE programs. Several specialists visited foreign patent offices in compliance with the mutual cooperation agreements or exchanged experience with their foreign colleagues at international meetings on industrial property matters.

[End of Report]