

Special Union for the International Classification of Goods and Services for the Purposes of the Registration of Marks (Nice Union)

Committee of Experts

Thirty-Fifth Session
Geneva, April 28 to May 2, 2025

REPORT

adopted by the Committee of Experts

INTRODUCTION

1. The Committee of Experts of the Nice Union (hereinafter referred to as “the Committee”) held its thirty-fifth session in Geneva from April 28 to May 2, 2025, in hybrid format. The following members of the Committee were represented at the session: Algeria, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America and Uzbekistan (44). The following States were represented by observers: Brazil, Cyprus, Côte d’Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Iraq, Madagascar, Nigeria and Pakistan (8). Representatives of the following international intergovernmental organizations took part in the session in an observer capacity: African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI), Benelux Organization for Intellectual Property (BOIP) and European Union (EU). Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations attended the session in an observer capacity: European Law Students’ Association (ELSA International), Intellectual Property Institute of Canada (IPIC), International Trademark Association (INTA), Japan Patent Attorneys Association (JPAA) and MALOCA Internationale. The list of participants appears as Annex I to this report.

2. The session was opened by Mr. Ken-Ichiro Natsume, Assistant Director General, Infrastructure and Platforms Sector of WIPO, who welcomed the participants.

OFFICERS

3. The Committee unanimously elected Ms. Laura Russo (Australia) as Chair, and Ms. Chi Suan Kok (Singapore) and Mr. Andreas Östlund (Sweden) as Vice-Chairs for the next two calendar years, namely for the thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth sessions.
4. Ms. Alison Züger (WIPO) acted as Secretary of the session.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5. The Committee unanimously adopted the agenda, which appears as Annex II to this report.

DISCUSSIONS, CONCLUSIONS AND DECISIONS

6. As decided by the Governing Bodies of WIPO at their tenth series of meetings held from September 24 to October 2, 1979 (see document AB/X/32, paragraphs 51 and 52), the report of this session reflects only the conclusions of the Committee (decisions, recommendations, opinions, etc.) and does not, in particular, reflect the statements made by any participant, except where a reservation in relation to any specific conclusion of the Committee was expressed or repeated after the conclusion was reached.

ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS AND OTHER CHANGES TO THE TWELFTH EDITION OF THE NICE CLASSIFICATION, AND ENTRY INTO FORCE OF NCL13

7. In accordance with Rule 7(1) of the Rules of Procedure, the Committee agreed that changes to the 2025 version of the twelfth edition of the Nice Classification, and amendments in the sense of Article 3(7)(b) of the Nice Agreement¹ adopted during the whole three-year revision period, would enter into force on January 1, 2026, and be published online in a new (thirteenth) edition (NCL (13-2026)), in English and French, by the end of 2025.
8. The Committee noted that an early publication will be made available on the NCLPub site, and the list of goods and services in Excel format, in English and French, will be made available on the [Nice Classification Download and IT support](#) webpage by the end of June 2025.
9. The Committee invited the International Bureau to take the opportunity of correcting any obvious typing or grammatical errors which it found in the text of the Classification and harmonizing, as far as possible, the use of punctuation.

¹ Article 3(7)(b) of the Nice Agreement: "Decisions concerning the adoption of amendments to the Classification shall require a majority of four-fifths of the countries of the Special Union represented and voting. "Amendment" shall mean any transfer of goods or services from one class to another or the creation of any new class."

BUSINESS SEGMENT

USER ASSOCIATIONS PRESENT THEIR NICE CLASSIFICATION-RELATED ISSUES

10. The Representative of the International Trademark Association (INTA) made a statement reiterating the importance of a study to reduce the size and complexity of Class 9 by reminding the Committee of the concerns raised and the solutions that it had proposed at the last two sessions. INTA acknowledged that their on-going policy dialogues with IP offices have highlighted that not all offices perceive the expansion of Class 9 in the same way. For some, the challenges of the increased growth of Class 9 can be tackled by enhanced training for examiners, IP practitioners and brand owners, along with the utilization of more sophisticated search tools. Transferring goods from Class 9 to other existing classes may be seen as the most pragmatic and feasible solution. INTA reiterated their commitment to collaborate with all involved parties. IPIC indicated that it has similar questions and expressed interest in partnering with INTA in that respect (the full statement by INTA is available on the [WIPO Meetings page for the thirty-fifth session of the Committee of Experts of the Nice Union CLIM/CE/35](#)).

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS IN GROUP 1 (FOUR-FIFTHS MAJORITY APPROVAL) AFTER VOTE 1 IN NCLRMS

11. Discussions were based on Group 1 in [NCLRMS](#), which contained proposals for changes to the 2025 version of the Classification that had received four-fifths majority support at Vote 1.

12. Upon request, two proposals were moved to Group 2. The Committee agreed unanimously to adopt the remaining 226 proposals in Group 1. This also included a topic submitted by Germany, with assistance from EUIPO and the International Bureau, aimed at reformulating indications in Classes 29 to 31 into a more natural word order. The decisions of the Committee are available in [NCLRMS/Sessions/CE35](#).

13. The Committee agreed to maintain the current criterion of four-fifths majority support at Vote 1.

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS IN GROUP 2 (INCLUDING AMENDMENTS AND OTHER CHANGES) AFTER VOTE 1 IN NCLRMS

(a) APPARATUS FOR PLAYING VIDEO GAMES

14. Discussions were based on an [NCLRMS](#) Group 2 topic aiming to clarify indications relating to apparatus for playing video games and similar apparatus other than for playing video games, submitted by the United States of America.

15. The majority of proposals in this topic did not obtain the required majority. The decisions of the Committee are available in [NCLRMS/Sessions/CE35](#).

(b) CLASS 9

16. Discussions were based on proposals submitted by the International Bureau, which had been split into seven individual topics in [NCLRMS](#) Group 2, with the aim of reducing the size of Class 9.

17. This project had been carried out following comments from INTA at CE33 and CE34 to address the increasing size of Class 9. The International Bureau explained that the direction of

the project had been determined based on the results of a survey that it had sent to Nice Member States in July 2024. This survey had gathered anonymous feedback regarding the four suggestions provided by INTA at CE33 and CE34, namely (a) Divide Class 9 into sub-divisions (b) Transfer goods from Class 9 into existing classes (c) Transfer goods from Class 9 into newly created classes (d) Not require registration for virtual versions of tangible goods.

18. The International Bureau briefly summarized the key points from the survey responses. In general, there was no outright support for any option, however the second option (transferring goods from Class 9 to other existing classes), had been seen as the most feasible solution. In light of this, the International Bureau had identified seven distinct areas of Class 9 (goods relating to breathing, clothing, eyewear, fire, life-saving, protection and vehicles) that could potentially be considered under the scope of other existing classes.

19. The Committee thanked the International Bureau for taking the feedback of Member States into account and elaborating on this project. The Committee approved most of the proposals in the topics “vehicles” (which were transferred to Class 12) and “eyewear” (which were transferred to Class 10). However, the remaining proposals for amendments within the other topics did not obtain the required majority. The decisions of the Committee are available in NCLRMS/Sessions/CE35.

(c) ESSENTIAL OILS

20. Discussions were based on an [NCLRMS](#) Group 2 topic, which was a follow-up to previously approved amendments at CE34, relating to the classification of essential oils, submitted by the United States of America.

21. The Committee adopted all proposals in this topic. The decisions of the Committee are available in NCLRMS/Sessions/CE35.

(d) RELIGIOUS FESTIVALS

22. Discussions were based on an [NCLRMS](#) Group 2 topic aiming to remove the mention of specific religious festivals, submitted by France.

23. The Committee adopted many of the proposals in this topic. The decisions of the Committee are available in NCLRMS/Sessions/CE35.

(e) OTHER AMENDMENTS AND CHANGES TO NCL (12-2025)

24. Discussions were based on Group 2 in [NCLRMS](#), which contained proposals for amendments and other changes to the 2025 version of the Classification that had not received four-fifths majority support at Vote 1.

25. Overall, the Committee adopted a significant number of amendments and other changes to the Classification (total of 313 approved at the Group 2 stage). The decisions of the Committee are available in NCLRMS/Sessions/CE35.

NEXT SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

26. The Committee noted that the next (thirty-sixth) session would be held in Geneva at the end of April or beginning of May 2026, subject to the schedule of WIPO principal Committees.

CLOSING OF THE SESSION

27. The Chair closed the session.

28. *The Committee of Experts
unanimously adopted this report by
electronic means on May 21, 2025.*

[Annexes follow]

ANNEXE I/ANNEX I

LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS/LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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[L'annexe II suit/
Annex II follows]

ANNEX II
AGENDA

1. Opening of the session
2. Election of a Chair and two Vice-Chairs for the Thirty-Fifth and Thirty-Sixth Sessions of the Committee
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Business segment
User Associations present their Nice Classification-related issues
5. Consideration of proposals in Group 1 (four-fifths majority approval) after Vote 1 in NCLRMS
See NCLRMS.
6. Consideration of proposals in Group 2 after Vote 1 in NCLRMS
See NCLRMS.
7. Entry into force of NCL13
8. Next session of the Committee of Experts
9. Closing of the session

[End of Annex II and of document]