

# WIPO



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SPECIAL UNION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL PATENT CLASSIFICATION  
(IPC UNION)

COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESULTS OF THE REFORM IN THE IPC

*Document prepared by the Secretariat*

1. The present document contains a status report on several tasks on the program of the IPC Revision Working Group with respect to the implementation of the results of the reform in the IPC.

Removal of References from Guidance Headings and Informative References from the Scheme

2. The Working Group, at its sixteenth session, considered a proposal by the International Bureau relating to the removal of references from guidance headings for sections A and H and another proposal by the International Bureau regarding the removal of informative references from the scheme for several subclasses of sections A, B and G.

3. The Working Group approved, with amendments, some of the recommendations in the proposal relating to the removal of references from guidance headings. The rest of this proposal and the whole proposal relating to the removal of informative references from the scheme were not discussed because of time constraints.

4. Having noted the considerable time that should have to be spent on these two subjects and other projects that should be treated with higher priority, the Working Group agreed to reconsider at its next session how to further carry out these tasks on time by using a more efficient approach, for example, by creating a dedicated task force.

### Renumbering of Pre-Reform Residual Main Groups Being Residual to the Whole Subclass

5. The discussions of the Working Group were based on the latest rapporteur proposal of Annex 34 to the project file WG 111. The Working Group agreed to delete 11 residual main groups being residual to the whole subclass that neither had subgroups nor included references, and to transfer them to new standardized residual main groups. It was also agreed that one such residual main group should not be changed; the title of another such residual main group was amended.

6. In view of the similarity between the subclasses of class C05, it was decided that a similar solution should be sought for all residual main groups in this class when considering the residual groups having subgroups.

7. The Working Group finally agreed to continue the consideration of the remaining residual main groups being residual to the whole subclass at its next session and accepted an offer by the Secretariat to prepare a proposal for the renumbering and amendment of residual main groups with references. The current status of this task with respect to each subclass is summarized in Annex 36 of Project WG 111.

### Introduction of Residual Main Groups in IPC Subclasses

8. The Working Group continued, at its sixteenth session, the consideration of the remaining subclasses and decided that no residual main groups would be needed for 43 subclasses. New residual main groups were created in 12 subclasses. The Working Group agreed that the remaining 49 subclasses where consensus had not been reached should be treated in the framework of existing and newly created definition projects (45 subclasses) and core level revision projects (four subclasses). The current status of this task with respect to each subclass is summarized in Annex 35 of project WG 111.

### IPC Definitions Program

9. Consideration of definition projects was continued at the sixteenth session of the Working Group. At that session, 10 definition projects were approved in English and 16 definition projects were completed in both English and French. In total, 72 definition projects have been completed so far. Annex IV to the report of that session of the Working Group (see document IPC/WG/16/3) contains a table summarizing the status of each definition project on the program.

*10. The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the contents of this document, and to make decisions as necessary.*

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