



Brief and important information for our users

Newsflash 2006/29

18-07-2006 Update on contents of REFI

There are currently four countries for which the EPO receives bibliographic data including citations on a regular basis: AU, DE, GB and US.

The following pattern emerges:

AU	17 days after publication
DE	15 days before publication
GB	11 days before publication
US	on publication date.

The EP files contain the citations well before their publication. The situation is more complicated for the WO publications of applications for which the European Patent Office was not the International Search Authority (ISA). Though WIPO data is received only three days **after** publication, its data does not contain citations in electronic character format.

The EPO has an agreement with the USPTO to send the International Search Reports - on paper - to the Citation Data Flow (CDF) unit before publication date. The CDF records the citations from the paper, thus ensuring the availability on the publication date (i.e. publicly not accessible before actual publication date). This also applies to the DE and GB national data. International Search Reports from other ISA like Korea for instance are recorded from the WIPO publication. The Citation Data Flow Unit tries to record them no later than two weeks after publication.

Refi Manual

<http://www.european-patent-office.org/inpadoc/manuals/pdf/refi.pdf>