CPC Quality Assurance (QA)

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F16G5/14   with reinforcement

Outline

- Objectives

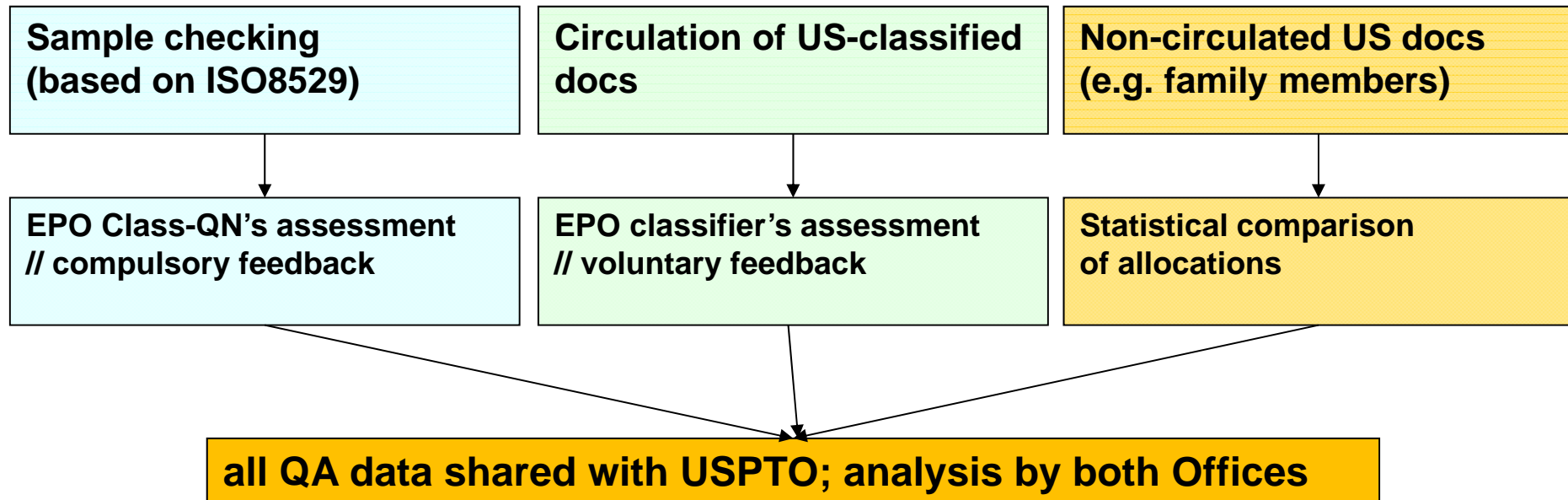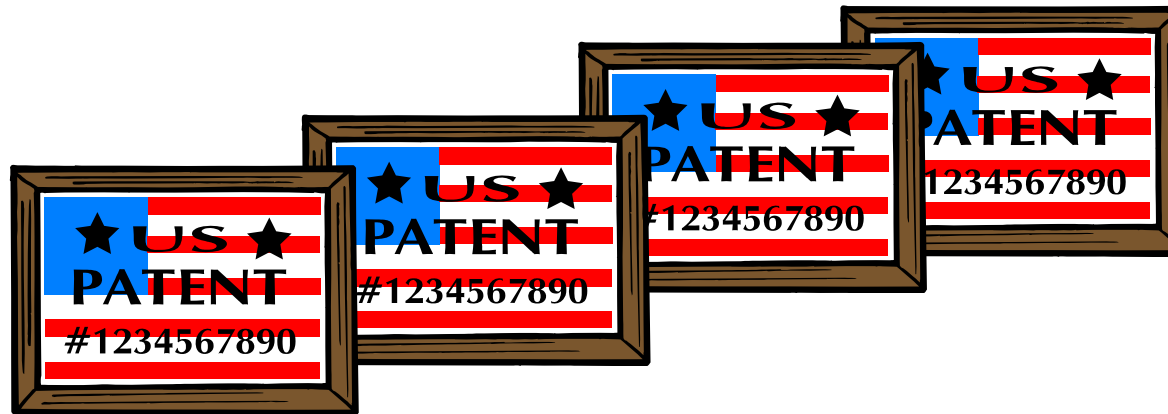- The "three streams" of CPC QA

CPC Quality Assurance (QA)

Objectives

- To ensure quality of classification data and harmonization of classification practice between the USPTO and EPO

- Knowledge transfer aspects on top of "normal" classification actions

- Establish contact per "QA field" between EPO Classification Quality Nominee (Class-QN) and USPTO counterpart

Feedback mechanisms on "Raise-hand flags (RHF)"

- Record any diverging opinion on a symbol allocate by one office and (tentatively) deleted by the other office
- Statistical analysis with reporting

The "three streams" of CPC QA

Sample checking
(based on ISO8529)

Circulation of US-classified docs

Non-circulated US docs
(e.g. family members)

EPO Class-QN's assessment
// compulsory feedback

EPO classifier's assessment
// voluntary feedback

Statistical comparison
of allocations

all QA data shared with USPTO; analysis by both Offices

CPC QA stream I

**Sample checking (based on ISO2859 norm)
of US-classified documents**

- Classification Quality Nominee (Class-QN) entrusted to check, identify non-compliances and do corrections by deletions and/or additions of symbols

- any "deletion" results in a "raise-hand flag" (RHF)
  - if USPTO does not object (in a time frame) the allocation is truly deleted

- feedback on RHFs is shared with USPTO (RHF is two-way process)

CPC QA stream II

Circulation of US-classified documents

- EPO classifier can modify original US allocations (only through RHF process)

- any "deletion" results in a "raise-hand flag" (RHF)
  - if USPTO/EPO does not object (in a time frame) the allocation is truly deleted

- feedback on RHFs is shared with USPTO

- statistical analysis of divergences

CPC QA stream III

**Analysis of US-classified documents,
not circulated at the EPO**

- it deals mostly with US family members of
  EPO-classified documents
  - e.g. a US coming after an EP application

- statistical comparison of allocations per QA-field

CPC QA - USPTO perspective

USPTO Goal -

- To ensure **CONSISTENT** and **HARMONIZED** classification practice between the USPTO and EPO, as well as *ALL* OTHER offices classifying into CPC

- Resulting in improvements in CPC documentation (schemes and definitions)

- All QA discussions are based on the CPC documentation (schemes and definitions) available to other offices

Thank you!

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