

Annual Technical Report 1998 on Patent Information activities of the Portuguese Patent and Trademark Office

I. Development of patent activities

During 1998 the number of national patent applications filed in INPI represents a indication of a relatively stable situation after Munich Convention and PCT adhesion of Portugal. Similarly no significant changes occurred in the number of utility model applications.

II. Generation, reproduction and distribution of secondary sources of patent information, i.e. the official industrial property gazette

The INPI publishes documents on patents granted and translations of European applications and patents where Portugal is a designated state. These documents are published in the form of CD ROM, under collection ESPACE-PT.

The official gazette “Boletim da Propriedade Industrial” is now also published in CD-R which contains bibliographic data including abstracts and drawings of patent applications and utility models.

III. Matters concerning abstracting, classifying, reclassifying and indexing of technical information contained in patent documents.

We use the International Patent Classification (IPC - sixth edition) to classify patents and utility models and concerning this matter, nothing has been changed. No activities of abstracting, reclassifying and indexing have been carried out.

IV. Search file establishment and upkeep.

Concerning this matter, nothing has been changed.

V. Activities in the field of computerized search systems

The databases used to search patents and utility models are internal and external databases.

SIPAD containing the bibliographic data and legal status of all national patents and utility models.

INPI examiners have access to the databases created or distributed by various distributors as well as producers, like QUESTEL, ORBIT, European Patent Office.

Equipment and media used for the computerized search system:

Several upgrades have been made to the system.

VI. Administration of the library and industrial property information services available to the public:

Planning, administration, automation, security:

The corresponding databases of patents are updated daily, and that is of the responsibility of the computer department. Each data input process is subject to an automatic control. For safety reasons, one copy of magnetic tapes is stored as back up unities.

Information Services available to the public (including computerized services)

Concerning this matter, INPI offers a wide number of services to the public. The prices of these services are set by a periodically updated Ministerial Order. The public prices currently in force is from July 21, 1998.

The public can request our services by e-mail, fax or in person to the information department at INPI.

Our activities related to the services offered to the public include now the availability of all forms in the website of INPI. In this website, the public can also find information to the most common questions as well as the fees.

Retrospective Searches:

Retrospective searches can provide data on the legal status of files or bibliographic data (number, title, abstract, applicant, IPC symbol, etc).

Searches may be carried out on a national level or in external databases.

We also perform a fortnightly selective dissemination of information program; with this service, we furnish selected search is patents recently published according to the profiles previously defined by the users.

The INPI publishes periodically two publications concerning patents:

- * Industrial Property Gazette, which is monthly published.
- * The annual report of INPI's activities, where we can find patents statistics.

The INPI technical library is open to the public for the consultation of patent publications from Portugal and several countries, as well as a large number of references on world patent legislations.

VII. Exchange of patents documents and information

The Official Trademark Gazette is sent to about 30 countries and consequently INPI receives similar publications from 20 countries.

VIII. Matters concerning education and training

Annually INPI plans several training activities on patents including training on application and examination procedures. These courses are attended by jurists and lawyers, and many other entities interested in Industrial Property. These courses are organized on the premises of the Office as well as at other national institutions with which INPI has co-operation agreements on the behalf of dissemination of industrial property knowledge.

Concerning promotional activities, INPI organises frequently seminars, exhibitions and congresses, to inform the public of the application procedure for patents and utility models and the relevant services and products offered by INPI in general.

We are also receive foreign students and other groups from other industrial property offices, for example, technicians from the portuguese speaking countries. In this training activities, there is an introduction to the working method of the Institute, to the facilities of the Office, demonstration of the databases as well as training on general procedure on the patent and utility model registration.