

WIPO



IPC/WG/18/4
ORIGINAL: English
DATE: December 19, 2007

E

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
GENEVA

SPECIAL UNION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL PATENT CLASSIFICATION
(IPC UNION)

IPC REVISION WORKING GROUP

Eighteenth Session
Geneva, November 26 to 30, 2007

REPORT

adopted by the Working Group

INTRODUCTION

1. The IPC Revision Working Group (hereinafter referred to as “the Working Group”) held its eighteenth session in Geneva from November 26 to 30, 2007. The following members of the Working Group were represented at the session: Brazil, Canada, China, Croatia, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America, African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO), European Patent Office (EPO) (24). Serbia and Ukraine were represented as observers. The list of participants appears as Annex I to this report.
2. The session was opened by Mr. F. Gurry, Deputy Director General, WIPO.

OFFICERS

3. Mr. A. Farassopoulos (WIPO) acted as Secretary of the session.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

4. The Working Group unanimously adopted the agenda, which appears as Annex II to this report.

DISCUSSIONS, CONCLUSIONS AND DECISIONS

5. 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 Working Group (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 Working Group was expressed or repeated after the conclusion was reached.

REPORT ON THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE IPC ADVANCED LEVEL SUBCOMMITTEE (ALS)

6. The Working Group noted an oral report by the Secretariat on the fourth session of the ALS (see document IPC/ALS/4/4), in particular, that the ALS had completed revision and reclassification work on project A 002 and that it had fixed the date of entering into force of this project as of April 1, 2008. The ALS requested the Working Group to reexamine the title of main group H04W 72/00, in the framework of project C 435 (see paragraph 44 below). Since reclassification could not be completed for this project before 2012, the new subclass H04W would not enter into force in the next edition of the core level (IPC-2009). For the same reason, project C 448 would not enter into force before 2012 in the core level.

7. It was brought to the attention of the Working Group that projects A 009 and A 010 had an impact on the core level that should be considered (see paragraph 44 below).

8. The ALS examined several revision requests originating from Harmony Projects. Four of them were included in the advanced level revision program (A 012 to A 015). Projects A 012 (G06T, image processing), A 014 (H04N, "selectively providing content to end-users") had an impact on the core level that should be considered by the Working Group (see paragraph 44 below). Furthermore, a project on nanotechnology was included in the advanced level program that would also have an impact on the core level. Finally, the ALS considered a revision request submitted by Germany (see Annex 35 to project file SC 020) on which a final decision would be taken at its next session.

9. The ALS considered the problem of PCT applications published without IPC symbols. Most of these applications were filed at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) but had the EPO as International Searching Authority. The inherent delay due to the transfer of those files between the two offices was identified as the reason for the absence of classification when they were published. Clear directives have been given to the EPO receiving sections and the search/examination directorates, to give higher attention to this problem.

10. In the framework of the revision of CONOPS, the ALS decided to consider US continuation-in-part publications as members of separate families. In addition, it was decided that, in the framework of reclassification, only symbols affected by the corresponding revision project would be reclassified.

11. Finally, the ALS took note that the ALS composition would be reviewed at the next session of the Committee of Experts (hereinafter referred to as the “Committee”). It was proposed that this issue should be considered in the larger context of a revision of the current IPC strategy in general.

REMOVAL OF REFERENCES FROM GUIDANCE HEADINGS AND OF INFORMATIVE REFERENCES FROM THE SCHEME

12. Discussions were based on the decisions of the Task Force, with respect to projects M 031 and M 032 on “Removal of References from Guidance Headings and of Informative References from the Scheme of the IPC”, taken at the meeting of the Task Force held at the USPTO, Alexandria, from September 24 to 28, 2007 (see Annex 31 to project file M 031 and Annex 32 to project file M 032). The Working Group thanked the United States for having hosted the meeting of the Task Force as well as the International Bureau for the preparatory work done in the context of projects M 031 and M 032.

13. The Working Group approved, with amendments, the recommendations of the Task Force, which appear in Technical Annexes 24 to 156 to this report relating to projects M 031 and M 032. These two projects were therefore considered as completed.

14. With respect to project M 031, the Working Group agreed to create project M 703 with the United States of America as Rapporteur for considering whether the title of main group A62B 29/00 reflected its intended scope, for example, whether it overlapped with other main groups in the class, such as group A62D 3/00, taking into account the comments by Sweden and the EPO in Annexes 32 and 33 to project file M 031.

15. The Working Group agreed to create project M 704, with the EPO as Rapporteur, for finding a solution to the problem of main group titles under subclass B29K which were affected by the guidance headings under the subclass, taking into account the comments by Sweden in Annex 32 to project file M 031.

16. With respect to project M 032, the Working Group agreed to create project M 705, with the United Kingdom as Rapporteur, for considering whether a more precise wording of the first part of the titles of main groups B01D 29/00 and B01D 35/00 was needed, for example, by indicating a range of main groups, and for considering the possible overlap between group B01D 35/06 and subclass B03C in view of the reference to B01D 35/06 in the title of subclass B03C, taking into account the comments by the EPO in Annex 33 to project file M 031.

17. The Rapporteur of definition project D 105 (subclass A61D) was requested to consider the relationship between groups A61B 1/24 and A61D 15/00, taking into account the comments by Japan in Annex 33 to project file M 032.

18. The Working Group agreed to create project M 708, with Ireland as Rapporteur, for further considering whether the references to subclass H01J under the title of subclass G01T were informative or limiting.
19. The Working Group also agreed to create project M 710, with Ireland as Rapporteur, for considering whether the reference in group C07C 69/00 to group C07C 43/32 could be replaced by a note or by a proper limiting reference.
20. In addition, it was agreed that the already completed definition project D 011 should be reopened in order to collect comments on whether the references under the title of subclass H01L were informative or limiting. The Rapporteur was requested to submit a report taking into account the comments to be submitted.
21. In the following cases, the decisions of the Working Group were different from those of the Task Force:

| | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| A61B | reference to G01N 33/48 | limiting |
| B21B 17/00 - 21/00 | reference to B21B 37/00 | informative |
| B22D 33/00 - 45/00 | reference to B22D 2/00 | informative |
| C10L | references to C11C, G21C 3/00 | informative |
| G11B | references to G06K 3/00, 15/00 | informative |

The International Bureau was invited to introduce the above informative references in the relevant group/subclass definitions.

22. Bearing in mind the ongoing task relating to the removal of informative references from the IPC scheme (see paragraph 21 of document IPC/CE/37/9 and, in particular, Task No. 3 of Annex IV to the said document), the Working Group recalled its decision at its fifteenth session that at a second stage Rapporteurs of definition projects which would be active at the end of 2007 should submit proposals for informative references that should be removed from the scheme (see paragraph 29 of document IPC/WG/15/4). The International Bureau would afterwards prepare the corresponding amendments to the scheme.

SYSTEMATIC INTRODUCTION OF GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATIONS IN THE IPC

23. Discussions were based on a compilation of project file WG 171, and, in particular, on Annex 21, relating to a proposal on how to further proceed with this project, which had been prepared by the International Bureau.
24. The Working Group noted with gratitude that, following the invitation of the Working Group at its sixteenth session, Spain and the United States of America had submitted to the e-forum their collections of graphic illustrations containing over 6,000 images that cover about 162 subclasses in all IPC sections. The Working Group also noted that the EPO would submit their graphic illustrations as soon as they would be available.

25. The Working Group agreed that no submitted illustrations relating to chemical formulae would be considered at this stage in view of the chemical formulae project being completed.

26. The Working Group took note of the concerns expressed by some offices that a heavy workload could be foreseen with respect to this project, while priority should be given to other more urgently necessary projects, such as IPC revision, maintenance and definition projects. The Working Group also noted the comments made by some offices that graphic illustrations would serve as very useful examples not only for examiners of industrial property offices but also for non-professionals in order to better understand the IPC.

27. The Working Group decided to start six pilot projects (projects M 600 to M 605) covering six subclasses and agreed that the following guidelines proposed by the International Bureau during the session should be taken into account for the selection of graphic illustrations:

(a) the scope of the project should be limited to the collections of graphic illustrations already submitted by offices; in the future, it would be desirable to provide illustrations for more IPC groups where necessary;

(b) graphic illustrations should serve only as examples of the subject matter covered by a place in the IPC; they should not have any impact on the scope of corresponding IPC groups;

(c) the number of illustrations for each IPC group should normally be limited to one or two examples;

(d) graphic illustrations should be as simple and clear as possible, in order to facilitate understanding of the scope of an IPC group; handwriting or hand-drawing should normally be avoided;

(e) in the graphic illustrations textual indications and explanations should be avoided as far as possible; and

(f) although any format for the presentation of graphic illustrations would be allowed for submission, GIF file format would be preferable.

28. For each project, a commenting office and a Rapporteur office were appointed. During the first round, commenting offices should indicate those illustrations that would satisfy the above guidelines and would be ready for introduction into the IPC. During the second round, the Rapporteurs should double-check only the illustrations selected by the commenting offices and confirm or reject each illustration. Only those illustrations selected by the commenting offices and the Rapporteurs should be considered by the Working Group for inclusion in the electronic layer of the IPC.

29. The Working Group noted that Brazil, Mexico and Spain volunteered to participate in these pilot projects. The list of work distribution, future actions and deadlines are indicated in Annex III to this report.

30. After the completion of the above pilot projects, Rapporteurs should submit comments on the preliminary guidelines to project WG 171. The International Bureau was invited to prepare a consolidated proposal to be considered by the Working Group at its next session.

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

31. Discussions were based on document IPC/WG/18/2, in particular on the proposal of the International Bureau to discontinue the paper publication of the core level of the IPC and the *IPC:CLASS* CD-ROM. In exchange, the PDF files of the core and of the advanced levels would be published regularly for each new version of the IPC. The Working Group noted that the pre-reform editions of the IPC would be made available on the Internet and term and cross-reference searching would be included in the Internet publication.

32. No objection was expressed on the above proposals. However, there were objections concerning the replacement of pre-reform edition indicators by post-reform version indicators in the scheme. It was noted that the item "Publication of the Ninth Edition of the IPC" would be included in the agenda of the next session of the Committee, scheduled in February 2008, where a final decision, including the official name of the new edition, would be taken.

REVISION OF THE *GUIDE TO THE IPC*

33. Discussions were based on document IPC/WG/18/3 containing proposed amendments to the *Guide to the IPC*, which would be needed in view of the proposed discontinuation of the paper publication of the core level of the IPC and of the *IPC:CLASS* CD-ROM, and in view of the further implementation in the IPC of several features of the reform.

34. It was noted that several comments had been submitted (see Annexes 4, 5, 7 and 8 to project file WG 182). The International Bureau was invited to prepare a consolidated proposal in English and French, taking into account the submitted comments. A new round of comments was invited before the final consideration of the proposed amended *Guide* by the Committee at its next session in February 2008

RENUMBERING OF PRE-REFORM RESIDUAL MAIN GROUPS

35. Discussions were based on the latest Rapporteur proposal of Annex 37 relating to residual main groups with subgroups. The Working Group agreed that the residual main groups of the following subclasses should not be renumbered: B08B, B09B, B28D, B61K, B66F, C05B, C05C, C05D, C05F, D01D, D04B, F01P, F02P, F03D, F28C, F41B, F41G, G01B, G03D, G10D, G10G.

36. The Working Group also agreed to delete the following residual main groups and to transfer them to new standardized residual main groups: B07C 9/00, B21L 17/00, B62J 39/00.

37. It was further agreed to delete the following residual main groups and their subgroups, and to transfer the deleted main groups to new standardized residual main groups and the deleted subgroups to new main groups (see Technical Annexes 158 and 162 relating to project M 099): A63J 23/00, F04F 11/00.

38. Regarding the two secondary classification schemes of subclasses A61P and A61Q, the Working Group agreed that specific titles of the residual main groups would be necessary to prevent undesirable secondary classification of applications with no specific therapeutic or cosmetic use in these main groups. It was also agreed to renumber the existing residual main group A61Q 99/00 to A61Q 90/00 in view of its specific title. It was further agreed to create maintenance project M 711, with Ireland as Rapporteur, for investigating the need of notes in both residual main groups, explaining that patent documents should only be classified in these two places if specific uses not covered by the other main groups of the subclasses were explicitly stated in the patent documents, and that a general usability for medical therapy or cosmetics should not be regarded as sufficient for classification therein.

39. The Secretariat informed the Working Group of its plan to post to the e-forum an updated version of the proposal of Annex 44 including the remaining residual main groups for which no decision was taken so far, including the latest comments of the United States of America. The Working Group invited comments to this proposal by April 25, 2008. In particular, the EPO was invited to review the remaining residual main groups with subgroups in ECLA and to consider the possibility of transferring them to new standardized residual main groups. Similarly, Japan was invited to review if subdivisions of the remaining residual groups exist in FI and if the latter could be transferred to new standardized residual main groups. The Working Group finally agreed to continue, at its next session, the consideration of the remaining residual main groups.

40. The Secretariat informed the Working Group of its plan to post an updated version of Annex 42 to project file WG 111 to the e-forum, which would summarize all decisions of the Working Group with respect to the introduction of new residual main groups and the renumbering of existing residual main groups.

REQUEST FOR REVISION OF THE CORE LEVEL OF THE IPC

41. Discussions were based on Annex 11 to project file WG 020 containing a proposal submitted by Germany to create subgroups of main group C09D 5/00 for "Self-cleaning coatings". Germany was invited to prototype the proposed scheme, to investigate whether this project would have an impact on other places in the IPC, to give an indication of the number of documents concerned by this technique and to draft definitions. A new revision request should therefore be submitted to project WG 020.

PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVING THE IPC

42. Following the procedure adopted at the twelfth session of the Working Group, proposals were submitted to projects M 012, M 013 and M 014, concerning improvements in the title of subsection A61 to 63 and of subclasses B65D, B27G, C04B and G01B. In addition, the Working Group considered projects M 700, M 701 and 702. A list of M 7xx projects, their status and relevant future actions with deadlines are indicated in Annex III to this report.

Subsection A61 to 63 – The Working Group approved the proposal of Annex 21 to project file M 014 to bring the English title of the subsection in line with the French title (see Technical Annex 22 to this report). The French title remained unchanged.

Subclass B65D – The Working Group approved the proposal of Annex 22 to project file M 014 to introduce a note at subclass level, describing the relationship between groups 88/00 and 90/00 and the rest of the subclass, in replacement of the references to B65D 88/00 that had been removed from the guidance headings (see Technical Annex 23 to this report).

The Working Group agreed to create a new project M 706, with Sweden as Rapporteur, for further discussion of the proposal of Annex 23 to amend the title of Guidance Heading 39/00 to 55/00 and, if necessary, to improve the guidance heading structure in the area. Sweden was invited to submit a new proposal taking into account the comments submitted (see Annexes 24, 25 and 26 to project file M 014). The International Bureau was invited to transfer the relevant annexes of project M 014 to project file M 706.

Subclass B27G – The Working Group discussed the EPO proposal of Annex 27 to project M 014 and noted that it might be necessary to redraft some group titles where the word “tools” appears in addition to modifying the title of the subclass. Project M 707 was created in that respect and the International Bureau was invited to transfer to this project the relevant annexes of project M 014. The EPO was invited to prepare an initial proposal.

Subclass C04B – Project M 712 was created with the EPO as Rapporteur. The International Bureau was invited to transfer the relevant annexes of project M 012 to this new project. A Rapporteur report was invited, to be followed by a round of comments.

Subclass G01B – The Working Group invited further comments on the proposal for the amendment of main group titles in subclass G01B (see Annex 10 to the project file), and agreed to create a new maintenance project M 709 with the EPO as Rapporteur to which the new comments should be submitted. The International Bureau was invited to transfer Annexes 10, 11 and 12 from project M 013 to project M 709. The EPO was invited to prepare a Rapporteur report for consideration at the next session of the Working Group.

Project M 700 – The Working Group decided that the terms “or similar materials” in the title of B27K were not needed. The Rapporteur was invited to submit a new proposal taking into account this decision.

Project M 701 – A round of comments was invited on the last rapporteur report taking into account the comments submitted by Japan (see Annexes 6 and 7 to the project file). It was noted that the term “electrically-powered vehicles” in the last part of the title of subclass B60L should be replaced by “electrically-propelled vehicles”.

Project M 702 – The Working Group approved the introduction of a new Note in section C which defines the table of the Periodic System of chemical elements used in the IPC (see Technical Annex 164 to this report). It was also decided that this table should be introduced into the *Guide to the IPC*. It was noted that the proposed list of relevant notes to be introduced in subclasses was not complete and the Rapporteur was invited to submit a new proposal therefor.

IPC CORE LEVEL REVISION PROGRAM

General

43. The Working Group discussed 14 pending IPC core level revision projects and approved amendments relating to those projects (see Technical Annexes to this report relating to revision projects). The status of those projects and the list of future actions and deadlines are indicated in Annex III to this report.

IPC Revision Projects

44. The Working Group made the following observations with respect to the IPC revision projects.

Project A 009 (electrical) – The Working Group took note of the proposal for the introduction of a new main group G01S 19/00 for “Satellite radio beacon positioning systems; Determining position, velocity or attitude using signals transmitted by such systems” (see Annex 5 to the project file). Comments were invited on whether two main groups could be introduced instead, in light of the comments submitted by the International Bureau and the EPO (see Annexes 7 and 8 to the project file). Further comments on the proposed scheme were also invited.

Project A 010 (mechanical) – The Working Group took note of the proposed creation of the new main group B62M 6/00 for “Rider propulsion characterized by the use of two or more dissimilar sources of power” (see Annex 5 to the project file). The members of the Working Group were invited to submit comments, in particular for improving the title of the said main group.

Project A 012 (electrical) – The Working Group noted that this project had some impact on the core level and invited comments on the Rapporteur proposal of Annex 1 to the project file.

Project C 434 (electrical) – In view of the consideration of the French version of the advanced level groups of subclass H04H by the Subcommittee for the French Version of the Advanced Level, it was decided to amend the titles of the core level groups that were approved in French at the seventeenth session of the Working Group (see Technical Annex 1 to this report).

Project C 435 (electrical) – It was noted that the one-dot groups H04W 72/02 and H04W 72/08, approved at the seventeenth session of the Working Group, would exhaust the scope of main group H04W 72/00. It was therefore decided to create two main groups H04W 72/00 and H04W 74/00 instead (see Technical Annexes 2 to 5 to this report). It was further decided to renumber some of the core level groups approved at previous sessions of the Working Group, in order to allow a standardized numbering of the advanced level groups to be adopted by the ALS.

It was decided that H04W definitions would be considered in the framework of definition projects and Rapporteur was invited to submit a consolidated proposal to project D 125.

The Working Group noted that, although the project was completed, it would not be introduced in the core level of the IPC before 2012 since reclassification was not expected to be completed before that date (see paragraph 6, above). However, the Trilateral Offices would already introduce the scheme into their local classification systems next year and would thus be able to use it for the classification of their front file. In that respect, other offices using the IPC would have to bear disadvantages. The Committee was therefore invited to give consideration to this problematic situation and to find a solution that would alleviate or avoid drawbacks for other offices.

Project C 436 (chemical) – Discussions were based on Annex 25 to the project file, containing the latest rapporteur report and proposal. It was decided that the last place rule should not apply between the subgroups of new group C12N 5/07 and a corresponding note was approved. The proposed scheme was approved, with some amendments, and appears as Technical Annex 6 to this report. Comments were invited on:

- whether the desired scope for group C12N 5/074 was correctly expressed by the approved title or whether it should be restricted to “pluripotent cells”;
- the desirability of proposed groups C12N 15/873 and 15/877 (see Annex 25 to the project file), in view of the reference in group C12N 15/00 to group C12N 5/00; and, if these groups were not created, where their subject matter should be covered.

The Working Group also discussed the resources needed for reclassification, based on the figures provided by the EPO in Annex 23 to the project file. It was noted that these figures were including all documents classified in C12N 5/06 or in C12N 5/08 by all offices, irrespective of whether they were classified by the EPO in this area in ECLA or not. It was also noted that this practice was not followed in other post-reform revision projects of the advanced level where documents belonging to national collections classified by the EPO in ECLA were considered for reclassification only if a family member was classified in ECLA.

The EPO was therefore invited to provide new statistics based on the following assumptions:

(a) all families already classified in ECLA in group C12N 5/06 and its subgroups would be automatically reclassified in the new scheme based on an ECLA to IPC concordance;

(b) the new symbols thus attributed would be propagated to all family members, e.g., CN, JP or KR documents;

(c) the IPC symbols C12N 5/06 and 5/08 would be removed from documents which belong to national collections classified by the EPO in ECLA and which do not belong to families of (a) above, unless they are unique symbols; in this case they would be included in the list of the corresponding office for reclassification (option 1), or they would be reclassified in the IPC according to their family member already classified in ECLA (option 2); and

(d) families having a member classified in IPC groups C12N 5/06 or 5/08 which do not belong in (a), (b), or (c), above, should appear in the list of the priority office.

Project C 438 (mechanical) – Discussions were based on the latest Rapporteur proposal (see Annex 14 to project file).

It was decided that the second sentence in Note (3) after subclasses F21L and F21S and the second and third sentences in Note (2) after subclass F21V, which had been approved at the sixteenth session of the Working Group, were not needed. The thus amended notes and other amendments were approved and appear in Technical Annexes 7 to 10 to this report. It was also decided that original Note (3) after class F 21, including several informative references, was not needed in view of their inclusion in the Definitions of the relevant subclasses of class F 21 (see project D 055).

It was noted that the French version should be prepared in due time to be considered by the Committee at its next session in February 2008.

Project C 439 (mechanical) – Discussions were based on the latest Rapporteur proposal (see Annex 28 to project file). It was decided that the amendments approved at the seventeenth session of the Working Group were correct and that no other references were needed.

It was noted that the French version should be prepared in due time to be considered by the Committee at its next session in February 2008.

Project C 441 (mechanical) – A round of comments was invited on the latest rapporteur proposal (see Annex 17 to the project file) to be followed by a rapporteur report.

Project C 442 (mechanical) – The French version was approved (see Technical Annex 12 to this report) and the project was considered as completed.

Project C 443 (chemical) – The Rapporteur was invited to submit a new proposal, taking into account that IPC symbols already used in the past should not be used again with a different scope. These symbols should be deleted and transferred to new places. A new round of comments was invited on the proposal to be submitted, to be followed by a rapporteur report to be considered at the next session of the Working Group.

Project C 445 (mechanical) – The French version was approved (see Technical Annex 13 to this report) and the project was considered as completed.

Project C 446 (mechanical) – The introduction of specific residual main group D06F 60/00 was approved (see Technical Annex 14 to this report). It was noted that there was no need for reclassification following the introduction of this main group.

Project C 447 (electrical) – A round of comments was invited on the latest Rapporteur proposal (see Annex 7 to the project file).

Project C 448 (electrical) – In view of the first place rule that applies in the new subclass G01Q, it was decided to rearrange the groups approved at the previous session of the Working Group and a new scheme was adopted (see Technical Annex 18 to this report). Furthermore, transfer notes from the deleted groups were adopted and the cross-references to the deleted groups were adapted (see Technical Annexes 15 to 17 and 19 to 21 to this report).

Comments were invited on:

- whether an additional reference referring “manufacture of micro-structures” to B81C was needed in G01Q 80/00; and
- whether a reference to G01Q 60/24 was needed in G01L.

A French version was requested for consideration at the next session of the Working Group. Finally, it was decided that G01Q definitions would be considered in the framework of definition projects and the Rapporteur was invited to submit a consolidated proposal to project D 171.

Project C 449 (electrical) – A round of comments was invited on the latest rapporteur proposal (see Annex 11 to the project file).

Project C 450 (chemical) – Comments were invited on the latest rapporteur proposal (see Annex 6 to the project file).

UPDATING OF IPC TRAINING EXAMPLES

General

45. The Working Group noted that the work in relation to editorial checking by French-speaking offices and rapporteur proposals on alternatives of multiple choices presented in the IPC tutorials were still ongoing with respect to some training example projects. The International Bureau was requested to provide, on the IPC e-forum, the updated deadlines for those actions.

46. The Working Group had before it, in particular, the compilation of project file TE 132.

IPC Training Example Project

Project TE 132 (chemical) – The Working Group approved the latest rapporteur proposal contained in Annex 5.

As a member of the Editorial Board for editorial checking, the EPO volunteered to carry out the said editorial checking with respect to this example.

The Rapporteur was requested to submit a proposal on alternatives of multiple choices presented in the IPC tutorials.

The Working Group recalled its invitation for comments and a rapporteur proposal on the possible modification of paragraph 100 of the *Guide*, taking into account the practice in each office on the classification of chemical compounds expressed using general formulae which would lead to a large number of classification places assigned to a document. The Working Group agreed with the latest Rapporteur report (see Annex 10 to project file TE 132) that the current wording of the last subparagraph of paragraph 100 of the *Guide* reflected the best compromise of the extensive discussion during the revision of the *Guide* in that respect, and, therefore, no modification of the said paragraph of the *Guide* would be needed.

IPC DEFINITIONS PROGRAM

47. The Working Group had before it, in particular, document IPC/WG/17/2 and compilations of the relevant definition project files. The decisions of the Working Group with respect to those projects, in particular new deadlines and appointment of offices for the preparation of French versions, are listed in Annex IV to this report. Further information with respect to some of those decisions is given in paragraph 48, below.

IPC Definition Projects

48. The Working Group made the following observations, in addition to the decisions set forth in Annex IV to this report, with respect to the cited IPC definition projects. All references to annexes in this paragraph refer to annexes of the corresponding project file, unless otherwise stated.

Project D 054 (electrical) – The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 35.

Project D 058 (mechanical) – The Working Group approved the English version of Annex 37, subject to an editorial amendment of the title.

Project D 074 (mechanical) – The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 18.

Project D 075 (mechanical) – The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 17, subject to replacing “moteur” by “machine motrice” in the reference to F01M 11/03 in accordance with the title of that group.

Project D 076 (mechanical) – The Working Group approved the English version of Annex 17.

Project D 077 (mechanical) – The Working Group approved the English version of Annex 8.

Project D 079 (mechanical) – The Working Group approved the English version of Annex 22.

Project D 081 (mechanical) – The Working Group approved the English version of Annex 8, subject to adding the new note 5 after the subclass title of subclass B65D (see Technical Annex 23 relating to project M 014) to the section “Special Rules of Classification in this Subclass”. It was further agreed that a residual main group was not needed in this subclass.

Project D 087 (electrical) – The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 23, with some modifications to the title of main group H04Q 9/00, and invited France to submit a proposal for amending the title of this main group to project M 010.

Project D 089 (chemical) – The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 23.

Project D 093 (chemical) – The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 16 and the corrections to the English version indicated in Annex 15.

Project D 096 (chemical) – The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 24.

Project D 097 (chemical) – The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 18, and invited the Rapporteur to check if changes to the English version are necessary as indicated in said Annex 18.

Project D 099 (chemical) – The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 19.

Project D 100 (chemical) – The Working Group agreed to remove the reference to subclass C09D and keep only the specific examples. The Rapporteur was invited to submit a new rapporteur report.

Project D 112 (chemical) – The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 13.

Project D 113 (chemical) – The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 19, and agreed to translate the English term “moiety” with “groupe caractéristique.”

Project D 114 (chemical) – The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 13, and agreed to translate the English term “moiety” with “groupe caractéristique.”

Project D 121 (electrical) – The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 19 and the corrections to the English version indicated in Annex 18.

Project D 122 (electrical) – The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 14.

IPC SYSTEMATIC MAINTENANCE

General

49. The Working Group discussed 10 pending IPC systematic maintenance projects and approved amendments relating to those projects (see the Technical Annexes to this report relating to maintenance projects). The status of those projects and the list of future actions and deadlines are indicated in Annex III to this report.

IPC Systematic Maintenance Projects

50. The Working Group made the following observations with respect to the IPC systematic maintenance projects.

Project M 100 – A01F (mechanical) – It was noted that the latest rapporteur proposal (see Annex 8 to the project file) had already been approved by three offices. However, it was felt that further careful checking should be undertaken. Bearing in mind that the preparation of the French version would also help checking, France was requested to prepare the French version as early as possible. Furthermore, offices were invited to indicate on the e-forum their approval of the said proposal, or to submit comments instead. The Rapporteur was invited to submit afterwards an amended proposal, if necessary, in order to allow an accelerated approval at the next session of the Working Group.

Project M 101 – C07B (chemical) – The Rapporteur was invited to submit a report based on the comments already submitted (see Annexes 14 to 18 to the project file). A new round of comments was invited on the report to be submitted.

Project M 102 – F23G (mechanical) – The Rapporteur was invited to submit a new proposal taking into account the comments submitted by the United States of America and Germany (see Annexes 10 and 11, respectively, to the project file).

Project M 103 (electrical) – The Working Group invited the Rapporteur to submit a new proposal.

Projects M 104 (chemical) – Comments were invited on the latest rapporteur report (see Annex 6 to the project file).

Projects M 105 (chemical) – Comments were invited on the latest rapporteur report (see Annex 7 to the project file).

Projects M 106 (chemical) – Comments were invited on the latest rapporteur report (see Annex 6 to the project file).

Project M 107 – F04C (mechanical) – Discussions were based on a proposal submitted by the Rapporteur and comments submitted by Japan (see Annexes 6 and 7 to the project file). The Rapporteur was requested to prepare a new rapporteur proposal taking into consideration the comments submitted, as well as the issue raised by the Task Force for project M 031 regarding clarification of the scope of subclass F04B and its main groups with respect to the characteristics of the working fluid.

Project M 109 – A01K (mechanical) – The Working Group approved, with some amendments, the French version of Annex 9 to the project file which appears as Technical Annex 163 to this report. The project was therefore considered as completed.

Project M 110 – G10 (electrical) – The Working Group invited the Rapporteur to submit a new proposal.

STATUS OF THE WORK

51. The Chair stated that, on the agenda of this session, five definition projects were approved in English and 14 definition projects were completed in both English and French. In total, 97 definition projects have been completed so far. Annex IV to this report gives the status of each definition project on the program. He also indicated that 17 revision projects have been dealt with and completed in both languages (see Annex III to this report for the status of each revision project).

52. The Chair stated that, at this session, the Working Group had continued an important work program of the implementation of the results of IPC reform and had achieved good progress in the completion of the relevant tasks of the IPC development program. In particular, the Working Group has considered and created some new residual main groups (see Task No. 5(a)), has completed the task of removal of references from guidance headings (see Task No. 4) and has removed informative references from the scheme of 32 subclasses (see Task No. 3).

NEXT SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP

53. The Working Group having assessed the workload expected for its next session (see paragraph 54, below), agreed to devote the first two days to the mechanical field, the following two days to the electrical field and the last day to the chemical field. In order to accelerate the revision work, it was decided that C and M projects in the mechanical field would be first considered at a Task Force type meeting and the results would then be presented to the plenary for formal approval. Depending on its efficiency, this working method could be used during the sessions of the other technical fields. When convening the next session, the International Bureau was requested to consider, in consultation with the Chair, the possible need for an extension of the session, depending on the envisaged amount of work, and for the modification of the number of days devoted to any technical field.

54. The Working Group noted the following tentative dates for its nineteenth session:

May 26 to 30, 2008.

55. The Working Group unanimously adopted this report by electronic means on December 19, 2007.

[Annexes follow]