CPC Quality Assurance (QA)

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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)

- EPO Class-QN’s assessment // compulsory feedback

Circulation of US-classified docs

- EPO classifier’s assessment // voluntary feedback

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

- 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
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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