

3D models and 3D images

Response ID:121 Data

1. Country code page

1. Please enter the two-letter country code corresponding to your Office or Organization.

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2. Questions page

This survey was approved by the seventh session of the CWS to collect information on practices and expectations of IPOs and users (applicants) for 3D models and 3D images.

Applicant Input

It is hoped that IPOs will consider the views of IP applicants, including industry, when formulating their responses. For this purpose, a Model Questionnaire For Industry On The Design Of Objects For IP Rights Protection Using 3D Models And Images has been prepared. IPOs are encouraged to consider this model questionnaire as a guide for them to collect relevant information on the views of applicants.

MODEL QUESTIONNAIRE FOR INDUSTRY ON THE DESIGN OF OBJECTS FOR IP RIGHTS PROTECTION USING 3D MODELS AND IMAGES

Glossary

3D model – An electronic file that is created by specialized software, for mathematically representing the surface of an object in three dimensions

3D Images – Images that represent objects displayed in three dimensions (length, depth, height), e.g. 3D photos, stereoscopy, etc.

3DS – A file format used by the Autodesk 3ds Max 3D modeling, animation and rendering software

DWF – Design Web Format

DWG – A file format widely used for CAD drawings

IGES – Initial Graphics Exchange Specification

OBJ – An open geometry vertex file format used for CAD and 3D printing

Raster image – An image that is composed of a map of points (pixels), referred to as a bitmap. Typical file formats for raster images include JPEG, TIFF, PNG and BMP

STL – Standard Tessellation Language - a file format native to the stereolithography CAD software created by 3D Systems

STEP – Standard for the Exchange of Product model data –an open ISO Standard which can represent 3D objects in Computer-aided design (CAD) and related information

Vector graphics – An image file that is composed of shapes formed of mathematical formulas and coordinates on a 2D plane. As opposed to raster images, vector graphics have the property of scaling infinitely without any degradation of quality

X3D – Successor of VRML, an Open ISO Standard XML format

Part 1. IP objects and stages of their lifecycle

2. 1.1. Does your office currently use 3D models or 3D images for IP objects within the office? If so, for which IP objects
Trademarks

3. 1.2. Does your office consider using 3D models or 3D images for IP objects in the future? If so, for which IP objects
Trademarks
Industrial designs
Patents in chemistry as a field of technology (e.g. chemical structures, biological structures)
Patents in other fields of technology (e.g. Electrical engineering, Mechanical engineering, etc.)

4. 1.3. On which stages of IP objects' lifecycle does your office currently accept/implement 3D models?

	Filing of the application	Examination	Storage	Search	Publication	Data exchange	Other (please specify in comments)
Trademarks	X		X				
Industrial designs							
Patents in chemistry as a field of technology (e.g. chemical structures, biological structures)							
Patents (e.g. inventions and/or utility models) in other fields of technology except chemistry							
Integrated circuit topology							

Comments:

5. 1.4. Does your Office carry out any image transformations? If so, for which objects and on which stages?

	Filing of the application	Examination	Storage	Search	Publication	Data exchange	Other (please specify in comments)
Trademarks	X						
Industrial designs							
Patents in chemistry as a field of technology (e.g. chemical structures, biological structures)							
Patents (e.g. inventions and/or utility models) in other fields of technology except chemistry							
Integrated circuit topology							

Comments:

6. 1.5. On which stages of IP objects' lifecycle does your office consider accepting/implementing 3D models in the future?

	Filing of the application	Examination	Storage	Search	Publication	Data exchange	Not sure	Other (please specify in comments)
Trademarks	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Industrial designs	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Patents in chemistry as a field of technology (e.g. chemical structures, biological structures)	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Patents (e.g. inventions and/or utility models) in other fields of technology except chemistry	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Integrated circuit topology								

Comments:

Part 2. Existing practices and future plans

7. 2.1. Please describe existing practices/future plans for using 3D models and 3D images within your office

Our existing practice regarding 3D images for trade mark applications can be found in our Trade Marks manual on our website <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/trade-marks-manual> section 2.4.3 of the manual provides further details of the file formats we accept.

For designs, we would require legislation to allow us to accept the filing of these kinds of images.

For patents, our plans are being considered as part of our Transformation Programme. We would however have to change legislation to accept these 3D model and 3D Images as part of a patent application

Part 3. Regulations

8. 3.1. What laws and regulations concerning 3D models and 3D images are implemented within your jurisdiction?

Our acceptance of 3D trade marks is governed by Section 1(1)(a) of the Trade Marks Act 1994.

The patents Rules 2007 Schedule 2 part 3 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-patents-rules-2007-and-patents-fees-rules-2007> provides guidance on what format drawings and photographs in a patent specification must take. While there is nothing prohibiting an applicant from filing a 3D model or 3D image with their application, they will not be published and will not form part of the specification. The reason for this is that the requirements of Schedule 2 part 3 only allow for black and white photographs and drawings to be filed.

For designs, we similarly do not accept 3D models or 3D images as part of the design application, as our systems do not allow us to do so. Further, Section 5 of the registered design rules 2006 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/registered-designs-act-and-rules> specify that the representation of the design must be an image no larger than A4 in size.

Part 4. Formats and technical tools

9. 4.1. Which formats of 3D models or 3D images does your office use at the moment? Does your office use the same or different formats for different stages of lifecycle: filling, examination, publication etc.?

A 3D mark is one consisting of, or extending to, a three-dimensional shape, this includes representations of containers, packaging, the product itself or its appearance. The shape can be represented by a graphic representation or a photographic reproduction or a computer-generated image in 3D format in OBJ, STL or X3D, with a maximum file size of 20 MB.

10. 4.2. Which formats of 3D models or 3D images does your office consider using in the future? Does your office consider using the same or different formats for different stages of lifecycle: filling, examination, publication etc.?

Not yet defined.

11. 4.3. Please provide us with your suggestions and proposals on formats and reasons why you suppose them to be important (a list of formats to consider) except mentioned in items 6.1, 6.2

To be considered as part of our Transformation Programme.

12. 4.4. Which technical tools does your office currently use to work with 3D models (i.e. viewers, converters, etc.)? Are these standard tools commercially available, or do you consider using any special tool developed for your Office or by your Office?

None currently confirmed/defined.

13. 4.5. Which technical tools does your office consider using in future work with 3D models (i.e. viewers, converters, etc.)? Are these standard tools commercially available, or do you consider using any special tool developed for your Office or by your Office?

To be considered as part of our Transformation Programme.

14. 4.6. Please provide us with your suggestions and proposals on tools and reasons why do you suppose them to be important (a list of tools to consider)

None currently.

Part 5. Specific requirements and limitations

15. 5.1. Please provide us with preferable specific file requirements? Should they be the same or different for different objects and stages (i.e. limitations and restrictions for 3D files, size (Mb) and format of 3D model for storing, processing, and sharing, etc.)

To be considered as part of our Transformation Programme.

16. 5.2. In your opinion, what would be the main requirements when choosing 3D file formats (open source, wide spread adoption, etc.)

To be considered as part of our Transformation Programme.

17. 5.3. In your opinion, what would be the main requirements when choosing tools for working with 3D files?

To be considered as part of our Transformation Programme.

Part 6. Expectations concerning the use of 3D

18. 6.1. Which specific advantages and/or drawbacks do you expect from 3D models and 3D images regarding search, for instance prior art search?

No specific comments.

19. 6.2. Do you expect that applicants will comply to provide 3D models which fulfill the defined standards?

We would require them to comply with the defined standards.

Part 7. Other

20. 7.1. Do you have any other comments?

3. Review Page

You have reached the end of the survey questions. Your answers have been saved.

If you or your colleagues wish to revise your answers later, you can use the link emailed to you with the Save and Continue option in the top right of this page. The Review or Back button below will return you to your answers.

When you are ready to submit your final answers, click the Submit button below. You will no longer be able to edit your responses after clicking Submit.

You may download a copy of your answers:

4. Thank You!

Thank you for taking our survey. Your response is very important to us.