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ON INDUSTRIAL DESIGN INFORMATION ACTIVITIES*

submitted by

BELARUS

An annual series of reports on the industrial design information activities
of members of the Standing Committee on Information Technologies

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- The expression “industrial design” covers designs and models.
- Information related to design patent activities reported by industrial property offices issuing design patents is included in this series of documents.

Annual Technical Report of Belgopatent on Industrial Design Information Activities in 1999

I. Evolution of registration activities

As compared to the previous year, there were no changes in procedures and requirements for application filings and grants.

In 1999, Belgopatent received 88 applications for granting industrial design patents, 17 per cent less than in 1998. At the same time, the number of applications filed by national applicants did not change and amounted to 66 applications.

In 1999, 41 industrial designs were registered in the State Register (20 – in the name of national applicants and 21 – in the name of foreign applicants). That is by 27 per cent less than in the previous year. There were withdrawn 14 applications including 6 applications after taking decisions of patent grant.

As on December 31, 1998, 64 patents of 262 patents registered in the State Register lapsed due to non-payment of fees.

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

In 1999, the Official Bulletin of Belgopatent was restructured. Belgopatent began to publish the Official Bulletin on Inventions, Utility Models and Industrial Designs and the Official Bulletin on Trademarks as separate publications.

As on January 1, 2000, information on industrial designs is published in the following official publications of Belgopatent:

- the Official Bulletin on Inventions, Utility Models and Industrial Designs;
 - a collection of normative and methodical materials "Industrial Property";
 - the Annual Report of Belgopatent,
- as well as in the statistical reports on industrial designs sent to WIPO annually.

Belgopatent official publications are produced on paper using the in-house automated subsystem of preparing Official Bulletins. Circulation of official publications is carried out in the printing-copying shop of Belgopatent provided with copying equipment for reproducing black-and-white and colored images as well as equipment for afterprinting works.

100 copies of these publications (each of them) are distributed free of charge at 68 addresses of Belarus including the government, bodies of state power and administration, the largest republican and regional libraries, higher educational institutions and others. More than 92 enterprises, organizations and firms including 3 organizations from the USA and United Kingdom received them by subscription. Within the framework of international exchange Belgopatent publications are directed to 41 countries and 4 international organizations.

As media for storing information on applications and patents for industrial designs, paper carriers (paper cases with application documents) and hard disks in the servers with the redundancy system RAID are used.

The database for industrial designs contains information on applications for industrial design patents filed with RB including bibliography and photographs of industrial designs. Data on applications received are put by operators of the Preliminary Examination Department to the database, then the data are made more precise and completed in the process of substantive examination. The same data are used for publishing Official Bulletins and granting titles of protection.

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

To classify industrial design applications, the fifth edition of the International Classification of Industrial Designs (the Locarno Classification) was used. No reclassification took place.

IV. Search file establishment and upkeep

In 1999, searches for the purposes of substantive examination in respect of applications filed with Belgopatent were carried out in the database of the Russian Agency for Patents and Trademarks in Moscow.

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

The in-house automated subsystem "Industrial Designs" was constructed on the grounds of the national database of applications and patents. There was created a search part giving an opportunity for searches in the national database of industrial designs.

The subsystem "Industrial Designs" includes: hardware (486 workstation, 10Mb Ethernet local network) and software (Windows 95 operational system, VFoxPro 6.0 database management system).

VI. Administration of industrial design services available to the public

Information on industrial designs of foreign countries is available to the public in the Central Republican Patent Collection of the Republican Scientific and Technical Library (RSTL). The library renders services in searching patent documents, preparing bibliographic lists, copying patent documentation, etc.

Besides, users are provided with services of the Training and Research Republic Unitary Enterprise of Intellectual Property "RUPIS" of Belgopatent (information on it will be given below) in preparing application materials for granting an industrial design patent, carrying out patent investigations with presenting reports on them for the purposes of:

- determining the technical level in respect of a certain industrial design;
- determining the technical level in respect of a certain field of technology;
- forecasting the development of technologies and others.

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

In 1999, Belgopatent continued international exchange of patent documentation with 41 countries and 4 international organizations (WIPO, the EPO, EAPO and OAPI). In exchange for the Official Bulletin of Belgopatent there were received official bulletins with information about industrial designs on paper carriers from other countries. The documentation received allowed to continue the completion of the Central Republican Patent Collection of RSTL.

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

The Training and Research Centre of Industrial Property of Belgopatent renamed as the Training and Research Republican Unitary Enterprise of Intellectual Property "RUPIS" (RUP "RUPIS") on October 13, 1999 is the only educational institution in Belarus that trains specialists in patenting.

In 1999, 22 specialists were retrained in legal protection of intellectual property and received diplomas qualifying them as patent lawyers. 8 specialists received certificates of professional skill improved after training in the framework of a short-term course "The Basis of Legal Protection for Industrial Property Subjects in the Republic of Belarus".

In 1999, RUPIS held the seminar "Improvement of Competitive Capacity of Goods and Services on the Basis of Effective Use of Industrial Property Subjects" for national specialists.