

# STANDARD ST.34

Version 1.0

## RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING THE RECORDING OF APPLICATION NUMBERS IN ELECTRONIC FORM FOR THE EXCHANGE OF BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATA

*Revision adopted by the PCIPI Executive Coordination Committee at its twentieth session on May 30, 1997*

### Editorial note

by the International Bureau published in December 2008

Since the last revision of WIPO Standard ST.34, that was adopted on May 30, 1997, important changes to certain WIPO Standards related thereto have taken place, in particular the adoption of a revised version of WIPO Standard ST.13 (Recommendation for the Numbering of Applications for Industrial Property Rights) on February 21, 2008. Please note that WIPO Standard ST.13 contains the recommendations for electronic formats. If an industrial property office uses WIPO Standard ST.13 for application numbers, WIPO Standard ST.34 should not be used.

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## Introduction

1. The aim of this Recommendation is to facilitate the exchange of bibliographic data, particularly those which are used as priority application numbers for patents, among industrial property offices, organizations and other institutions.
2. This Recommendation contains provisions on how to record numbers of applications for patents, industrial designs and other industrial property rights which can give rise to citing priorities for patents on an electronic data carrier, such as CD-ROM or magnetic tape. It defines the format of application numbers on exchange media, in which format the complete information, i.e., the two-letter code according to WIPO Standard [ST.3](#), the one-letter code which identifies the type of industrial property right (or the kind-of-application code) and the application number, is presented in one single fixed-length string.
3. For the exchange of bibliographic data (including bibliographic data other than application numbers), abstracts, full texts and facsimile information of patent documents, or of mixed mode patent documents, references are made to WIPO Standards [ST.30](#), [ST.32](#), [ST.33](#) and [ST.35](#). It should be noted that Standards [ST.30](#) and [ST.32](#), in particular, also provide for the exchange of application and priority numbers, however, in a format which differs from Standard ST.34 in that the basic components of the application and/or priority numbers (see paragraph 6, below) are not recorded within a single fixed-length field, but are split up and recorded under different bibliographic tags.
4. As regards the recording formats for the different numbering systems, it should be noted that this Recommendation is applicable to all types of application numbering systems regardless of whether they are based on WIPO Standard [ST.13](#) or on other systems.

## Definitions

5. For the purposes of this Recommendation:

- (a) the term “patents” includes such industrial property rights as patents for inventions, design patents and utility models. For the purposes of this Recommendation United States Statutory Invention Registrations are also regarded as patents;
- (b) the term “industrial designs” includes two-dimensional and three-dimensional features of shape and surface of objects, and thus covers both concepts of “designs” and “models” where a distinction is made between the former and the latter. The term “industrial designs” does not include design patents.

## References

6. References to the following Standards are of relevance to this Recommendation:

- WIPO Standard ST.3:  
Recommended Standard on Two-Letter Codes for the Representation of States, Other Entities and Intergovernmental Organizations;
- WIPO Standard ST.13:  
Recommendation for the Numbering of Applications for Industrial Property Rights (IPRs)

## Recommendation for the recording of application numbers

7. It is recommended that the format for the recording of application numbers consist of a 15-position field. The recording format should be comprised of three data elements, i.e., the two-letter code according to WIPO Standard ST.3, the one-letter code which identifies the type of industrial property right (or the kind-of-application code) and the application number the format of which consists of up to 11 alphanumeric characters.

*Examples:*

EPA	78200001
IBW	9400426

8. With regard to positions 1 to 4, the following arrangement should be used:

**Position 1:** Blank

**Positions 2 and 3:** Country code according to WIPO Standard ST.3, which identifies the office or organization with which the application has been filed

**Position 4:** Letter code, which identifies the type of industrial property right (or the kind-of-application code in the case of PCT applications):

- Letter A for applications for patents,
- Letter U for utility model applications,
- Letter W for international applications under the PCT,
- Letter S for applications for design patents,
- Letter F for industrial design applications,
- Letter Q for industrial model applications having a numbering series different from the series for industrial design applications.

(It should be noted that the letters used in this Recommendation, except W, are identical to those provided for in WIPO Standard ST.13; however, the letters A, F, S, U and W do not have the same meaning or significance as the same letters in WIPO Standard ST.16 “Recommended Standard Code for the Identification of Different Kinds of Patent Documents”.)

9. Application numbers, including the ones having year indicators, are to be right-adjusted in positions 5 to 15; letters preceding the numerical part of the application “number” are to be left-adjusted in positions 5 to 15. Positions between the last letter and the first digit should be filled with zeros.
10. Left zeros, unless they are a meaningful part of the application number, are preferably to be omitted and the positions left blank.
11. The following are not to be recorded in positions 5 to 15:
- (a) Letters and numbers relating, for example, to the examination division or classification of a document and not essential for defining the application number;
  - (b) Letters and numbering indicating the type of industrial property right, for example, patent or utility model;
  - (c) Dots, dashes, slashes and spaces between the numerical and the year positions of an application number.

12. Examples of types of application numbers and their Recommended Recording Formats are given in the Appendix to this Recommendation. It should be noted that, for historical reasons, some of the Recommended Recording Formats do not follow the rules set out in paragraphs 7 to 11, above.

## Further observations

13. It is desirable that this Recommendation be implemented by industrial property offices at the latest as of January 1, 2000. An earlier date of implementation can be agreed upon between exchange partners of industrial property information.

## APPENDIX: Types of application numbers and recommended recording formats<sup>1</sup>

(Comprehensive surveys of application numbers are given in the Part 7 of the WIPO *Handbook on Industrial Property Information and Documentation*)

### Type 1

AR, BE, BG, BR (old style, before 1972), CA, CO, CU (old style), ES (old style, before 1986), IL, LU, MD (utility models), MN, MX (old style), NL (old style, before 1.1.1964 and new style, from 1995), NZ, PH, PT, RO (old style), RU (old style, before 1992), US.

Reference is a number with up to eight digits.

#### Examples Type 1

COUNTRY	APPLICATION NUMBER	RECOMMENDED RECORDING FORMAT <sup>2</sup>	
Brazil	PI 059408	BRA	Ø594Ø8
Canada	2103828	CAA	21Ø3828
Netherlands	90123	NLA	9Ø123
Netherlands	1000001	NLA	1ØØØØØ1
Russian Federation	5053078	RUA	5Ø53Ø78
United States of America	08001234	USA	Ø8ØØ1234

The first two digits of the US application number represent the series code, which is needed to uniquely identify a US patent application. In the example, the series code 08 has been assigned by the USPTO to the six-digit application number 001234.

### Type 2

#### Examples Type 2 (a) FR (old style, before 1.1.1969)

APPLICATION NUMBER	RECOMMENDED RECORDING FORMAT <sup>2</sup>
12345	
PV 12345 – PARIS	FRA 12345
PV 12345	

“PV” (Procès-verbal) and “PARIS” are not recorded.

#### Examples Type 2 (b)

##### Application in a department other than Paris

APPLICATION NUMBER	RECOMMENDED RECORDING FORMAT <sup>2</sup>
PV 345 – Isère	
PV 345 – 38	FRA38ØØØØØØ345

The code number of the prefecture should be recorded in positions 5 and 6 and the number extended to 9 positions by adding left zeros.

### Type 3

#### Examples Type 3

**DE (old style, before 1.10.1968)**

APPLICATION NUMBER	RECOMMENDED RECORDING FORMAT <sup>2</sup>
H 342 VIIb/81c	DEAH0000000342
H 123	DEAH0000000123
SCH 12345	DEASC000012345
SCH 123456	DEASC000123456

The number (up to 6 digits) is preceded by a single letter or ST or SCH (first letter(s) of applicant's name). In the case of SCH, the letter H is omitted. The Roman number and lower case letter (the examination division) and, following the slash, the Arabic number and lower case letter (the classification) are omitted.

**Type 4****Examples Type 4****DE (old style, between Oct. 1968 and the end of 1994)**

APPLICATION NUMBER	RECOMMENDED RECORDING FORMAT <sup>2</sup>
P 28 01 355.6-31	DEA 2801355
G 68 00 002.2	DEU 6800002

Letter P (indicating the document type) preceding the number and the check digits after the full stop (an error control number and the examination division) are omitted. The first two digits indicate the year of filing which is the Gregorian year less 50.

Letter G (indicating the document type) preceding the number and references after the full stop (an error control number) are omitted.

**Type 5**

AM, BR (new style, after 1.1.1975), DE (new style), DK (utility models), EE, ES (new style, from 1986), FI (new style, after 1.1.1975), FR (new style, after 1.1.1969), GB (new style, after 1.6.1978<sup>3</sup>), GR, HU (new style, started in 1992), IE (new style, after 1.1.1992), KZ, MX (new style), NL (old style, between January 1964 and April 1995), NO (new style, after 1.1.1974), RU (new style, from 1992), SE (new style, after 1.1.1973), SI, TT (new style, from 1996), UA

**Examples Type 5 (a)**

COUNTRY	APPLICATION NUMBER	RECOMMENDED RECORDING FORMAT <sup>2</sup>
Denmark	9500242	DKU 9500242
Finland	780001	FIA 780001
France	76 36537	FRA 7636537
Netherlands	7313675	NLA 7313675
Norway	740017	NOA 740017
Sweden	0000001	SEA 0000001
United Kingdom	7912345	GBA 7912345

Application numbers are given by yearly series. The two digits indicative of the year are in a leading position in a whole integral number.

**Examples Type 5 (b)**

COUNTRY	APPLICATION NUMBER	RECOMMENDED RECORDING FORMAT <sup>2</sup>
Brazil	PI 8300014-3	BRA 8300014
Brazil	MU 6300058-2	BRU 6300058

Letters MU and PI (indicating the document type) preceding the number and the error control digit after the hyphen are omitted. The first two digits of the utility model numbers (e.g., 63) indicate the year of filing which is the Gregorian year less 20. In the example given, the utility model identified by the application number "MU 6300058" was filed on January 19, 1983.

**Examples Type 5 (c)**

**COUNTRY APPLICATION NUMBER RECOMMENDED RECORDING FORMAT<sup>2</sup>**

Germany	195 00 002.1	DEA	19500002
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Germany	295 00 001.5	DEU	29500001
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The numeral in the first position indicates the type of industrial property right. Numerals in the second and third positions indicate the year of filing of the application. The numeral after the full stop (an error control digit) is omitted. For details regarding the numerals used to code the industrial property right, please refer to the Appendix to WIPO Standard [ST.10/C](#), Table I.

**Examples Type 5 (d)****COUNTRY APPLICATION NUMBER RECOMMENDED RECORDING FORMAT<sup>2</sup>**

Hungary	P 9300684	HUA	9300684
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Hungary	U 9300266	HUU	9300266
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Estonia	U 94 00001	EEU	9400001
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Armenia	96005 U	AMU	96005
---------	---------	-----	-------

Letters P and U indicating the type of industrial property right and preceding or following the number are omitted.

**Examples Type 5 (e)****COUNTRY APPLICATION NUMBER RECOMMENDED RECORDING FORMAT<sup>2</sup>**

Kazakstan	951117.1	KZA	951117
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Kazakstan	95025.2	KZU	95025
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The first two digits designate the year of filing of the application. The digit after the full stop which is a control digit to indicate the type of industrial property right is omitted (1 = patent for invention, 2 = utility model).

**Examples Type 5 (f)****COUNTRY APPLICATION NUMBER RECOMMENDED RECORDING FORMAT<sup>2</sup>**

Russian Federation	95103445	RUA	95103445
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The first two digits indicate the year of filing of the application. The third digit denotes the type of industrial property right (1 to 4 = patent for invention and utility model, 5 to 6 = industrial design).

**Type 6****Examples Type 6****European Patent Office (EP)****APPLICATION NUMBER RECOMMENDED RECORDING FORMAT<sup>2</sup>**

78200001.2	EPA	78200001
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Application numbers are given by yearly series. The two digits indicative of the year are in a leading position in a whole integral number. The third character or the third and fourth characters can be used for coded information concerning the filing of the application, e.g., the place of filing. Several blocks of ascending numbers forming a series are created annually. The check digit after the full stop is omitted.

**Type 7****Examples Type 7****Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)****APPLICATION NUMBER RECOMMENDED RECORDING FORMAT<sup>2</sup>**

PCT/RU93/01000	RUW	9301000
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PCT/GB78/00123	GBW	7800123
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PCT/IB94/00426	IBW	9400426
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Application numbers are given by yearly series. They consist of the letters PCT, a slash, the two-letter code indicating the receiving Office, a two-digit indication of the year of filing of the application, a slash and a five-digit number allotted in sequential order. In

recording the PCT application numbers, the letter "W" should be used in position 4. The two-letter code indicating the receiving Office should be used in positions 2 and 3. Where the International Bureau of WIPO acts as a receiving Office, the two-letter code "IB" should be used in positions 2 and 3.<sup>4</sup>

## Type 8

AT, AU, BG, BR (old style, used between 1972 and 1975), CH, CU, DK, EG, FI (old style before 1.1.1975), GB (old style), HU (old style, between 1980 and 1991), IE (old style, used until the end of 1991), IN, IT (old style, before 1.1.1991), LT (new style), MD, MK, NO (old style, before 1.1.1974), PK, RO (new style, after 21.1.1992), SE (old style, before 1.1.1973), SK, TT (old style, before 1996), VE, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW

Application numbers are given by yearly series or continuous series spread over several years in which the characters indicative of the year are in a leading or trailing position separated from the number by a dash or a slash. If this is not the case, it is important to take over the year indication from the date reference.

### Examples Type 8 (a)

APPLICATION NUMBER	RECOMMENDED RECORDING FORMAT <sup>2</sup>	
2507-64		
2507/64	XXA	25Ø764
2507/1964		
2507 1/7/1964		
164 of 1971	XXA	16471

(i) For AT, one or two digits (indicating the examination division) and letter codes (e.g., "A" characterizing a patent application, "GM" a utility model application) may precede the number. They are not significant for the purposes of this Standard and, therefore, are not to be recorded.

(ii) For BG, SK and YU, the number may be preceded by one or more letters which are not significant and should be omitted.

### Examples Type 8 (b)

COUNTRY	APPLICATION NUMBER	RECOMMENDED RECORDING FORMAT <sup>2</sup>	
Lithuania	95-014	LTA	95Ø14
Republic of Moldova	94-0287	MDA	94Ø287
Romania	92-0884	ROA	92Ø884
South Africa	61/2044 2044.3.11.1961	ZAA	612Ø44

The year indication should immediately precede the number.

## Type 9

Example: JP (old style)

Reference might be without year indication or the year might be the Emperor's reign or the Gregorian year.

### Examples Type 9

APPLICATION NUMBER	YEAR	RECOMMENDED RECORDING FORMAT <sup>2</sup>	
P18185	3.12.1962		
P37-18185	3.12.62	JPA	1818562
P18185/1962			
P18185/62			
U46-89012	2.8.1971	JPU	89Ø1271

The letters P and U preceding the numbers in the left-hand column, above, were used to represent the Japanese characters denoting a patent application and a utility model application, respectively.

Recording is as for Type 8(a).

Examples: JP (new style, since 1989)

### Examples Type 9 (a)

**APPLICATION NUMBER RECOMMENDED RECORDING FORMAT<sup>2</sup>**

特願平	5-30175	JPA	5Ø3Ø175
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or 5/30175

or 5-30175

The first two Japanese characters **特願** (Tokugan) mean a patent application. The character **平** (Hei) is the abbreviation of **平成** (Heisei) which is the current Emperor's era that started in 1989. One digit following three Japanese characters shows a year of the current era. In this example, 5 corresponds to 1993 according to the Gregorian calendar.

**Examples Type 9 (b)****APPLICATION NUMBER RECOMMENDED RECORDING FORMAT<sup>2</sup>**

実願平	5-83351	JPU	5Ø83351
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or 5/83351U

or 5-83351U

The first two Japanese characters **実願** (Jitsugan) mean a utility model application.

**Examples Type 9 (c)****APPLICATION NUMBER RECOMMENDED RECORDING FORMAT<sup>2</sup>**

意願平	8-000001	JPF	8ØØØØØØØ1
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or 8/000001

or 8-000001

The first two Japanese characters **意願** (Igan) mean an application for an industrial design.

**Examples 9 Type (d)**

The separation sign (slash or hyphen) given in the Japanese application number (new style) should be recorded as a zero.

**Type 10****Examples Type 10 (a)****HU (old style, before 1.1.1980)****APPLICATION NUMBER RECOMMENDED RECORDING FORMAT<sup>2</sup>**

SCHE-435	HUASCHEØØØØ435
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The number is preceded by two to four letters which have to be recorded.

**Examples Type 10 (b)****RU (old style, before 1990)****APPLICATION NUMBER RECOMMENDED RECORDING FORMAT<sup>2</sup>**

890966/28-13	RUA	89Ø966
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Slash and references following the number (examination division and a processing number) are not recorded.

**Examples Type 10 (c)****DE (documents published in the former German Democratic Republic)****APPLICATION NUMBER RECOMMENDED RECORDING FORMAT<sup>2</sup>**

P 1234

WP 1234	DDA	1234
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WP 39c/1234

AP 84c/137355	DDA	137355
WP 35b/147203	DDA	147203

The number is sometimes preceded by a classification indication, which is not recorded. Letters P, AP or WP preceding the number indicate the kind of document and are not recorded.

### Examples Type 10 (d)

#### PL

APPLICATION NUMBER	RECOMMENDED RECORDING FORMAT <sup>2</sup>
P 214461	PLA 214461
W 36746	PLU 36746

Letters P or W preceding the number are omitted.

### Examples Type 10 (e)

#### MC

APPLICATION NUMBER	RECOMMENDED RECORDING FORMAT <sup>2</sup>
880	MCA 880
880.66.553	

Sometimes references are a three-part number. Only the first part refers to the application. The second number group is the year of grant, and the third group the patent number.

### Type 11

Numbering format recommended by WIPO Standard [ST.13](#)

#### Examples Type 11

APPLICATION NUMBER	RECOMMENDED RECORDING FORMAT <sup>2</sup>
a 2000 1234567	CCA20001234567
a 2001 54321	CCA 200154321

Patent applications filed in the year 2000 with serial number 1234567 or filed in the year 2001 with serial number 54321, respectively.

### Type 12

#### Examples Type 12

##### IT (new style, after 1.1.1991)

APPLICATION NUMBER	RECOMMENDED RECORDING FORMAT <sup>2</sup>
MI91A000231	ITAMI000023191
MI94U000225	ITUMI000022594

The numbering system implemented in Italy in January 1991 for applications for industrial property rights does not correspond exactly to any of the Types 1 to 11 described above. The numbers have the following format:

XXYYZ999999 (*Example*: MI91A000231),

whereby

- “XX” is a (two-letter) code for the Provincial Office for Industry, Commerce and Handicrafts (Ufficio Provinciale Industria, Commercio e Artigianato—UPICA) where the respective application was filed (e.g., MI stands for Milan);
- “YY” are the last two digits of the year of filing of the application according to the Gregorian calendar;
- “Z” is a one-letter code characterizing the kind of industrial property right concerned in the application (A - patent for invention, U - utility model, O - ornamental model or multiple filing);
- “999999” is the current annual number allotted to the application. Each UPICA every year has its own numbering series for each of the various kinds of applications received, starting with number “000001”.

<sup>1</sup> The Recommended Recording Formats associated with each industrial property office are only an indication of how the application numbers of that office should be presented in agreement with this Recommendation. The office itself may not currently follow this Recommendation.

<sup>2</sup> Examples Types 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12: In these examples a dot indicates a blank recording position.

<sup>3</sup> In the period from June 1, 1978 to December 31, 1978, numbers of both old and new style may have been allotted.

<sup>4</sup> As stated in footnote 2 of WIPO Standard ST.13, the year designation in a PCT application number might be changed to a four-digit indication in the future.