

Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)

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ANALYSIS OF SURVEY RESULTS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF WIPO STANDARD ST.91

Document prepared by the 3D Task Force Leader

SUMMARY

1. The 3D Task Force analyzed the responses to the survey on the implementation of WIPO Standard ST.91 by Intellectual Property Offices (IPOs) and provides their analysis of the survey results.

BACKGROUND

2. At its eleventh session, held in December 2023, the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS) approved the questionnaire on the implementation of WIPO Standard ST.91 by IPOs. The CWS requested the Secretariat to issue a circular inviting IPOs to respond to this survey (see paragraph 87 of document CWS/11/27).

SURVEY RESULTS

3. In March 2024, the Secretariat issued the circular C.CWS.179 inviting IPOs to participate in the survey on implementation of the WIPO Standard ST.91. The survey was conducted from March to April 2024.

4. The 22 CWS Members took part in the survey: Offices from the following Member States - Australia (AU), Bhutan (BT), Bulgaria (BG), Canada (CA), Croatia (HR), Czech Republic (CZ), Estonia (EE), Gambia (GM), Germany (DE), Hungary (HU), Italy (IT), Japan (JP), Lithuania (LT), Namibia (NA), Republic of Korea (KR), Russian Federation (RU), Slovakia (SK), Syrian Arab Republic (SY) and United Kingdom (GB); and the following regional Offices - Eurasian Patent Office (EA), European Patent Office (EP) and European Union Intellectual Property Office (EM). The Secretariat will publish those individual responses by IPOs and collated responses in [Part 7 of the WIPO Handbook](#) as soon as all responses have been translated and formatted.

SURVEY ANALYSIS

5. The Secretariat provided the 3D Task Force Leader with the survey responses for its analysis. The Task Force Leader provides below the analysis for consideration by the CWS.

6. Among the responses, 12 respondents (55 per cent) indicated that they still do not use 3D models, 3D images or 3D chemical structures; nine (41 per cent) indicated their use; and one (five per cent) indicated a special use-case in its response.

7. Among the respondents who are using 3D models, images or chemical structures in their practice: 67 per cent use 3D for industrial designs, 56 per cent use 3D for trademarks, 44 per cent use 3D for patents, 22 per cent use 3D for utility models; and 22 per cent use 3D for other IP rights.

8. It is also important to note that among the respondent Offices, the majority (64 per cent) do not implement WIPO ST.91 while 27 per cent partially implement and nine per cent fully implement the Standard.

9. Regarding the use of file formats recommended by WIPO ST.91 which are currently received by IPOs:

IP Right	File format most used (listed in order)
Trademark	OBJ, STL, 3D PDF
Industrial Designs	3D PDF, OBJ, STL, STEP
Patent (including chemical structures)	3D PDF, STEP
Utility models	3D PDF

10. Regarding the publication of 3D models, 3D images or 3D chemical structures, recommended by WIPO ST.91, respondent Offices indicated that most do not publish 3D information received even if the 3D was accepted. The most used formats for trademarks are OBJ and STL while the most commonly used formats for publication for industrial designs, patents and utility models is 3D PDF. Similarly, in the question regarding paper publication of 3D, most of the respondent Offices do not publish information of 3D models, 3D images or 3D chemical structures on paper even if they were accepted by the Office. The IPOs, which do publish 3D objects on paper, publish the filed 3D objects using 2D representations generated from the source 3D models or 3D images for all IP rights indicated in the survey.

11. It is important to note that no IPO uses any of the recommended 3D formats for integrated circuit topology, for filing or publication.

12. During examination, the majority of respondent Offices use 2D representations for the comparison of the 3D models and 3D images rather than the 3D models or images themselves.

NEXT STEPS

13. Considering the survey results above that reveals the number of Offices supporting filing, examination and publication of 3D models in 3D formats is quite low, and those supporting the use of 3D formats are not compliant with WIPO Standard ST.91, either fully or partially, there is no need a further revision of WIPO ST.91 in the near future. The Task Force leader proposes that Member States participate in the activities of the Task Force, and work towards the implementation of the Standard.

14. In order to facilitate the discussion on search and comparison of 3D visual representations, the Task Force leader plans to share its methods and practices when conducting 3D-to-3D processing with Task Force members, to perform knowledge transfer thereby improving their abilities in this area. To achieve this aim, the Task Force leader proposes an information session may be arranged by the Task Force in 2025 to present these practices and hear from interested IPOs their experiences utilizing 3D formats.

15. If the CWS approves the content of the survey analysis above, it is proposed that the survey analysis be published with the survey results in Part 7 of the WIPO Handbook.

16. *The CWS is invited to:*

(a) note the content of this document;

(b) consider and approve the contents of the survey analysis as referred to in paragraphs 5 to 12 above, and approve the publication of survey analysis along with the survey results in the WIPO Handbook as indicated in paragraph 15 above; and

(c) support the arrangement of the information session on 3D by the Task Force as indicated in paragraph 14 above.

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