

Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)

Twelfth Session
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REPORT ON TASK NO. 47 BY THE LEGAL STATUS TASK FORCE

Document prepared by the Legal Status Task Force Leader

SUMMARY

1. The Legal Status Task Force is responsible for the development and revisions of the WIPO legal status Standards ST.27, ST.61 and ST.87. Since the last session of the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS), the Legal Status Task Force has been working to improve Annex II of WIPO ST.87, resulting from its collaboration with the XML4IP Task Force to produce XML schemas to capture industrial design legal status data. In light of these updates, the Task Force Leader also proposes revisions to WIPO Standards ST.27 and ST.61 to keep all three legal status Standards aligned.

BACKGROUND

2. At its third session in 2013, the CWS created Task No. 47:

“Prepare a proposal to establish a new WIPO standard for the exchange of patent legal status data by industrial property offices. Once this task is completed, the corresponding proposal should be extended to trademarks and industrial designs.”

The CWS also established the Legal Status Task Force and designated the International Bureau as the Task Leader. (See paragraphs 50 to 54 of document CWS/3/14.)

3. At its fifth session in 2017, the CWS adopted WIPO Standard ST.27 “Recommendation for the exchange of patent legal status data” (see paragraphs 50 and 51 of document CWS/5/22). At its sixth session in 2018, the CWS adopted WIPO Standard ST.87 “Recommendation for the exchange of industrial design legal status data” (see paragraphs 102 to 105 of document CWS/6/34).

4. At its eighth session in 2020, the CWS adopted new WIPO Standard ST.61 "Recommendation for the exchange of trademark legal status data" (see paragraphs 26 to 28 of document CWS/8/24). At its same session, the CWS revised Task No. 47 whose updated description read:

"Ensure the necessary revisions and updates of WIPO Standards ST.27, ST.87, and ST.61; prepare supporting materials to assist the use of those Standards in IP community; analyze the potential of merging the three standards ST.27, ST.87, and ST.61; and support the XML4IP Task Force to develop XML components for legal status event data."

(See paragraphs 114 to 117 of document CWS/8/24.)

5. At its ninth session in 2021, the CWS approved a revision to WIPO ST.27 for 'event indicators'. The CWS also requested the Legal Status Task Force to study how to adapt 'event indicators' and 'procedure indicators' for WIPO ST.61 and WIPO ST.87 (See paragraphs 45 to 53 of document CWS/9/25).

6. At its tenth session in 2022, the CWS noted the suggestion by the Legal Status Task Force to discontinue the merger work and approved the resulting revision of Task No. 47 whose updated description now reads:

"Ensure the necessary revisions and updates of WIPO Standards ST.27, ST.87, and ST.61; prepare supporting materials to assist the use of those Standards in the IP community; and support the XML4IP Task Force to develop XML components for legal status event data."

(See paragraphs 75 and 76 of document CWS/10/22.)

7. At its eleventh session in 2023, the CWS approved the proposed revision to Annex II of WIPO Standard ST.61. The CWS was invited to provide specific feedback to the International Bureau, as the Legal Status Task Force, on whether the balance of the number of detailed and key events is appropriate (See paragraphs 122 and 146 of document CWS/11/28). At the same session, the Legal Status Task Force encouraged IP Offices (IPOs) to provide their mapping table or update their mapping table which is published in [Part 7.13 of the WIPO Handbook](#).

PROGRESS REPORT ON TASK No. 47

Objectives

8. Under the framework of Task No. 47, which was revised at the tenth session of the CWS, the Legal Status Task Force indicated its aims as the following:

- Improve WIPO Standards ST.27, ST.87 and ST.61 as needed;
- Encourage and support IPOs to implement WIPO Standards ST.27, ST.87 and ST.61;
- Work with IP Offices to keep their mapping tables of legal status events to the events of Standards ST.27, ST.61 and ST.87 up-to-date;
- Collaborate with the XML4IP Task Force to develop XML schemas to capture trademark and industrial design legal status data;
- Monitor IPOs' needs to add 'event indicators' to WIPO ST.27 to ST.61 and ST.87; and
- Consider the pending proposals in the Task Force for event and category revisions in WIPO ST.27.

Relevant actions for 2024

9. To achieve those aims, the Legal Status Task Force planned the following activities for 2024:

- Continue discussions to revise WIPO ST.27, including possible new events and potential recategorization of events;
- Provide training on legal status Standards, if requests were made by IPOs;
- Share implementation experiences or intentions to implement on the Task Force wiki space;
- Encourage IPOs to update their mapping tables of Standards ST.27, ST.61 and ST.87;
- Prepare proposal(s) for revising WIPO Standards ST.27, ST.61 and ST.87 as needed; and
- Collaborate with the XML4IP Task Force to develop XML components which capture legal status event data, by:
 - Participating in joint Task Force meetings with the XML4IP Task Force; and
 - Nominating Office business or legal experts and coordinating their feedback regarding further necessary supplementary data defined in WIPO ST.87.

Potential Challenges or Dependencies

10. The Task Force identified several challenges or dependencies which will impact their ability to conduct this work:

- Active participation and contribution of IPOs to improve WIPO legal status Standards;
- Prioritization by IPOs of implementing legal status related WIPO Standards;
- Provision of XML schemas to capture trademark and industrial design legal status data in time to support the implementation of WIPO Standards ST.61 and ST.87; and
- Level of engagement of IP information users, including official CWS observers, in the implementation and revision process of these Standards. This type of feedback is considered important for the Offices' in determining the priority of implementing these Standards.

Progress evaluation

11. Since the last session, the Legal Status Task Force prioritized the preparation of the update to WIPO ST.87, Annex II. While preparing the revised WIPO ST.87, the Task Force noted some inconsistencies between Annex II of WIPO Standards ST.27, ST.61 and ST.87. Therefore, the Task Force prepared additional proposals to revise those Standards and presents them for consideration at this session. The proposals are reproduced in document CWS/12/19.

12. The Legal Status Task Force organized two joint-meetings with the XML4IP Task Force in April and June to discuss the development of design legal status XML components which are based on the proposed revision to Annex II of ST.87. At the meetings, Offices shared their implementation or their implementation plan of those three Standards. It was noted that several Offices sought feedback from IP industry users on their implementation to improve their implementation or to implement the Standards further.

WORK PLAN

13. The Legal Status Task Force will continue to work together with the XML4IP Task Force to develop or improve XML components for legal status events on the basis of WIPO Standards ST.27, ST.61 and ST.87.

14. The Legal Status Task Force encourages IPOs to provide their mapping table or update their existing mapping table published in [Part 7.13 of the WIPO Handbook](#). The Task Force will continue to work on other outstanding actions indicated above in paragraph 9.

15. The CWS is invited to note the content of this document, particular the work plan proposed in paragraphs 9, 13 and 14 above.

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