

Annual Technical Report 1998 on Industrial Design Information activities of the Portuguese Patent and Trademark Office

I. Development of registration activities

After publication of the Industrial Property Code of 1995, only one application for registration can be made for several related objects up to 10.

1. Applications:

- Models and designs: 613

-Portuguese: 171

-Foreign: 442

2. Grants:

-Models and designs:646

II. Generation, reproduction and distribution of secondary sources of industrial design information, i.e. the official industrial property gazette

The official gazette “Boletim da Propriedade Industrial” is now also published in CD-R. There is a monthly updating one week after the publication in paper. A backfile from 1970 - 1998 is available as well as the updates for 1999, after demand.

III. Classification, reclassification and indexing of industrial design information

We use the Internacional Classification (Locarno Agreement) to classify the models and designs. No activities on reclassification are carried out. A preliminary work is being done in order to develop an internal classification based on Locarno Classification on trial for assisting searching and examination.

Bibliographic data (number, proprietor, application date, class, etc) is used for diferent kinds of searches including retrospective searches for similar and identical models and designs on the manual card registry.

IV. Generation and updating of industrial design records

The bibliographic data base is daily updated including legal status. The files for novelty search are monthly updated.

V. Activities in the field of computerized search

Only bibliographic data is searchable. INPI has not yet a computerized database to search industrial design in respect to the shape and decoration thereof.

Consequently, this kind of searches are manually done from catalogs ordered by the items of Locarno Classification.

VI. Administration of services available to the public:

Planning, administration, automation, security:

The card registry of models and designs is updated monthly, after publication of the official gazette.

Information Services available to the public

Concerning this matter, INPI offers a wide number of services to the public. The prices of these services are controlled and periodically updated by a government act. The public can request our services by e-mail, fax or in person to the information department at INPI.

Our activities related to the services offered to the public include now the availability of printable forms from the website of INPI. In this website, the public can also find information about the most common questions as well as the fees payable for applications, registrations and information services and products.

Concerning the industrial design, this office publishes:

- * Industrial Property Gazette, published monthly.
- * The annual report including models and designs statistics.

The INPI technical library is open to the public and has available the industrial model design catalog and official gazette from other countries legislations and other bibliography are also available.

VII. Exchange of industrial design documents and information

The Official Trademark Gazette is sent to about 30 countries and consequently INPI receives similar publications from 20 countries.

VIII. Matters concerning education and training

Annually INPI plans several training activities on industrial design including training on application and examination procedures. These courses are attended by jurists and lawyers, and by other entities interested in Industrial Property. These courses are organized on the premises of the Office as well as at other national institutions and associations with which INPI has co-operation agreements on the behalf of dissemination of industrial property knowledge.

Concerning promotional activities, INPI organises frequently seminars, exhibitions and congresses, to inform the public of the application procedure for industrial designs and the relevant services and products offered by INPI in general.

We are also receive foreign students and other groups from other industrial property offices, for example, technicians from portuguese speaking countries. In this training activities, there is an introduction to the working method of the Institute, to the facilities of the Office, demonstration of the databases as well as training on general procedure on industrial design registration.