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(IPC UNION)

IPC REVISION WORKING GROUP

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PUBLICATION OF THE NINTH EDITION OF THE IPC (IPC-2009) AND
RELATED MATERIAL

Document prepared by the Secretariat

1. For the eighth edition of the reformed IPC that entered into force on January 1, 2006, the IPC Committee of Experts had decided to publish in printed form only the core level of the IPC, the *Official Catchword Indexes* and the *Guide to the Eighth Edition of the IPC (Guide)*. The advanced level was published in electronic form only (online on the Internet and as downloadable files in XML and PDF formats). It was decided to consider this electronic publication as the official publication of the IPC (see document IPC/CE/36/11, Annex 9, paragraph 2).
2. For the next version of the core level of the IPC that is planned to enter into force on January 1, 2009, the International Bureau will publish the new Internet version of the IPC and the related electronic files (XML, PDF) by July 1, 2008.
3. The International Bureau proposes to discontinue the additional publication of the core level of the IPC in printed form for the following reasons:
 - the number of printed copies that have been ordered via the WIPO bookshop has considerably dropped from a total of 1,783 full sets of IPC-7 volumes to only 599 sets of IPC-8 (by August 22, 2007). In particular, only 50 sets were ordered by countries applying the core level and evidence thereby a rather low demand of those core level publications;

– this considerable drop is very likely a result of the further advancement of IT infrastructures that allow for easy online use of either the Internet publication of the IPC, or of local installations of the electronic version of the IPC. In addition, the availability of PDF files containing the core or the advanced level allows for ready printing of any number of copies on demand; and

– because such improvements of local IT infrastructures are likely to advance further, the demand of such copies officially printed by WIPO may therefore decrease even further with the next edition.

4. The *Official Catchword Index* for the ninth edition of the IPC has received only few minor amendments. It is therefore proposed to continue the sale of the current edition of the *Catchword Index* until stocks have been exhausted. The electronic version of the *Catchword Indexes* will be updated to include the amendments approved during the current revision period.

5. Of the *Guide*, 4,665 volumes of the English version have been sold (mainly to the German Patent and Trade Mark Office and to the European Patent Office (EPO)) while only 75 volumes of the French version have been sold. The low demand by the majority of offices also points to abandoning the future publication in paper form and to publish the *Guide* only in PDF format. This would also allow updating the *Guide* when needed.

6. The new Internet version of the IPC and the related electronic files (in XML and PDF format) will then be the only official publication of the IPC. This new Internet version will also include the new versions of the Revision Concordance List (separate for core and advanced levels as currently) and the *Official Catchword Indexes*.

7. It is planned to further improve the Internet version by integrating an option for searching terms in the IPC and the definitions in addition to the existing term search in the *Catchword Indexes*, and an option for searching cross references in the scheme, the definitions and the *Catchword Indexes*. Furthermore, all previous editions of the IPC will be included.

8. It is further proposed to replace, in the scheme, the single numbers used in version indicators and referring to previous editions of the IPC (e.g., [7]) by version indicators of the format used for indicating post reform versions (i.e., [1968.01] replacing [1], [1975.07] replacing [2], [1980.01] replacing [3], [1985.01] replacing [4], [1990.01] replacing [5], [1995.01] replacing [6], [2000.01] replacing [7]).

9. In addition to the publication of the Internet version of the eighth edition of the IPC, the related downloadable XML and PDF files, and the printed version of the core level, the International Bureau had also published electronic versions of the core level of the IPC on CD-ROM for local use and installation on Intranet and personal computers. These CD-ROMs were particularly aimed at developing countries where limited availability of Internet resources may impede an efficient use of the internet version or download of files. It is planned to continue the distribution of the IPC on such or similar media also for the ninth edition on demand to such countries.

10. For technical reasons it had not been possible to publish a new version of the *IPC:CLASS CD-ROM* for the eighth edition of the IPC. It is proposed to abandon this extra CD-ROM version of the IPC because all previous versions and the term search facility included in this CD-ROM will also be available via the new Internet version. In addition, a downloadable version of the internet publication and of the corresponding software will be available for installation on local Intranets and personal computers.

11. The IPC Revision Working Group is invited to approve the proposed plan of the publication of the ninth edition of the IPC and related material.

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