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STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT

2001

ON INDUSTRIAL DESIGN INFORMATION ACTIVITIES¹

submitted by the

CZECH REPUBLIC

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

¹ – 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**

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CZECH REPUBLIC**I. Evolution of registration activities:**

Application activities in industrial design area have been decreasing since 1997. Despite the growth in the number of applications in 2000 as compared to 1999, the opposite trend was not established in a long-time horizon. In 2001 there was filed 684 applications, what represents a decrease 13% in comparison with 2000 (788 applications).

As of 31.12.2002 there were 372 pending applications. The majority of them were filed in 2001 (only 15 applications were from 2000).

Until 1999, there were 3 industrial designs contained in one application, in 2000 the increase to 4 applications occurred and in 2001 there were almost 6 industrial designs in one application.

The most part of industrial design applications concerned packages and containers for the transport or handling of goods (13%), household goods (10%) and building units (8%). There were 267 foreign applications in 2001 what is a decrease by 12% as compared with 2000. The share of these applications was 39 %. The most part of them was of USA (12%) and Germany (6%). In 2001 there were filed 417 applications of domestic applicants, what represents a decrease by 14%.

In 2001 675 industrial designs were registered (decrease by 7%). It is to note that there are multiple registrations based on multiple industrial design applications and under one registration number there are on average 6 industrial designs.

As of 31.12.2001 there were 4576 valid industrial designs in the Czech Republic. 57% of them belong to domestic owners, 12% to owners of USA, 9% of Germany, 4% of Netherlands and 3% of Denmark.

The average time of industrial design applications procedure was 6 months in 2001.

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 carries out the substantive examination of industrial design applications.
- There are no changes as to industrial design procedure and publication of industrial design information.
- Official Bulletin published on paper carrier remains unchanged. As from No. 1/2000, the Official Bulletin is available on the web site of the Industrial Property Office in the PDF format.

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

- The 7th edition of the Locarno Classification is used since 1.1.1999.
- The new files are created according to each new edition; the files are not reclassified.

IV. Search file establishment and upkeep:

- There are no changes concerning search file organization and use.
- On the base of international exchange the Office receives industrial design bulletins from following 15 countries: Austria, Bulgaria, Estonia, France, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Norway, Russia, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, USA, Yugoslavia.
- The Office buys the International Designs Bulletin issued by the International Bureau of the WIPO on CD-ROM. This Bulletin is more suitable to carry out novelty searches and searches as to individual character of industrial designs as compared with bulletins on paper carrier.
- Bulletins are at disposal for the public and Office examiners in the reading room.

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

- The search industrial design database containing image information functions in the test operation. This database is accessible on-line on the web site of the Office. It contains registered industrial designs since 1982 to 2002. The retrospective file of the registered industrial designs for this database is prepared and the search system is improved.
- The administrative system of industrial designs in the application DISPO covering data since 1986 is used for the support of the industrial design application procedure. It contains data elements concerning applications and individual steps of procedure including decisions. Data are continuously updated. Database contains juridical status of individual registered industrial designs.
- Application for industrial designs is operated on the IBM server, operation system UNIX AIX, and on workstations with operation system Windows. Database system used is ORACLE 8i. Application is operated on-line in the Token-Ring network. It contains the register of industrial design applications, register of registered industrial designs, and register with the application procedure protocol.
- The database application supports also printouts for correspondence with applicants. The text editor used – MS WORD.

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):

- There are no changes in the field of information center and library services. The register section supplies legal status information.
- The public can order the searches made by the Office experts as the paid service.
- There are about 280 subscribers of the Official Gazette.

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

- The list of countries, from which we receive Bulletins see chapter IV.
- Bulletin of the Czech IPO is dispatched to the industrial property offices, other institutions and to interested parties in 36 countries.

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

- Industrial Property Training Institute of the Czech Office carries out the educational, promotional and editorial activity of the Office. The industrial design matter forms part of the two years study and some short-term courses.
- The Czech IPO issues the magazine Industrial Property.
- In the framework of courses organized by the WIPO Worldwide Academy, the Office welcomed trainees from Jamaica, Ukraine, Estonia and Moldova.

IX. Other relevant matters.

There are no further relevant matters to report.

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