CIRCULAR NO. 5 OF 2009

ALLOTMENT OF PATENT APPLICATIONS FOR EXAMINATION

At present there is no uniform practice of allotment of patent applications for examination at the Patent Offices. The allotment is being done without due delegation of powers by the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks.

The existing practice of attaching examiners to a particular controller is not on scientific basis, with the result that the controllers/examiners are getting patent applications outside their field of expertise for examination and grant. In order to rationalize the allotment of patent applications and to further improve the quality of patent examination, the following order is made:

1. At each patent office four groups of examiners and controllers with broad specialization are hereby formed.

(i) **Group No. 1**: Chemistry and allied sciences:
Chemistry, pharmaceuticals, Biochemistry, Agrochemicals, Polymer technology, Metallurgy and Food technology

(ii) **Group No. 2**: Biotechnology and Microbiology

(iii) **Group No. 3**: Mechanical and Allied Subjects
Mechanical, Textile, Agricultural engineering and other general engineering subjects not included in Group No. 4

(iv) **Group No. 4**: Electrical, Electronics and related subjects
Electrical, Electronics, Computer, Telecommunication, Biomedical engineering and Physics
2. Each Group will have a Group Leader to be appointed by the CGPDTM.
3. On the first Monday of every month, the Group Leader shall obtain required number of files from the Record Section based on the serial order of the Request of Examination pending under the Group Subject.
4. In a meeting of group members on the same day, the issue of allotting applications shall be discussed and the allotment decided based on the group decision. A formal order to that effect shall be issued by the Group Leader specifying the Application Numbers.
5. Allocation of files will be entered in software module and a copy will be sent to Technical Head.
6. A Group Leader shall ensure that after grant or refusal of a patent the file is promptly returned with due entry to the Record Section.
7. Regular professional discussion should be held in the Group with the objective to improve the quality of patents.
8. During these ensuing two months the backlog in screening and classification, publication of applications, grant of patent, data correction, arrangement of files etc. shall be carried out in each Patent Office. Detailed instructions in this regard follows.
9. The Groups have been formed based on screening fields now available in the module and will be made in conformity with the International Patent Classification shortly.
10. Orders regarding constitution of each group and nominating Group Leaders will be issued separately.

This order will come into effect w.e.f. 1st July, 2009

( P. H. Kurian)
Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks

To
All Patent Offices