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**Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)**

**Sixth Session**

**Geneva, October 15 to 19, 2018**

REVISION OF WIPO STANDARD ST.26

*Document prepared by the Secretariat*

## Introduction

1. At its fifth session held in Geneva in 2017, the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS) approved version 1.1 of WIPO Standard ST.26 “Recommended standard for the presentation of nucleotide and amino acid sequence listings using XML (eXtensible Markup Language)”. Consequently, the CWS agreed to the modified description of Task No. 44: “Support the International Bureau by providing users’ requirements and feedback on the ST.26 authoring and validation software tool; Support the International Bureau in the consequential revision of the PCT Administrative Instructions; and Prepare necessary revisions of WIPO Standard ST.26 upon request by the CWS.” (See paragraphs 41 and 45 of document CWS/5/22.)
2. Under the new description of Task No. 44, the Sequence Listings Task Force has carried out discussions and found some mistakes in Annex I of Standard ST.26, version 1.1, which should be corrected as soon as possible. Therefore, the Task Force decided to prepare a revision of Standard ST.26 instead of waiting for a request by the CWS. In addition, the Task Force also noted that relevant industry recommendations (INSDC Feature keys) have been updated and it agreed to incorporate the up-to-date information in the proposed revision.
3. As the outcome of its discussions, the Sequence Listings Task Force submitted for consideration and, where appropriate, approval by the CWS, a final proposal for the revision of Standard ST.26 which includes modifications to ST.26 main body and its Annexes I, II, III, IV and VI and a new Annex VII (transformation of a sequence listing from ST.25 to ST.26). It should be noted that Annex V of ST.26 remains unchanged (thus, they are not attached). The proposed revision is reproduced as Annexes to the present document. It should be noted that if the proposed revision is approved by the CWS, the new version of entire Standard ST.26 would be version 1.2, including the unrevised content, i.e., Annex V and new Annex VII.

## Summary of PROPOSED REVISION

### Main Body

1. The following amendments are proposed to revise the Main Body of Standard ST.26:
2. in paragraphs 7(b), 15, 25, 27, 34, and 95 to clarify the requirements for inclusion and annotation of various sequences in a sequence listing;
3. In paragraphs 39, 43, 44, and 46 with regard to ST.26 DTD;
4. In paragraphs 55 and 56 to more accurately describe nucleotide segments and to clarify the corresponding mandatory annotation;
5. In paragraphs 81 and 87 improve the clarity of the language; and
6. In paragraph 90 to correct an error.

### Annex I - Controlled Vocabulary

1. It is proposed to revise Annex I of ST.26 as follows:
2. In Section 4, the phrases “and unusual” and “or unusual” to be deleted because the definition of “modified amino acids” in paragraph 3(e) of the Main Body includes “unusual amino acids”;
3. For Sections 5 and 6 Titles, “Nucleic” to be replaced with “Nucleotide” for consistency with the ST.26 Main Body;
4. In feature keys 5.22, 5.29, 5.31, 5.35, 5.46, 6.55, and 6.56, the mistakes in relation to text inadvertently omitted in the current version to be corrected;
5. In feature keys 6.39 and 6.55, to be updated to correspond to the latest INSDC Feature Table update; and
6. In feature key 7.10, an inadvertent error to be corrected.

### Annex II - DTD

1. The optional element INSDQualifier used by INSDFeature\_quals element is proposed to be changed to mandatory for alignment with business needs that an INSDFeature\_quals element must have one or more INSDQualifier elements if present.

### Annex III - Sequence Listing Specimen

1. The specimen should be updated following the proposed ST.26 Annex II and for consistency with the ST.26 Main Body.

### Annex IV - Character Subset from the Unicode Basic Latin Code Table

1. The title and introductory paragraph of Annex IV is proposed to be updated for clarity. In addition, four inadvertently omitted code points should be added.

### Annex VI and its Appendix - Guidance Document

1. It is proposed to include additional examples illustrating new scenarios brought to the attention of applicants and other users, to add further annotation guidance, and to improve the language. Subsequently, Appendix, sequence listing in XML, is proposed to be updated.

### Annex VII - Transformation of a Sequence Listing from ST.25 to ST.26

1. At its fifth session, the CWS noted that the content of potential added or deleted subject matter would be crucial for transformation of a sequence listing from Standard ST.25 to ST.26 (see document CWS/5/7 REV.1 ADD and paragraph 44 of document CWS/5/22).
2. The Task Force agreed that recommendations for the transformation should be added as an Annex to Standard ST.26 to provide guidance to applicants when transforming a sequence listing from ST.25 to ST.26. A proposal for the new Annex VII is submitted for consideration and adoption by the CWS.
3. *The CWS is invited to:*

*(a) take note of the content of the present document;*

*(b) consider and decide on the approval of the proposed revision of WIPO Standard ST.26, as referred to in paragraphs 4 to 9, above and reproduced in Annexes I to VI to the present document; and*

*(c) consider and decide on the adoption of the new Annex VII of WIPO Standard ST.26, as referred to in paragraphs 10 and 11, above and reproduced in Annex VII to the present document.*

[Annex I (ST.26 main body) follows]