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Annual Technical Report 2005 on Industrial Design Information Activities submitted by Czech Republic (SCIT/ATR/ID/2005/CZ)

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

In 2005, 916 industrial design applications were filed, representing an increase in comparison with 2004 (597 applications). There were 35 foreign applications in 2005 representing a decrease compared to 2004 (173). The majority of foreign applications were from Slovakia (11). Most of the applications concerned furnishing (137), office equipment (99), packages and containers (98), toys and sport goods (96).

Legal protection of the design of industrial products through registration in the national register of industrial designs was slightly influenced by a similar legal regulation on the Community level in 2004. This is evidenced by a slight decrease of the number of local applications as compared to the previous year. It can be explained by the transfer of a part of the application potential for the benefit of the industrial system of the Community.

In 2005, 679 new industrial designs were registered, 584 of which belong to domestic holders; the total number of newly registered model variants was 1.872.

By the end of 2005, 5.008 national industrial designs were valid in the territory of the Czech Republic and 145 500 industrial designs registered with the European Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market.

The average time taken for industrial design application proceedings became shorter in 2004 - it was 6 to 7 months. The length of industrial design application procedure did not exceed 10 months in 2005.

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

The Industrial Property Office of the Czech Republic (IPO CZ) carries out the substantive examination of industrial design applications. The subject of the application is not published during the examination procedure. Subjects of negatively settled applications are also never published.

Industrial design information is accessible in the public reading room and in the Official Bulletin. The Official Bulletin of the IPO CZ (Vestník UPV) is issued monthly (Part A - Inventions, Utility Models, Industrial Designs, Topographies of Semiconductor Products; Part B - Trademarks, Designations of Origin and Geographical Indications). The Bulletin A was issued in 220 copies, the Bulletin B in 250 copies.

As from No. 1/2000, the Official Bulletin is available on the web site of the IPO CZ as an electronic book in PDF format.

The standard content of the chapter "Industrial Designs" in part A is the following:

- List of registered industrial designs (numerical series with classification symbols)
- Registered industrial designs arranged according to the Locarno Classification (announcement contents, representation and bibliographic data)
- List of owners of registered industrial designs provided with the number of the registration and its classification
- Official decisions and announcements

Publishing, including printing, copy in techniques and electronic printing

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

Mass storage media and microforms used

Databases and office automation

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

The 8th edition of the Locarno Classification has been used since January 1, 2004; the new files were created according to this new edition.

In 2004 the IPO CZ started to work on the reclassification of all designs in accordance with the current - 8th - version of the international classification of industrial designs.

IV. Search file establishment and upkeep

The industrial design search file of the IPO CZ comprises the industrial design collection of the Czech Republic and Czechoslovakia and official bulletins of foreign offices containing registered industrial designs.

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

The national search industrial design database contains basic bibliographic data including image information is operational. This database is accessible online via the web site of the IPO CZ. It can be used free of charge (<http://isdvapl.upv.cz/pls/portal30/vz.vzfrm>).

The IPO CZ has completed entering retrospective data in the search database of registered industrial designs, which is now completely accessible in this database. Now the database contains bibliographic as well as pictorial elements of approx. 50 thousand registered industrial designs while the oldest data come from the 1966/67 turn of the year.

In January 2004, the standard operation of the new information system for application proceedings and for keeping registers of subject matters of industrial rights (IS SyPP) was started. The aim of the project was to create a modifiable and extendable information system over one unified database and to replace two originally separated systems with different conceptions, designed separately for patents, utility models and designs and separately for trademarks. The system is equipped with electronic archiving of incoming and outgoing files. The system makes it possible to receive data of European patents, and processes data of proceedings for the database and for publishing in the Office Bulletin.

VI. Administration of industrial design 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)

An information center operates during the working days. It provides the public with general information concerning design protection.

In the public reading room industrial design collections are available. Personal assistance and consultation for beginners is carried out by the staff. Clients can order searches as a charged service.

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

Official Bulletin, Part A (containing also industrial designs) was distributed to almost 200 clients in the Czech Republic and in foreign countries.
Industrial design applications can be filed in paper or in electronic form.

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

Various courses and seminars were organized for the students and representatives of SMEs or research institutions; Groups of university students were accepted in the premises of the IPO CZ.

In 2004, the two years study course of industrial property rights was conducted within the Office's own educational facility - the Industrial Property Training Institute.

The IPO CZ presented its information activities and products at the following exhibitions and trade fairs:

- International Machinery Trade Fair (Brno, CZ)
- MACH 2005 (Prague, CZ)
- FOR ARCH 2005 (Prague, CZ)
- Innovation 2005 (Prague, CZ)
- IENA - Exhibition of Inventions and Innovations (Nurnberg, DE)
- Exhibition of Inventions (Geneva, CH)
- PATLIB 2005 (Vilamoura, PT)
- EPO Patent Information Conference 2005 (Budapest, HU)

The IPO CZ co-operated with Regional Patent Information Centers (PATLIB) in information product dissemination or providing training and education.

The IPO CZ issued the Industrial Property Journal every month.

IX. Other relevant matters