

USE OF THE EIGHTH EDITION OF THE IPC BY INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY OFFICES  
(START DATE, CORE OR ADVANCED LEVEL, RECLASSIFICATION PLANS)

updated version on March 28, 2006

2<sup>nd</sup> update on June 29, 2006

3<sup>rd</sup> update on August 18, 2006

(Summary of Replies Received in Response to WIPO Circular No. IPC 145,  
issued on November 21, 2005)

1. The International Bureau received a total of 60 replies in response to WIPO Circular No. IPC 145, including 41 from States being members of the IPC Union (57 members), 15 from States not being members of the IPC Union and four from intergovernmental organizations.
2. Replies were received from the following Offices or Organizations: : African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI) (OA), African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) (AP), Algeria (DZ), Armenia (AM), Australia (AU), Austria (AT), Azerbaijan (AZ), Belize (BZ), Brazil (BR), Bulgaria (BG), Canada (CA), Chile (CL), China (CN), Croatia (HR), Cuba (CU), Czech Republic (CZ), Denmark (DK), Estonia (EE), Eurasian Patent Organization (EAPO) (EA), European Patent Office (EPO) (EP), Finland (FI), France (FR), Georgia (GE), Germany (DE), Greece (GR), Guatemala (GT), Hungary (HU), Indonesia (ID), Ireland (IE), Israel (IL), Japan (JP), Kazakhstan (KZ), Kenya (KE), Kyrgyzstan (KG), Lithuania (LT), Madagascar (MG), Malawi (MW), Mexico (MX), Mongolia (MN), Netherlands (NL), Norway (NO), Portugal (PT), Republic of Korea (KR), Republic of Moldova (MD), Romania (RO), Russian Federation (RU), San Marino (SM), Singapore (SG), Slovakia (SK), Slovenia (SI), Spain (ES), Sweden (SE), Switzerland (CH), Thailand (TH), The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (MK), Turkey (TR), Ukraine (UA), United Kingdom (GB), United Republic of Tanzania (TZ), United States of America (US).
3. The replies received are summarized in the table reproduced below. In order to provide an overview as comprehensive as possible, this table has been supplemented by earlier replies of offices or organizations that have not replied to Circular No. IPC 145 but have replied to Circulars Nos. IPC 107, 123, and 160 issued on June 30, 2003, August 4, 2004, and May 16, 2006, respectively, requesting similar information on the use of the reformed IPC. In total, 74 offices or organizations have replied to at least one of these four Circulars.
4. The answers to the six questions included in the questionnaire of Circular No. IPC 145 can be summarized as follows:

Classifying according to the eighth edition of the IPC

Question 1: “Will your Office start publication of patent documents classified according to the eighth edition of the IPC from January 1, 2006?”

Forty-seven out of 56 offices replied “Yes” and only 12 offices replied that they could not meet this deadline (taking into account replies to question 1 of Circular No. IPC 160).

Question 2: “If the response to Question 1 is “No”, from which date does your Office plan to start publication of patent documents classified according to the eighth edition?”

Nine of the above 12 offices provided provisional dates (taking into account replies to question 1 of Circular No. IPC 160).

Start dates provided in the replies are indicated in the table below.

Use of the core level or the advanced level of the eighth edition of the IPC

Question 3: “Will your Office use the core level or the advanced level of the eighth edition of the IPC for classifying your published patent documents?”

Thirty-nine offices replied that they would use the advanced level only. Taking into account replies to question 2 of Circular No. IPC 107, a total of 49 offices have indicated that they would use the advanced level only.

Twelve offices replied they would use the core level only. Taking into account replies to question 2 of Circular No. IPC 107, a total of 17 offices indicated that they would use the core level only.

Four offices replied that they would use both levels. In its reply to Circular No. IPC 107, Monaco indicated that it would classify at subclass level only.

Question 4: “If the response to Question 3 is both “Core level” and “Advanced level”, please list technical fields (indicated by IPC symbols) in which the advanced level will be used.”

See the table below.

Reclassification of retrospective patent collections for loading the reclassification data in the Master Classification Database (MCD)

Question 5: “Is your Office carrying out or is planning to carry out reclassification according to the eighth edition of the IPC of your patent documents published before January 1, 2006?”

Twenty-eight offices replied “Yes” and 20 offices replied “No”. Taking into account replies to question 7 of Circular No. IPC 123, a total of 29 offices indicated that they would carry out such reclassification while a total of 22 offices indicated that they would not carry out such reclassification

Question 6: “If the response to Question 5 is “Yes”, when does your office plan to make the results of reclassification available for loading in the MCD?”

For the different dates indicated in the replies, see the table below.

Not indicated are replies from offices whose patent documentation is part of the PCT minimum documentation and has been reclassified by the EPO with the participation of the German Patent and Trade Mark Office.

Table: Summary of Replies to Questions 1 to 6 of Circular No. IPC 145  
 (“Use of the Eighth Edition of the IPC”)

A: Advanced level
C: Core level
S: Subclass level
Y: Yes
N: No
* The office/organization has not yet replied to Circular No. IPC 145; the answers indicated in the table were derived from the replies received to similar questions in Circulars Nos. IPC 107, IPC 123 or 160 (see paragraph 3, above).

Country or Organization (Members of the IPC Union in blue)	Code	Questions 1 and 2	Questions 3 and 4	Question 5	Question 6
Algeria	DZ	01.01.2006	C	N	
ARIPO	AP	01.01.2006	A		
Armenia	AM	01.01.2006	C	Y	01.12.2006
Australia	AU	01.01.2006	A		
Austria	AT	01.01.2006	A		
Azerbaijan	AZ	01.01.2006	C	N	
Belarus*	BY	01.07.2006	C		
Belgium*	BE		C		
Belize	BZ	01.01.2006	A	N	
Brazil	BR	07.2007	A	N	
Bulgaria	BG	01.01.2006	A	Y	2008
Canada	CA	01.01.2006	A		
Chile	CL	01.01.2006	A	N	
China	CN	01.01.2006	A	Y	open
Colombia*	CO		C		
Croatia	HR	01.01.2006	A	Y	open
Cuba	CU	01.01.2006	A	Y	open
Czech Republic	CZ	01.01.2006	A	Y	09.2006
Denmark	DK	01.01.2006	A	N	
EAPO	EA	01.01.2006	A		
Egypt*	EG		A		
EPO	EP	01.01.2006	A		
Estonia	EE	01.01.2006	A	N	
Finland	FI	01.01.2006	A	Y	open
France	FR	01.01.2006	A		
Georgia	GE	01.01.2006	C	Y	07.2006
Germany	DE	01.01.2006	A		
Greece	GR	01.01.2006	A	Y	open
Guatemala	GT	01.01.2006	A	Y	after 2006

Country or Organization (Members of the IPC Union in blue)	Code	Questions 1 and 2	Questions 3 and 4	Question 5	Question 6
Hungary	HU	01.01.2006	A	Y	31.12.2006
Iceland*	IS		C		
Indonesia	ID	01.07.2007	A	N	
Ireland	IE	01.01.2006	C	Y	01.01.2006
Israel	IL	01.03.2006	A	N	
Italy*	IT	01.01.2007	A		
Japan	JP	01.01.2006	A	Y	03.2006
Kazakhstan	KZ	01.07.2006	A	N	
Kenya	KE		C/A <sup>1</sup>	N	
Kyrgyzstan	KG	01.07.2006	A	N	
Lithuania	LT	01.01.2006	C	Y	01.01.2007
Madagascar	MG	01.01.2006	C	Y	Q4/2006
Malawi	MW	01.07.2006	C	N	
Mexico	MX	open	A	Y	06.2006
Monaco*	MC		S		
Mongolia	MN	01.01.2006	C	N	
Netherlands	NL	01.01.2006	A	N	
New Zealand*	NZ	open	C		
Nicaragua*	NI			Y	
Norway	NO	01.01.2006	A	Y	2006-2007
OAPI	OA	06.2007	A	N	open
Poland*	PL		A		
Portugal	PT	01.01.2006	A	Y	Q1/2006
Republic of Korea	KR	01.01.2006	A	Y	06.2006
Republic of Moldova	MD	01.01.2006	A	Y	06.2006
Romania	RO	01.01.2006	A	Y	Q1/2006
Russian Federation	RU	01.01.2006	A	Y	04.2006
San Marino	SM	open			
Serbia and Montenegro*	YU		A	N	
Singapore	SG		C/A <sup>2</sup>	N	
Slovakia	SK	01.01.2006	C	Y	12.2006
Slovenia	SI	01.01.2006	C	Y	01.2006
Spain	ES	01.01.2006	A	Y	07.2006
Sweden	SE	01.01.2006	A	Y	2006-2009
Switzerland	CH	01.01.2006	A		
Thailand	TH	01.01.2006	C/A <sup>3</sup>	N	
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	MK	01.01.2006	C	Y	
Turkey	TR	01.01.2006	A	N	
Ukraine	UA	01.01.2006	C/A <sup>4</sup>	Y	Q3-Q4/2006
United Kingdom	GB	01.01.2006	A		

<sup>1</sup> Advanced level in biological areas.

<sup>2</sup> The classification information that is published depends on the classification information Singapore receives from the Searching and Examining Authorities selected by the applicants.

<sup>3</sup> Core level for unexamined applications, advanced level for examined applications.

<sup>4</sup> Ukraine has provided an extensive list which cannot be reproduced here.

Country or Organization (Members of the IPC Union in blue)	Code	Questions 1 and 2	Questions 3 and 4	Question 5	Question 6
United Republic of Tanzania	TZ			N	
United States of America	US	01.01.2006	A		
Uruguay*	UY		A		
Uzbekistan*	UZ		A		
Viet Nam*	VN		A	N	