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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION GENEVA

SPECIAL UNION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL PATENT CLASSIFICATION (IPC UNION)

IPC REVISION WORKING GROUP

**Twenty-First Session
Geneva, June 15 to 19, 2009**

REPORT

adopted by the Working Group

INTRODUCTION

1. The IPC Revision Working Group (hereinafter referred to as “the Working Group”) held its twenty-first session in Geneva from June 15 to 19, 2009. The following members of the Working Group were represented at the session: Brazil, Canada, China, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America, African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO), and the European Patent Office (EPO) (22). 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. A. Farassopoulos, Head, Patent Classification and WIPO Standards Service.

OFFICERS

3. The Working Group unanimously re-elected Mr. F. Brady (Ireland) as Chair and elected Mr. T. Mackey (United States of America) as Vice-Chair for 2009.
4. Mr. L. Mailänder (WIPO) acted as Secretary of the session.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5. The Working Group 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 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 FORTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE IPC COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS; REPORT ON THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE IPC ADVANCED LEVEL SUBCOMMITTEE

7. The Secretariat presented an oral report on the forty-first session of the IPC Committee of Experts (hereinafter referred to as "the Committee", see document IPC/CE/41/6) and on the seventh session of the IPC Advanced Level Subcommittee (hereinafter referred to as "the ALS", see document IPC/ALS/7/9).

8. The Working Group was informed that the Committee had decided to simplify the procedures of revision and publication of the IPC as described in the following paragraphs.

9. Only one text of the Classification would be maintained and published, corresponding to the current advanced level. The terms "core level" and "advanced level" would be discontinued. Small offices with limited resources or expertise for classification might classify their documents either at subclass level or using the main groups of the IPC. Common rules for classification would apply to all users of the IPC.

10. The IPC would be published once a year, in electronic form only, and enter into force on January 1. If needed the number of publications could be increased to twice yearly.

11. Any project forwarded from the IP5 Offices cooperation (European Patent Office (EPO), Japan Patent Office (JPO), Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO), State Intellectual Property Office of the People's Republic of China (SIPO), and United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), including trilateral harmony projects), would automatically be included in the IPC revision program and treated with priority. Such projects would be considered during their IPC phase in order to check their compliance with IPC rules and to ensure the clarity and common international understanding of their content. Amendments to the submitted proposals that would require additional reclassification in respect to the original proposal should be considered only in exceptional cases, with good reasons and with the approval of the project originating office.

12. Other revision requests would be submitted to the Committee and accepted if there is commitment for the reclassification of the PCT minimum documentation.

13. All revision projects would initially be considered by the Working Group and, after completion, would be forwarded to the Committee for final adoption. The Working Group should take measures to increase its efficiency. In particular, the work of the Working Group would be limited to the consideration of revision, definition and maintenance projects, with priority being given to revision projects and to the corresponding definition projects. The Committee would evaluate, at its following sessions, whether the Working Group was accomplishing its tasks in an efficient manner and, if not, whether there would be need for a review. In that respect, since there was no particular definition of the term "efficiency", it should be understood that the Working Group should complete revision of the IPC at least at the same pace as the Working Group and the ALS together.

14. The Working Group was informed of additional decisions taken by the Committee concerning the process of discussion of revision projects, the preparation and approval of the French versions, the final adoption by the Committee of revision projects, the reclassification procedure and the revision procedure of IPC Standards, Master Files and basic IPC documents (see Annex 3 to document IPC/CE/41/6).

15. Following the second workshop with IPC users, to be scheduled for February 2010, the Committee would finally adopt the new structure of the IPC at its next session; the new structure would enter into force with the relevant publication of the IPC in 2011.

16. The Committee had adopted, with some modifications, the amendments approved by the Working Group at its nineteenth and twentieth sessions. These amendments, together with the amendments adopted by the ALS at its sixth and seventh sessions, would be included in the next version of both the core and the advanced levels of the IPC which would enter into force on January 1, 2010.

17. Since the seventh session of the ALS was the final one, all pending A projects were included in the program of the Working Group. From now on, A projects will designate revision projects originating from the IP5 Offices and C projects will designate revision projects that would be included in the IPC revision program by the Committee. For practical reasons, the schemes adopted by the ALS in the framework of projects A 012, A 013, A 014, A 017, A 018 and A 020 were included in the Technical Annexes of this session (see Technical Annexes 1 to 7 and 9 to this report).

18. The Working Group was finally informed on the decisions of the Committee concerning the introduction of a new type of universal indexing scheme, in the framework of project C 452, and the new project C 456 on "Environmentally Sound Technologies (EST)". In particular, the Committee had decided not to adopt the introduction of a new section in the IPC and to review and amend all paragraphs of the *Guide* relating to multiple classification and indexing, aiming at simplification. More details are given in the relevant parts of paragraph 27 below.

REMOVAL OF NON-LIMITING REFERENCES FROM THE SCHEME

19. Discussions were based on a compilation of project file M 032, and in particular on Annex 45, submitted by the International Bureau, relating to a proposal for the removal of references from class titles.
20. The Working Group agreed that all references in class titles should be removed from the scheme irrespective of their nature. The Working Group also approved, with some modifications, the actions proposed in Annex 45 regarding the placement of the removed references. With respect to the reference to group G21F 9/28 in the title of class B09, the Working Group agreed to add the reference to the list of references in Note 3 of subclass B09B. With respect to the reference to B01D in the title of subclass C02F, the Working Group approved the wording proposed by Sweden in Annex 48. With respect to the references in the title of class C25, the Working Group agreed to move the informative reference to subclass B01D to the subclass definition of subclass C25B, and the informative reference to B23H to the subclass definition of subclass C25D (see Technical Annexes 57 to 108 to this report).
21. For several classes, no agreements could be reached regarding the type of reference (limiting, informative, application place) or where to move it. The Working Group therefore invited comments on those cases and agreed to create the three new maintenance projects M 033 to M 035 for mechanics, electricity and chemistry, respectively. The International Bureau was invited to split said Annex 45 accordingly, and to include therein the questions raised. The Working Group also invited comments on all the actions proposed for the removed references in section F, in addition to the questions reflected in Annex 1 to project M 033.
22. With respect to the reference to class C08 in the title of class C07, Sweden was invited to submit a proposal for a Note in class C07 replacing the reference to class C08 to the newly created maintenance project M 714, with Sweden as Rapporteur.
23. With respect to the removal of non-limiting references from subclasses where definition projects had already been completed by the end of 2007, the Working Group agreed to create three new maintenance projects M 036 to M 038 for mechanics, electricity and chemistry, respectively. The International Bureau was invited to split accordingly Annex 41 to the file M 032 containing several proposals for those subclasses and to complement them with proposals for the remaining subclasses. Following a round of comments, a consolidated proposal should be prepared by the International Bureau for approval by the Task Force.
24. The Secretariat informed the Working Group that Annex 10 to project file WG 191 contained a table summarizing the status of the task of removal of non-limiting references for each subclass, which would be updated after this session in order to take into account the latest decisions.

IPC REVISION PROGRAM

General

25. The Working Group noted the decision by the Committee of Experts at its forty-first session that revision projects, including advanced level revision projects, would be considered by the Working Group and forwarded to the Committee for final adoption after completion. It was noted that projects originating from the Trilateral or the IP5 Offices cooperation will be designated by the letter “A” and revision projects included in the IPC revision program by the Committee will be designated by the letter “C” (see paragraph 17, above).

26. Discussions were based on compilations of the relevant revision project files. The Working Group considered nine pending C projects, plus 17 A projects forwarded from the former ALS, and approved amendments relating to those projects (see Technical Annexes 1 to 29 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

27. The Working Group made the following observations with respect to the IPC revision projects. All references to annexes in this paragraph refer to annexes of the corresponding project file, unless otherwise stated.

Project A 012 (electrical) – The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 28, the Revision Concordance List (RCL) as proposed in Annex 32, and the amendments resulting from the List of Cross-Reference (CRL) in Annexes 28 and 25 (see Technical Annexes 1E and 1F to this report).

Comments were invited on the proposed definitions of Annex 26, to be followed by a revised rapporteur proposal.

Project A 013 (mechanical) – The Working Group approved the definitions of Annex 20, and created a new F24F subclass definition project (D 219), with Sweden as Rapporteur. The French version of Annex 26 was also approved, with modifications (see Technical Annex 2F to this report). The Working Group approved the RCL of Annex 21, including Japan’s remarks of Annex 23, and the CRL of Annex 22. The project was thus completed.

The Working Group agreed to recommend to the Committee of Experts to consider the implementation of this project as early as possible.

Project A 014 (electrical) – The Working Group approved, with some minor amendments, the English version of Annex 15 (see Technical Annex 5E to this report).

Comments were invited on the French version of Annex 19. The RCL of Annex 16 was approved, including Japan's remarks of Annex 18, and the CRL of Annex 17 was also approved with some modifications (see Technical Annexes 3E to 4E and 3F to 4F to this report).

The Working Group noted a rapporteur proposal for the removal of non-limiting references in the subclass H04N that appears as Annex 8 to project file C 454. It was decided to carry out future discussions for subclass H04N in the framework of project A 014. The International Bureau was requested to transfer the relevant annexes from project C 454 to A 014.

A round of comments was invited on said Annex 8, to be followed by a consolidated rapporteur proposal.

Project A 017 (mechanical) – The Working Group invited further comments on the rapporteur proposal of Annex 18, to be followed by a revised rapporteur proposal for consideration at the next session of the Working Group.

The French version of Annex 17 was approved (see Technical Annex 6F to this report). The International Bureau was invited to prepare a French version of the definitions in Annex 18 and a CRL, and the Rapporteur was requested to provide a RCL.

Project A 018 (mechanical) – The EPO was invited to submit a consolidated definition proposal including the subgroups missing in Annex 7. The International Bureau was invited to prepare a French version of the definitions.

The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 12 (see Technical Annex 7F to this report). The International Bureau was invited to prepare a RCL and a CRL.

Project A 019 (electrical) – The English version of Annex 2 was approved with some amendments (see Technical Annex 8E to this report).

Comments were invited on:

- whether an additional Note after subgroup G06F 19/10 was needed in order to indicate that purely chemical methods are excluded from this subgroup; and
- whether the phrasing of examples in the title of subgroup G06F 19/16 was appropriate.

Further comments were invited on the definitions of Annex 5, to be followed by a revised rapporteur proposal. The Rapporteur was also invited to prepare a RCL, and the International Bureau was requested to provide a French version and a CRL.

Project A 020 (electrical) – The RCL of Annex 9 was approved, including the remarks of Japan in Annex 11, and the CRL of Annex 10 was approved with minor amendments (see Technical Annex 9E to this report).

Comments were invited on the French version of Annex 12, to be followed by a consolidated rapporteur proposal. The Rapporteur was invited to consider the appropriateness of citing patent document numbers as examples in the definition statements in subgroups H01R 12/88 and H01R 12/89 in Annex 8. Alternatively, illustrations taken from the cited patent documents could be included.

Project A 021 (electrical) – The latest rapporteur proposal of Annex 10 was approved, with some amendments (see Technical Annex 10E to this report).

The Rapporteur was requested to consider whether the approved title of subgroup H01R 13/6589 correctly reflects its intended scope and whether it would be suitable to add an example in the title of subgroup H01R 13/6474, such as “e.g. by dimensional variation”.

The Rapporteur was invited to prepare definitions and a RCL, and the International Bureau was requested to provide a CRL.

Comments were also invited on the French version of Annex 11.

Project A 022 (electrical) – The English version of Annex 22 was approved with some amendments (see Technical Annex 11E to this report).

The Rapporteur was requested to consider whether the wording of the approved title of subgroup H01R 24/56 correctly reflected, or could better reflect the relationship between the “cable” and the “contact”.

The Rapporteur was invited to prepare definitions and a RCL, and the International Bureau was requested to provide a CRL.

Comments were also invited on the French version of Annex 12.

Project A 023 (electrical) – The Working Group agreed to invite further comments on the rapporteur report of Annex 4, to be followed by a new rapporteur proposal. The EPO was requested to prepare a French version based on Annex 4.

Project A 024 (mechanical) – The Working Group approved, with some modifications, the English version of Annex 2 (see Technical Annex 12E to this report).

The Rapporteur was invited to provide a French version, definitions for the approved groups and a RCL, and the International Bureau was invited to submit a CRL.

Project A 025 (mechanical) – The English version of Annex 5 was approved with some amendments (see Technical Annex 13E to this report).

Comments were invited on:

- whether the approved title of group F41H 11/00 correctly incorporated its subgroup F41H 11/12;
- whether a reference in group F41H 11/14 pointing to group F42B 12/68 was desirable as a limiting reference; and
- whether the approved title of subgroup F41H 11/30 covered the subject matter that this group is intended to cover and whether the proposed example was desirable.

The Rapporteur was requested to provide a French version, definitions and a RCL, and the International Bureau was invited to prepare a CRL.

Project A 026 (mechanical) – The English version of Annex 5 was approved with some amendments (see Technical Annex 14E to this report).

Comments were invited on:

- whether the term “separate” in the approved title of subgroup F23B 10/02 was desirable;
- whether the approved group F23B 90/08 was correctly positioned in the scheme in light of the first place priority rule applied to this group; and
- whether the title of subgroup F23B 90/04 covered the subject matter that the group is intended to cover, in view of the fact that combustion includes normally a pyrolysis.

The Rapporteur was requested to prepare definitions and a RCL, and the International Bureau was invited to provide a French version and a CRL.

Project A 027 (electrical) – The Working Group approved, with some amendments, the English version of Annex 8 (see Technical Annexes 15E and 16E to this report).

Comments were invited on:

- whether the term “multi-paths” was correctly used in the light of the intended scope of subgroup H04B 1/7115;
- whether the “i.e.” in the approved title of subgroup H04B 1/7176 should be replaced by “e.g.”;
- whether the mutual references in groups H04B 1/69 and H04J 13/00 were desirable and what was the relationship between the two groups. Attention of the Rapporteur

of project D 193 for subclass H04J was drawn to the comments to be submitted on these questions; and

- whether the reference in group H04J 13/00 pointing to group H04B 1/713 was limiting.

The Rapporteur was requested to provide definitions and a RCL, and the International Bureau was invited to prepare a French version and a CRL.

Project A 028 (mechanical) – The Working Group approved, with some amendments, the English version of Annex 6 (see Technical Annex 17E to this report).

The Rapporteur was requested to consider what clarification was expected to be achieved by the proposed amendments to the title of existing subgroup F16D 3/224, and whether the term “groove centres” in the approved title of subgroup F16D 3/2245 was equivalent to the term “groove centre-lines”.

The Rapporteur was also invited to provide a French version, definitions for subgroups and a RCL, and the International Bureau was invited to prepare a CRL.

Project A 029 (electrical) – The English version of Annex 5 was approved with some amendments (see Technical Annex 18E to this report).

The Rapporteur was requested to consider whether the example in the title of subgroup H04N 5/341 should read differently, such as “e.g. by modifying the number of pixels sampled”.

The Rapporteur was further requested to prepare definitions for subgroups and a RCL, and the International Bureau was invited to provide a French version and a CRL.

Project A 030 (mechanical) – Comments were invited on whether a new main group should be created to cover the subject matter relating to “snowboard bindings”. The Rapporteur was invited to prepare a new rapporteur report and a revised rapporteur proposal taking into account the comments to be submitted.

Project C 443 (chemical) – The remaining part of the English version was approved (see Technical Annex 19E to this report).

France was invited to prepare a new French version of the complete project. The Rapporteur was invited to prepare a proposal for a RCL, and the International Bureau to check cross-references.

Project C 447 (electrical) – The Working Group noted that no comments had been received since last session and decided to suspend further consideration of this project. It was agreed that no residual main group was needed in subclass G07D.

The International Bureau was invited to prepare a comprehensive English version of all approved amendments in order to facilitate the preparation of a new French version for consideration at the next session of the Working Group.

Project C 449 (electrical) – The English version of Annex 32 was approved (see Technical Annex 20E to this report).

A French version was requested for consideration at the next session of the Working Group.

Project C 452 (electrical) – The Working Group noted the decisions of the Committee at its forty-first session, in particular that the Working Group had been invited to continue the revision work on project C 452, taking into account the following remarks:

“– all nano-technology related art should be collected in one place, namely class B82, in order to assure better visibility;

“– a new subclass should be created to provide a basis for a complete search to be made with respect to nano-technology applications, as defined in the subclass title, notes and definitions. It should be used, in combination with other classification symbols which cover relevant aspects of the subject matter, to obligatorily classify either invention or additional information. It should be used in order to easily collect statistics to identify trends in nano-technology applications and to identify places elsewhere in the IPC where nano-technology applications develop;

“– this new subclass should be created at the end of class B82, e.g., as B82Y, so as to clearly distinguish it from the other “ordinary” subclass for nano-technology. It should be broadly subdivided into main groups which should not be further subdivided according to technical features; and

“– the scope of existing subclass B82B should be broadened in order to cover technical features that fall under the new definition of “nano-structure”, as proposed in the new Note under the title of class B82 (see Annex 6 to project file C 452).”

It was further noted that several members of the Working Group, including the Rapporteur, did not agree with some of the above remarks, namely, that:

- the scope of existing subclass B82B should be broadened; and
- the new subclass should cover *exclusively* nano-technology applications.

In order to make progress on the project, it was decided to approve parts of it (see Technical Annexes 21E to 23E to this report) where consensus of all members of the Working Group already existed, and therefore:

- a Note defining “nano-size” and “nano-structure” under class B82 was approved;

- the titles of groups B82B 1/00 and B82B 3/00 were amended;
- new subclass B82Y was approved with a provisional title; and
- new main groups in subclass B82Y, covering nano-technology applications, were approved.

Comments were invited on:

- whether the scope of subclass B82B should be broadened to cover nano-structures and their manufacture which are not covered by existing groups B82B 1/00 and B82B 3/00;
- in case there was need of scope broadening, whether similar rules of classification as those proposed for subclass B82Y should apply to the new groups to be created in subclass B82B;
- the amended title and notes proposed for subclass B82B by the Rapporteur and by the Russian Federation (see Annexes 29 and 30 to the project file);
- the need to include additional main groups in subclass B82Y covering subject matter beyond “specific uses or applications of nano-structures” as proposed by the Rapporteur in said Annex 29; and
- the title and Notes proposed for subclass B82Y by the Rapporteur and by Russia in said Annexes 29 and 30.

Project C 453 (electrical) – The Working Group approved, with some amendments, the French version of Annex 21 (see Technical Annexes 24F to 27F to this report), and the amendments to the definitions of subclass G01M in Annex 22 (project D 027). It was agreed to consider whether the already approved amendments had an impact on the definitions of subclass G01R (project D 179) in the framework of project D 179, as the project was still ongoing.

The Rapporteur was requested to prepare a RCL, and the International Bureau was invited to provide a CRL, for consideration at the next session of the Working Group.

Project C 454 (electrical) – Discussions were carried out in the framework of project A 014 (see project A 014, above). This project was thus completed.

Project C 455 (chemical) – The latest rapporteur proposal was approved and appears as Technical Annexes 28E and 29E to this report.

The Rapporteur was invited to submit a French version and a proposal for a RCL. The International Bureau was invited to check cross-references.

Project C 456 (mechanical) – The Working Group welcomed the creation of the revision project in the area of “Environmentally Sound Technologies (EST)”. It was noted that two approaches had been proposed so far:

- one approach, suggested by the Rapporteur, would be to create a new indexing scheme which would be universally applied. This new scheme should be used to index front files only without any need for reclassification; and
- another approach could be the creation of a complete list of entries in the Catchword Index, under the term “EST”, where such technologies have already been classified. The United States of America had provided such a list in Annex 4 to the project file.

Comments were invited on:

- which approach should be followed;
- the list of entries provided in said Annex 4; and
- the feasibility to create an indexing scheme based on the list of said Annex 4.

IPC DEFINITIONS PROGRAM

28. Discussions were based on compilations of the relevant definition project files. The decisions of the Working Group with respect to those projects, in particular new deadlines and the 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 31, below.

29. The Working Group noted that, in some cases, the approved proposals for removal of non-limiting references showed discrepancies in comparison to the approved definition proposal. It was agreed that the former should be given priority in such cases. The International Bureau was invited to amend the definitions accordingly when introducing the proposals for the removal of non-limiting references in RIPCIS.

30. The Working Group also agreed that new definition projects should be created for all those subclasses for which proposals for definitions of groups were elaborated in an A project. These new projects would remain suspended until an office volunteered as Rapporteur. The Working Group further noted that several definition projects that were created at the sixteenth session of the Working Group for discussing the need for residual main groups were still suspended. Offices were therefore invited to consider if they had sufficient resources to volunteer for suspended projects. The Secretariat indicated that an updated table summarizing the status of the task of introduction of residual main groups would be posted to project file WG 111.

IPC Definition Projects

31. 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 018 (mechanical) – The Working Group approved the amendment of the English version of Annex 33, subject to amending the reference to class F15 according to the proposal of Japan in Annex 37 (see the Editorial Board version in Annex 38), and the list of non-limiting references to be removed from the scheme, as proposed in Annex 36 (see Technical Annex 30 to this report). The International Bureau was invited to amend the French version accordingly.

Project D 039 (chemical) – The Working Group invited a new rapporteur report.

Project D 058 (mechanical) – The Working Group agreed that the new subclass B60K would not contain non-limiting references.

Project D 060 (mechanical) – The Working Group approved the amendment of the English version of Annex 28, and invited comments on the proposal of Annex 26. The International Bureau was invited to amend the French version accordingly.

Project D 069 (mechanical) – The Working Group approved the English version of Annex 24, and agreed to create maintenance project M 716, with Sweden as Rapporteur, for amending the titles of subclass A23K and of group A23K 3/00, and the reference in group A23K 3/02.

Project D 070 (mechanical) – The Working Group approved the list of non-limiting references to be removed from the scheme, as proposed in Annex 40, subject to several amendments, including the references proposed by Sweden in Annex 32 (see Technical Annex 31 to this report).

Project D 076 (mechanical) – The Working Group invited comments on the latest proposal in Annex 30.

Project D 077 (mechanical) – The Working Group approved the list of non-limiting references to be removed from the scheme, as proposed in Annex 16 (see Technical Annex 32 to this report).

Project D 081 (mechanical) – The Working Group invited comments on Annex 23 in view of Note 2 after the title of subclass B65D.

Project D 086 (electrical) – The Working Group approved the English version of Annex 30, subject to several amendments (see the Editorial Board version in Annex 34), and invited comments on the proposal of Annex 31.

Project D 095 (chemical) – The Working Group approved the English version of Annex 17 and the list of non-limiting references to be removed from the scheme, as proposed in Annex 18, except for the references pointing to the application places A61L 24/00, B32B, A61L 15/16 and A61K 50/00, and invited comments on whether they should be kept in the scheme (see Technical Annex 33 to this report).

Project D 098 (mechanical) – The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 40.

Project D 100 (chemical) – The Working Group approved the list of non-limiting references to be removed from the scheme, as proposed in Annex 22 (see Technical Annex 34 to this report).

Project D 101 (mechanical) – The Working Group approved the English version of Annex 26, subject to several amendments (see the Editorial Board version in Annex 31). It also agreed to amend the title of subclass F16C, to amend Note 1 and to delete Note 2 (see Technical Annex 35 to this report), and invited comments on the proposal of Annex 27.

Project D 102 (mechanical) – The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 29, subject to an amendment (see the Editorial Board version in Annex 30). The Working Group further agreed that no new residual main group would be needed. It was also agreed to delete the Note after the title of subclass F16D (see Technical Annex 36 to this report) and to invite comments on the proposal of Annex 25.

Project D 103 (mechanical) – The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 42, subject to some amendments (see the Editorial Board version in Annex 43). The Working Group further agreed that no new residual main group would be needed, and that the Note after the title of subclass F16G should be deleted (see Technical Annex 37 to this report).

Project D 104 (mechanical) – The Working Group invited further comments on the need for a residual main group.

Project D 105 (mechanical) – The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 19, subject to some amendments (see the Editorial Board version in Annex 21).

Project D 106 (mechanical) – The Working Group approved the English version of Annex 33, subject to the amendments suggested in Annex 34 (see the Editorial Board version in Annex 35), and invited comments on the proposal of Annex 27.

Project D 107 (mechanical) – The Working Group approved the English version of Annex 24.

Project D 108 (mechanical) – The Working Group approved the English version of Annex 26 and the list of non-limiting references to be removed from the scheme, as proposed in Annex 25 (see Technical Annex 38 to this report).

Project D 109 (mechanical) – The Working Group approved the English version of Annex 19 and the list of non-limiting references to be removed from the scheme, as proposed in Annex 23 (see Technical Annex 39 to this report).

Project D 117 (chemical) – The Working Group invited comments on the question posed in Annex 25.

Project D 134 (mechanical) – The Working Group approved the list of non-limiting references to be removed from the scheme, as proposed in Annex 10, and agreed to create a new residual main group A45D 97/00 (see Technical Annex 40 to this report).

Project D 135 (mechanical) – The Working Group invited comments on Annexes 24 and 27 in view of the comments in Annex 28.

Project D 136 (mechanical) – The Working Group approved the English version of Annex 7, subject to several amendments (see the Editorial Board version in Annex 11), and the list of non-limiting references to be removed from the scheme, as proposed in Annex 8, subject to including in the list also the references to subclass A63B in the subclass title and to group A63F 7/24 in group A63D 3/02 and in group A63D 15/08 (see Technical Annex 41 to this report).

Project D 137 (chemical) – The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 23, subject to some amendments (see the Editorial Board version in Annex 24), and agreed that no residual main group would be needed in subclass C10J. The International Bureau was invited to include the amended subclass title of subclass C10J in the definitions.

Project D 138 (electrical) – With respect to the list of non-limiting references, the Rapporteur was invited to submit a consolidated proposal comprising all references in the subclass and to classify them as limiting, informative or as references to application places.

Project D 139 (mechanical) – The Working Group approved the English version of Annex 8, and agreed that no residual main group would be needed in subclass F23Q. It also approved the list of non-limiting references to be removed from the scheme, as proposed in Annex 10, subject to the modifications proposed in Annex 11 (see Technical Annex 42 to this report), and agreed to create maintenance project M 715, with Sweden as Rapporteur, for modifying the title of group F23Q 13/00.

Project D 140 (mechanical) – The Working Group approved the English version of Annex 13. It also approved the list of non-limiting references to be removed from the scheme, as proposed in Annex 14 (see Technical Annex 43 to this report). Comments were invited on whether references should be added to the title of subclass F23R, as proposed in Annex 14, and on the Rapporteur's conclusion that no residual main group would be needed in this subclass.

Project D 171 (C 448) (electrical) – France was invited to submit a revised proposal for the French version.

Project D 173 (electrical) – The Working Group invited further comments on the French version in Annex 11, in particular, on the appropriate use of the terms “s’écoulant” or “fluent”. The Rapporteur was invited to submit a proposal for the removal of non-limiting references.

Project D 174 (electrical) – The Working Group invited further comments on the French version in Annex 17, in particular, on the appropriate use of the terms “s’écoulant” or “fluent”. The Rapporteur was invited to submit a proposal for the removal of non-limiting references.

Project D 175 (electrical) – The Working Group approved the English version of Annex 6, subject to the amendment mentioned in Annex 12, and invited further comments on the French version in Annex 9, in particular, on the appropriate use of the terms “s’écoulant” or “fluent”. It also approved the list of non-limiting references to be removed from the scheme, as proposed in Annex 8, subject to the amendment proposed in Annex 12 (see Technical Annex 44 to this report).

Project D 176 (electrical) – The Working Group approved the English version of Annex 9 and the French version of Annex 10. The Rapporteur was invited to submit a proposal for the removal of non-limiting references.

Project D 177 (electrical) – The Working Group approved the English version of Annex 12, subject to the amendment suggested in Annex 14 (see the Editorial Board version in Annex 15). The Rapporteur was invited to submit a proposal for the removal of non-limiting references.

Project D 178 (electrical) – The Working Group approved the English version of Annex 7 and invited further comments on the French version in Annex 9, in particular the appropriate use of the terms “s’écoulant” or “fluent”. The Rapporteur was invited to submit a proposal for the removal of non-limiting references.

Project D 180 (electrical) – The Working Group invited comments on the English version in Annex 7 and the French version in Annex 10. The Rapporteur was invited to submit a consolidated proposal for non-limiting references to be removed from the scheme, taking into account the latest comments.

Project D 187 (electrical) – The Working Group approved the English version of Annex 8 and the amendment of the reference in the title of subclass G21B as proposed in Annex 9 (see Technical Annex 45 to this report).

Project D 188 (electrical) – The Working Group invited a further round of comments on Annexes 8 and 12.

Project D 189 (electrical) – The Working Group approved the English version of Annex 7 and invited comments on the proposal of Annex 8.

Project D 190 (electrical) – The Working Group approved the English version of Annex 13 and invited comments on the proposal of Annex 14.

Project D 194 (chemical) – The Working Group invited the Rapporteur to submit a consolidated proposal.

Project D 195 (chemical) – The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 16 and the list of non-limiting references to be removed from the scheme, as proposed in Annex 11 (see Technical Annex 46 to this report).

Project D 196 (chemical) – The Working Group approved the English version of Annex 15 and the list of non-limiting references to be removed from the scheme, as proposed in Annex 16 (see Technical Annex 47 to this report).

Project D 197 (chemical) – The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 12 and the list of non-limiting references to be removed from the scheme, as proposed in Annex 11 (see Technical Annex 48 to this report).

Project D 198 (chemical) – The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 15 and the list of non-limiting references to be removed from the scheme, as proposed in Annex 14 (see Technical Annex 49 to this report).

Project D 199 (chemical) – The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 17, subject to some amendments (see the Editorial Board version in Annex 18), and the list of non-limiting references to be removed from the scheme, as proposed in Annex 16 (see Technical Annex 50 to this report).

Project D 200 (chemical) – The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 17 and the list of non-limiting references to be removed from the scheme, as proposed in Annex 16 (see Technical Annex 51 to this report).

Project D 201 (chemical) – The Working Group approved the English version of Annex 9, and the list of non-limiting references to be removed from the scheme, as proposed in Annex 10 (see Technical Annex 52 to this report).

Project D 202 (chemical) – The Working Group approved the English version of Annex 7, subject to an amendment (see the Editorial Board version in Annex 9), and the list of non-limiting references to be removed from the scheme, as proposed in Annex 8, subject to keeping the reference to group A01N 25/18 (see Technical Annex 53 to this report).

Project D 203 (chemical) – The Working Group invited a new rapporteur proposal for the definition taking into account the comments of Annex 7, and comments on the list of non-limiting references to be removed from the scheme in Annex 8.

Project D 204 (chemical) – The Working Group invited further comments on Annex 7. With respect to the list of informative references, the Rapporteur was invited to submit a proposal comprising all references in the subclass and to classify them accordingly as limiting, informative or as references to application places.

Project D 205 (chemical) – The Working Group invited the Rapporteur to include explanations of the terms requested in Annex 7 in the glossary section of the definition. With respect to the list of informative references in Annex 5, the Rapporteur was invited to submit a proposal comprising all references in the subclass and to classify them accordingly as limiting, informative or as references to application places.

Project D 206 (chemical) – The Working Group approved the English version of Annex 6 and the list of non-limiting references to be removed from the scheme, as proposed in Annex 5 (see Technical Annex 54 to this report).

Project D 207 (chemical) – With respect to the list of informative references in Annex 6, the Rapporteur was invited to submit a proposal comprising all references in the subclass and to classify them accordingly as limiting, informative or as references to application places.

Project D 208 (chemical) – The Working Group invited comments on the proper placement and wording of the reference to group C07C 11/24 in the subsection of limiting references, and comments on the rapporteur proposal in Annex 5 regarding this reference and a reference to group C07C 7/00 to be put in the title of subclass C10H.

Project D 209 (chemical) – The Working Group invited comments on Annex 6, in particular, on whether the reference to subclass B01D could be more specific, whether the second informative reference pointing to three different subclasses could be amended and whether the limiting reference to subclass C01B in the definition should also be included in the scheme. The Working Group approved the removal of the non-limiting references as proposed in Annex 5 (see Technical Annex 55 to this report).

Project D 210 (chemical) – The Rapporteur was invited to submit a proposal for the removal of non-limiting references from the scheme. He was asked to take into account the last place rule applied in subclass C10M and to include in his proposal also limiting references being obsolete in view of this rule. The Working Group also invited comments on the definition proposal in Annex 7.

Project D 211 (chemical) – The Working Group invited a consolidated rapporteur proposal taking into account the latest comments.

Project D 212 (chemical) – The Working Group approved the English version of Annex 5, subject to several amendments (see the Editorial Board version in Annex 8).

Project D 213 (chemical) – The Working Group approved the English version of Annex 5, subject to several amendments (see the Editorial Board version in Annex 10) and invited a proposal for the removal of non-limiting references from the scheme.

IPC MAINTENANCE

General

32. Discussions were based on compilations of the relevant maintenance project files. The Working Group considered eight pending IPC 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 Maintenance Projects

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

Project M 014 (mechanical) – The Working Group approved the English version of Annex 30 to the project file (see Technical Annex 56E to this report).

The French version was also approved and appears as Technical Annex 56F to this report.

Project M 101 (chemical) – The French version was approved and appears as Technical Annex 109F to this report.

The Rapporteur was invited to submit a proposal for a RCL and the International Bureau to check cross-references.

Project M 107 (mechanical) – The Working Group approved, with some modifications, the French version of Annex 22 to the project file (see Technical Annexes 110F and 111F to this report). The project was thus completed.

Project M 701 (mechanical) – The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 18 to the project file (see Technical Annex 112F to this report). The project was thus completed.

Project M 704 (mechanical) – The Working Group approved, with some modifications, the proposed amendments to the English version and the French version of Annex 7 to the project file (see Technical Annexes 113E and 113F to this report). The project was thus completed.

Project M 705 (chemical) – The French version was approved and appears as Technical Annex 114F to this report. The project was thus completed.

Project M 707 (mechanical) – The Working Group noted that no comments had been received since last session. A further round of comments was invited on the questions set out in the report of the Working Group at its nineteenth session (see paragraph 41 of document IPC/WG/19/2) in the light of Sweden's submission in Annex 8, to be followed by a rapporteur report thereafter.

Project M 708 (electrical) – The Working Group agreed with the Rapporteur that no further reference should be introduced in subclass G01T. The project was thus completed.

Project M 713 (chemical) – The modified title of subclass C10J was approved, as proposed by the Rapporteur, and appears as Technical Annex 115E to this report.

Comments were invited on:

- the remaining rapporteur proposal (see Annex 7 to the project file);
- the relationship between subclasses C10J and C10G, and whether a reference to subclass C10G should be introduced; and
- the need for a Class Index in class C10.

STATUS OF THE WORK

34. The Chair stated that, on the agenda of this session, 24 definition projects were approved in English and ten definition projects were completed in both English and French. In total, 123 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 six revision projects have been dealt with and completed in both languages (see Annex III to this report for the status of each revision project). Furthermore, six maintenance projects have been dealt with and completed in both languages (see Annex III to this report for the status of each maintenance project).

NEXT SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP

35. The Working Group, having assessed the workload expected for its next session, 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.

36. The Working Group noted the following dates for its twenty-second session:

November 30 to December 4, 2009.

37. *The Working Group unanimously adopted this report by electronic means on July 15, 2009.*

[Annexes follow]