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ON INDUSTRIAL DESIGN INFORMATION ACTIVITIES*

submitted by the

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

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 ON
INDUSTRIAL DESIGN INFORMATION ACTIVITIES
OF ROSPATENT IN 1999**

Evolution of Registration Activities

In 1999 there were no changes in the filing, examination and publication procedures for industrial designs in the Russian Federation.

The table below shows the trends in the number of application filed and patents granted for industrial designs in 1998 and 1999.

| | 1998 | 1999 | 1999/1998 % |
|--------------------------------------|-------|-------|----------------|
| Industrial design applications filed | | | |
| – by Russian applicants | 1,076 | 1,274 | 118.4 |
| – by foreign applicants | 443 | 311 | 70.2 |
| Total | 1,509 | 1,585 | 105 |
| Industrial design patents granted | 964 | 1,655 | 171.2 |
| Industrial design patents valid | 7,234 | 8,651 | 119.6 |

A total number of industrial design patents in force in the Russian Federation is not significant but there has been a steady growth in the number of filings and grants within the recent three years. In accordance with 1999 statistics, the number of applications filed by Russian applicants was four times more than that filed by foreign applicants.

Matters Concerning the Generation, Reproduction and Distribution of Industrial Design Documents and of Secondary Sources of Industrial Design Information

The official Office publication *Utility Models/Industrial Designs Gazette* is published monthly (12 issues a year). An annual publication contains information on 1,655 industrial design patents granted and registered in the Russian Federation during the year. There were no changes in the structure of the publication.

The following information is included in the Gazette:

- bibliographic data;
- graphic materials;
- a list of essential features;
- announcements of changes in the legal status;
- systematic index of patents;
- numerical index of patents.

The Gazette was published with the help of automated systems using information generated in a database. The bibliography and texts are composed by way of:

- direct composition (for documents of poor quality)
- scanning and converting into digital form (for documents of good quality).

The Official Gazettes were distributed on a paper carrier.

After a certain decline in the number of subscriptions in 1997 (by 34.5% compared to 1996), in 1998 we witnessed gradual stabilization and growth of subscriptions the Official Gazette from 386 copies to 402 copies in 1999.

Data contained in the Official Gazette was stored on diskettes and optical disks in the form of a database or files.

In 1999, FIPS publishers published *International Classification of Industrial Designs* (Seventh edition).

Matters Concerning Classifying, Reclassifying and Indexing of Industrial Design Information Under Classification Systems Used

The *Locarno International Classification of Industrial Designs* (sixth edition) was used to classify industrial design applications.

On the basis of the International classification of industrial designs an Automated Subsystem *International Classification of Industrial Designs* (ASS ICID) was used as part of the Russian Federation Industrial Designs automated system.

Two-digit INID codes were used to index bibliographic data on standard forms and automated systems. To classify industrial designs, an information search can be effected by using:

- (a) a classification pattern;
- (b) an index which is in fact an alphabetical list of categories/titles, with their digital codes, of products belonging to each subclass (these titles are used for the purposes of category identification within the framework of classification review and improvement).

Search File Establishment and Upkeep

The industrial design file was grouped by ICID indexes (Japan) or gazette issues (Bulgaria, Hungary, Switzerland, etc.) and consisted of the following domestic and foreign publications:

- official gazettes;
- domestic periodicals on artistic design (27,000 copies);
- advertising brochures and catalogues (38,200 copies);
- issue-oriented compilations containing publications from national gazettes of 11 countries;
- methodological and reference literature.

The examination search file was established in geographical, systematic and chronological order and contained over 2 million copies of documents originating from 19 countries and WIPO.

The use of file storage facilities depends on the type of data carrier:

- patent documents on paper were stored in cassettes on shelves;
- microforms were stored in metal boxes in film library file-folders (microfilms) and in metal safes (microfiches);
- information of CD-ROMs was stored on catalogue cubes.

Files were updated through international exchange and subscription. In 1999 information on industrial designs came from 46 countries and 2 international organizations.

Activities in the Field of Computerized Search Systems for Industrial Designs

An automated system called *Russian Federation Industrial Designs* (ASRFID) was used internally in on-line mode for national industrial design information search at the stage of examining applications. This system contains a national application and patent information file with a total of 16,623 entries and 18,200 graphic files containing reproductions of industrial designs and comprises an automated subsystem *International Classification of Industrial Designs* (ASS ICID) covering the period from 1991 up to date. The system contains national applications filed and industrial design patents granted including descriptions and related graphic materials. The data is updated on a daily basis. The ASRFID runs on CDS\ISIS\M software. The built-in search tools of the latter make it possible to carry out information searches on the basis of straight text and different keys, e.g. State registration number, filing date, ICID, industrial design title, etc.

A special subsystem is used for automatic preparation of outgoing correspondence at the examination stage.

In 1999 data concerning 1,606 new applications and 4,462 reproductions of industrial designs was entered in ASRFID and corrections were introduced with respect to some 3,546 documents. Some 3,800 searches were carried out in the system during the period under review.

ASSICID contains the text of the Seventh edition of *the International Classification of Industrial Designs*. A special software was developed in order to carry out an automated verification of ICID codes assigned to applications that had been entered in ASRFID.

In addition, the Federal Institute of Industrial Property (FIIP) has an administration management system, called Administration Database (ADB) supporting the following functions: storing information on application files (Bibliographic data), on the location of applications, on patent grants, on patent fees collection, on patent expiry dates, etc.

Hardware used:

- Server Compaq Proliant 1000;
(OM-128 MB, processors-1, external memory – 35GB);
- Server Compaq Proliant 5000;
(OM-256 MB, processors-2, external memory – 38GB);
- Workstation Compaq 486, 586, PMMX, PII – 20 units.

Commutation equipment:

ISDN MAX 200 Plus c (8/4) WAN PCMC1A switching equipment Typell/Typel;
SmartSWITCH 6000.

Software:

Operational systems: Novell, Windows 95;
Media used: magnetic tape Data 8mml.

Administration of Industrial Design Services Available to the Public

A special reading room was set up in the FIIP branch *All-Russian Patent Library* to service readers wishing to work with industrial design information. The volume of services provided in 1999 amounted to:

- 17,937 documents for issue-oriented compilations;
- more than 16,900 units for journals and magazines;
- 22,200 units for gazettes.

In addition to Official Gazettes on paper carrier, a considerable volume of information was provided on CD-ROM.

Industrial design information users were offered the following services:

- pre and post-filing information search;
- information search on third party request;
- defining search area when a search order was placed and/or an application was filed;
- selection of highly efficient and promising industrial designs for preferable use;
- search for industrial design owner, with his/her personal details made available.

Apart from official publications, users could order databases containing information on industrial designs on CD-ROMs and other mutually agreed carriers. Such orders may extend either to subject-matter-oriented fragments of databases or to specialized information retrieval tools to the national industrial design file in the form of bibliographic databases for a specific period of time.

In addition to services provided by FIIP (ROSPATENT), patent and information services were provided by ROSPATENT Information and Publication Center (IPC) which concentrated its efforts on foreign industrial design information. In 1999 a publication

Industrial Designs of Foreign Countries containing information on industrial designs registered under the Hague Agreement and those registered in certain countries i.e. Germany, USA, France, Switzerland and etc. was published on a regular basis. The information was arranged in accordance with 32 classes of *the International Classification of Industrial Designs* (ICID). This publication contained 2,564.75 sheets.

To meet the needs of ROSPATENT examiners bibliographic information on the industrial designs patented in 1998 in Austria, Bulgaria, Hungary, Spain, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Czech Republic and Japan was processed and systematized.

Matters Concerning Mutual Exchange of Industrial Design Documentation and Information

In 1999, within the framework of international exchange, ROSPATENT sent its Official Gazette *Utility Models/Industrial Designs* to 41 countries on paper (41 annual collection) and to 17 countries on microfiches (19 annual collections).

The following industrial design information was received from 46 countries, WIPO and EPO:

- separately publishes gazettes (1,585 paper copies and 46 editions on CD-ROM);
- industrial property gazettes with industrial design sections (737 paper copies and 2 editions on CD-ROM);
- descriptions to US industrial designs on paper (one annual collection comprising a total of 15,510 copies).

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