

CWS.ATR.ID.2009.AU

Annual Technical Report 2009 on Industrial Design Information Activities submitted by Australia (CWS/ATR/ID/2009/AU)

Where URLs are requested below, it is preferred that either URLs which are likely to remain stable over time (three years or more) are provided, or home (main) page URLs are provided with a short explanation of how to access the corresponding information.

The expression "industrial designs" covers industrial designs and models. Offices which issue design patents should report their design patent information activities in this series of Annual Technical Reports.

I. Evolution of registration activities

Changes experienced in terms of application filings and grants (registrations) with respect to the previous year

2008

Design applications filed = 6082 (2008 figure revised from 6078)

Design applications granted = 6097

2009

Design applications filed = 5136 (Difference -16%)

Design applications granted = 5665 (Difference -7%)

Note: A single application may include a number of designs (multiple). However, each design in the application will be allocated a separate application number even if it is filed as a multiple. The figures above are for the number of designs filed.

Trends or areas experiencing rapid changes with respect to the previous year

The demand for Designs applications decreased in 2009 due to the global financial crisis.

URLs of web pages of the Office's website that provide statistics related to industrial designs

<http://www.ipaustralia.gov.au/about/statistics.shtml#Designs>

II. Matters concerning the generation, reproduction, and distribution of industrial design documents and of secondary sources of industrial design information, i.e., official gazettes

Publishing, including printing, copying techniques and electronic printing

The Australian Official Journal of Designs is published fortnightly. There are 25 issues per year - the Easter and Christmas weeks being excluded. The Journal is available on-line, free of charge, via the IP Australia internet site and contains both bibliographic text, and images.

Standard Notices and Letters are produced via the Designs mainframe business application as XEROX XICS output.

Examination Reports are generated in Microsoft Word.

Main types of announcements of the Office in the field of industrial design information

The Official Journal contains the following announcements:

- Applications Filed
- Applications Registered or Published
- Amendments and Changes
- Applications Lapsed/Withdrawn
- Assignment, Transmittals and Transfers
- Cancellation of Entries in Register
- Renewal of Registration
- Official Notices

Mass storage media and microforms used

The Office's bibliographic data is maintained on an ADABAS Natural (zOS) mainframe. Design images (representations) are stored in a Unix file directory.

Australian registered designs are published in the Australian Official Journal of Designs and on microfiche (historical from 1906 to 30 September 1998).

Bibliographic data and images for registered designs post 1985 are also available on the Australian Designs Data Search (ADDS) system on the internet.

Databases and office automation

Current standard desktop software includes Microsoft Windows XP SP3 with Microsoft Office 2003.

The Office's publication system is partially mainframe based and produces:

- camera ready copy of the Australian Official Journal of Designs;
- design certificates and original register entries; and
- notices for design applicants or their agents.

URLs of web pages of the Office's website that provide access to online industrial design gazettes and to other sources of industrial design information, including download of bulk industrial design data

General information about the Australian Designs IP system, processes forms and fees can be accessed at the following URL:
<http://www.ipaustralia.gov.au/designs/index.shtml>

The Australian Official Journal of Designs can be accessed at the following URL:
<http://pericles.ipaustralia.gov.au/ols/epublish/content/olsEpublications.jsp>

The Australian Designs Data Searching (ADDS) system can be accessed at the following URL:
http://pericles.ipaustralia.gov.au/adds2/adds.adds_start.intro

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

Classification and reclassification activities; Classification system used, e.g., International Classification for Industrial Designs (Locarno Classification), other classification (please indicate whether industrial designs are classified by your Office and, if so, which classification is used)

Industrial Design applications are classified according to the International Designs Classification [Locarno].

Active IDC classes are, in specific instances, further subdivided into internally defined subdivisions.

Bibliographic data and processing

Bibliographic data is maintained on an ADABAS Natural (zOS) mainframe.

IV. Search file establishment and upkeep

File building

The Designs Office maintains and updates a search file system using the abovementioned IDC subdivision of current applications, previously registered designs in Australia and maintains a store of current local and international publications.

Updating

Search files are regularly updated as appropriate.

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

In-house systems (online/offline)

Designs bibliographic data and representations [images] for registrations from 1985 can be searched through a web browser application (ADDS – Australian Designs Data Searching). The Official Journal of Designs is also searchable over the Internet for data from July 2001.

External databases

Disclosures relating to other designs filings/registrations of other countries are accessed via relevant Internet databases and search facilities.

Administrative management systems (e.g., register, legal status, statistics and administrative support)

The primary business system is the ADABAS Natural mainframe application, DESADMIN, running on IBM zOS. DESADMIN interfaces to a number of satellite applications, eg Word for production of reports, XICS for publishing output and ADDS. Document management is handled via paper casefiles.

All processing relating to the life-cycle of a design (apart from financial processing) is conducted within this environment. The Designs Office, along with the Patent and Trade Mark Offices in IP Australia is in the process of transitioning its business applications from the mainframe to our strategic server infrastructure environment. This environment includes Sun Solaris, Oracle RDBMS, J2EE, BEA Weblogic, and Objective EDMS.

Equipment used (hardware, including the types of terminal and network used, and software), data carriers used

The Canberra Office has an ethernet-based LAN providing high speed bandwidth for each user desktop connection. A DMZ-based, DSD approved firewall using IAN ports (Internet IEFT Assigned Numbers) provides the secure means to allow access from internal systems/users to external entities such as the Internet or public/private organisations.

The current SOE includes Windows XP with Office SE 2003, IE 8.0 and Lotus Notes.

VI. Administration of industrial design information products and 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)

Planning, administration, automation, security

Customer Service Delivery (CSD) provides a central contact for customers to obtain information to support their decisions about a wide range of Intellectual Property issues. Customers contact the CSD via telephone, fax and email with around 95% of matters of a general nature solved at the first point of contact. The CSD provides face-to-face, phone, email and web-based assistance through a central office in Canberra.

Increasingly, IP Australia is using its web site as a means of providing an alternative means of public access to these services. Designs can be searched via ADDS.

IP Australia is currently finalising the design of a system to support business-to-business data exchange of patents, industrial designs and trade marks transactions with its high volume clients (Patents and Trade Mark Attorneys). This system will be consistent with WIPO electronic filing and National e-commerce standards.

Collection management, preservation

All Australian Designs records/documents are handled in accordance with Office procedures set down under Australian Law and archiving practices.

Information services available to the public (including computerized services and search files contained in libraries remote from your Office and industrial design information posted by your Office on the World Wide Web)

Information services are available on the IP Australia website.

URLs of web pages of the Office's website for electronic filing of industrial design applications

There is no electronic filing of Designs available currently.

URLs of web pages of the Office's website that provide information on business procedures such as: filing, publication, examination and registration procedures related to industrial designs; opposition and appeal procedures related to industrial designs; etc.

General information
<http://www.ipaustralia.gov.au/designs/index.shtml>

Publications and forms
http://www.ipaustralia.gov.au/resources/forms_designs.shtml

Examiners Manual
http://www.ipaustralia.gov.au/resources/manuals_designs.shtml

URLs of web pages of the Office's website that provide a description of information products and services offered by the Office (e.g., industrial design search service(s) and industrial design databases), as well as information on how to access and utilize them

<http://www.ipaustralia.gov.au/resources/index.shtml>

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

International or regional cooperation in the exchange of industrial design information, e.g., in the form of official gazettes

Largely restricted to the Official Gazette which is available on-line.

VIII. Matters concerning education and training, including technical assistance to developing countries (please indicate URLs of web pages of the Office's website wherever appropriate)

Promotional activities (seminars, exhibitions, visits, advertising, etc.)

Key promotional activities in 2009:

Vocational Education and Training (VET)

IP Australia developed a range of courses on IP rights management and commercialisation. In January 2009 the courses were officially approved and published as a part of the Australian National Training Information System.

Nationally approved Registered Training Organisations may deliver these courses.

SME's

IP Australia's Smart Start business tool for SME's was enhanced to address the needs of businesses that have a greater understanding of Intellectual Property and IP strategies.

Fashion

IP Australia greatly increased its circulation of the 'Fashion Rules' publication for promotion to a broader spectrum of the fashion industry. IP Australia has also increased the functionality of the 'Fashion Rules' website to create a greater interactive experience for users.

IP Australia and Business Enterprise Centres Australia

IP Australia sponsored a nationwide seminar series in association with Australia's innovation festival entitled '10 Steps to making money from Smart Ideas'.

IP Australia also sponsored the National Small Business Development Conference in November 2009. Business advisors were trained/educated in developing IP Strategies.

World IP Day

IP Australia coordinated a national online advertising campaign in the week leading up to World IP Day. The advertising targeted SME's and directed them to the Smart Start website. Visitation levels during this period increased by more than 100%.

State Office Events

There were a total of 83 events undertaken in 2009 by the State Outreach Managers. These events targeted a wide range of audiences from SMEs to accountants and designers.

Australian International Design Awards (AIDA)

IP Australia sponsored the Australian International Design Awards and promoted the 'How to Kit - Make Your Mark' - specifically tailored to the Australian Industrial Design industry.

Media

Francis Gurry visit

Dr Francis Gurry, Director General of WIPO visited Australia. A series of engagement activities were arranged to obtain high profile media coverage to raise the profile of Dr Gurry in Australia and IP in general. This has helped to initiate a strategic dialogue in the Australian media about the importance of IP to national economies.

Customer and Stakeholder Engagement

IP Australia hosted the IP Professionals Forum, IP Forum and Consultation Group meetings.

Indigenous Stakeholder Engagement

IP Australia attended an Indigenous Economic Forum in Alice Springs and sponsored an Indigenous IP lawyer, Terri Janke, to speak at the event. This provided an excellent opportunity for indigenous stakeholder engagement.

Training courses for national and foreign participants

Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Public Education & Awareness Event

IP Australia delivered the 3 day APEC workshop entitled Conducting Effective IP Rights Public Education and Awareness Campaigns for SMEs. The event was designed for IPR offices throughout the APEC region, APEC Intellectual Property Rights Experts' Group (IPEG) members, APEC SME working group members, innovators and IP related organizations, private sector representatives and SMEs.

Assistance to developing countries (sending consultants and experts, receiving trainees from developing countries, etc.)

IP Australia provided the following assistance to IP officials in Viet Nam:

- hosted a 7 day IP study tour for 13 staff from the National Office of Intellectual Property of Viet Nam.
- provided training to Viet Nam officials on the development and implementation of public education and awareness programs.
- provided training and resources to university lecturers on the development and delivery of IP courses.
- provided technical publications to the National Office of Intellectual Property library.
- hosted a workshop on cost recovery, demand forecasting and IP Australia's approach to self funding.

IX. Other general information related to the Office that is available on the Internet -- URLs of web pages of the Office's website that:

provide information on legislation related to industrial designs

Designs Legislation:

http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/cth/consol_act/da200391/

contain the Annual Report of the Office

Annual Report

http://www.innovation.gov.au/Section/AbouttheDepartment/Annual%20Report%20200809/resources/pdf/DIISR_ip_australia.pdf

contain industrial design-related news regarding the Office

Latest news:

Latest news is featured on the home page of IP Australia's website:
<http://www.ipaustralia.gov.au/>

Subscription-based mailing lists
http://www.ipaustralia.gov.au/resources/lists_index.shtml#

X. Other relevant matters

The Australian Design IP system provides for 2 types of applications:

- Application for registration to obtain rights in the design
- Application for publication which provides no rights except to exclude others from obtaining a valid registration as subsequent designs would not be new.

All applications are assessed against a Formality check prior to Registration or Publication.

Once registered, the owner has a range of rights including the right to use, license and assign the design. However, the right to enforce and prevent others from using, selling or importing the design can only be commenced once the design has been examined and a certificate of examination has issued.