

**Annual Technical Report  
on Industrial Design Information Activities  
of the German Patent and Trademark Office  
for the Year 1998**

**I. Evolution of registration activities**

The trend witnessed during the past few years of a constant increase in the number of applications has also continued in 1998. The number of applications has risen by 6.4 % compared to the previous year and amounts to 79,669.

During the year 1998 66,167 designs and models were settled in 9,587 application procedures. 62,550 designs and models were registered.

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

No documents for industrial designs are issued.

The German Patent office publishes the “*Geschmacksmusterblatt*” (Designs Gazette), containing the necessary publications on the industrial designs recorded in the Designs Register. It is published twice a month, and it is produced and sold by WILA Verlag GmbH, Munich. It contains in section 1a) – arranged according to classes of goods – the indications recorded in the Designs Register for the individual designs, the pictures of the representations of the designs ( unless a request for deferment of the publication under Sec. 8b of the Industrial Designs Law has been filed) and – insofar as an explicit request for publication has been filed – the description ( compare Sec. 8 of the Order Concerning the Designs Register).

In section 1b) the subsequent publication of the picture is carried out (insofar as, at first, a request for deferment of the publication had been filed and later a request for “extension”, Sec. 8b (2) of the Industrial Designs Law). The further sections provide information on the extensions of protection as well as cancellations.

No information is stored by means of other media, e.g. microforms.

**III. Matters concerning classifying, reclassification and indexing of industrial design information according to the classification system applied**

The classification of industrial design is published together with the other indications (compare above) in the Design Gazette. No reclassification takes place.

The Locarno classification is applicable. The classifying is carried out by the applicant. If this is not done at all (or done incorrectly), the class is fixed by the Office (Sec. 10 (2) of the Industrial Designs Law).

#### **IV. Search file establishment and upkeep**

The Office (public search rooms in Munich and Berlin) keeps, accessible to the public, collections of industrial designs register cards on paper. The collections contain – arranged according to classes – all publications issued in the Designs Gazette. They are updated after each publication of the Designs Gazette (loose leaves, also produced and provided by WILA Verlag).

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

The office has an administration data base (industrial designs administration system) at its disposal. The “Designs Register” constitutes a part of this data base. The Designs Register is accessible to the public in the public search rooms in Munich and Berlin via DPINFO, the electronic information system on industrial property rights of the German Patent and Trademark Office, as well as externally via remote data transmission (Datex-P, packet switching network of “Deutsche Telekom”). The file number, name of applicant and the number of the applicant are searchable data in the Designs Register.

The bibliographical data are not particularly prepared for search purposes.

The Office keeps a “name index”, containing apart from the indications concerning the applicant also the filing date, the file number, the designation of the design and the class of goods (Sec. 3 of the Order Concerning the Designs Register).

The administration data base is also used for compiling statistics.

Equipment: The data processing system is operated on the basis of a relational data base system on a client/server system. The central hardware consists of a system with two servers (failure prevention) with mirror disks.

#### **VI. Administration of industrial design services available to the public (relating to facilities, e.g. for lodging applications, to register designs, for assisting clients on searching procedures, for obtaining official publications and registry extracts)**

The Office provides information on the Designs Register by telephone and on written request. A written excerpt from the Register is available for DM 20.- and from the name index for DM 30.-.

For details on the collection of industrial design register cards see item IV., for details on possible queries concerning the Designs Register within the framework of the information system on industrial property rights DPINFO see item V.

Since November 1996 the German Patent and Trademark Office presents its services also in the Internet under the URL “<http://www.patent-und-markenamt.de>”.

Within a large information offer there are all information leaflets relation to industrial design, including all the formularies necessary for an application.

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

A limited number of copies of the Designs Gazette are available within the framework of the international exchange of literature.