

Special Union for the International Patent Classification (IPC Union) IPC Revision Working Group

**Thirty-First Session
Geneva, May 12 to 16, 2014**

REPORT

adopted by the Working Group

INTRODUCTION

1. The IPC Revision Working Group (hereinafter referred to as “the Working Group”) held its thirty-first session in Geneva from May 12 to 16, 2014. The following members of the Working Group were represented at the session: Brazil, China, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, and the European Patent Office (EPO) (24). Singapore was represented as observer. The list of participants appears as Annex I to this report.

2. The session was opened by Mr. A. Farassopoulos, Director, International Classifications and Standards Division.

OFFICERS

3. The Working Group unanimously elected Mr. R. Iasevoli (EPO) as Chair and Mr. J. Cowen (United Kingdom) as Vice-Chair for 2014.

4. Mrs. N. Xu (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-SIXTH SESSION OF THE IPC COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

7. The Secretariat presented an oral report on the forty-sixth session of the IPC Committee of Experts (hereinafter referred to as “the Committee”) (see document IPC/CE/46/2).

8. It was noted that, after the Committee adopted the IPC Revision Roadmap at its forty-fifth session, the number of C projects had rapidly increased, and furthermore, in addition to the FiveIPOffices, more offices submitted revision requests under the framework of the IPC Revision Roadmap.

9. It was further noted that the Committee had approved the principles of the procedure of the IPC revision, as needed for the new IPC Revision Management System (IPCRMS), the interaction between IPCRMS and Offices and the proposed changes in the Master Files and the IPC Publication (see Annex III to document IPC/CE/46/2).

10. It was noted, in particular, that the Committee had decided to include the task of removal of non-limiting references (NLRs) in the framework of revision and maintenance projects by the corresponding rapporteurs. In view of the fact that 348 subclasses remained to be completed in that respect and in order to accelerate the removal of NLRs, the Committee had decided to create pilot project WG 301 with the International Bureau as Rapporteur, to cover 10 subclasses, by exclusively using the IPC e-forum without discussion at the Working Group. Offices would submit comments to the IPC e-forum indicating only disagreement with individual proposals by the International Bureau. If there is substantial agreement, the International Bureau would submit a plan to continue and complete the removal of NLRs and an alternative procedure instead in case of important disagreement, at the next session of the Committee.

11. The Committee further adopted amendments to the *Guide* and the Guidelines for Revision of the IPC. Finally, the Committee considered several issues related to reclassification.

REPORT ON THE TENTH SESSION OF THE IP5 WG1-WORKING GROUP ON CLASSIFICATION

12. The Working Group noted an oral report by SIPO on behalf of the FiveIPOffices.

13. During the tenth session of the IP5 WG1, the EPO and the USPTO presented an update on CPC, and the JPO presented its update on FI/F-term. SIPO and KIPO also introduced the newest progress on their CPC projects. The FiveIPOffices discussed the result of the FI-to-CPC statistical mapping presented by the EPO, and then KIPO presented a study on the classification practices among the FiveIPOffices. The FiveIPOffices also reviewed the existing revision projects and discussed the new revision proposals. Finally, the IP5 WG1 launched eight new F-projects, and agreed that project F 037 would directly enter into the IPC phase while three existing F-projects, namely F 019, F 023 and F 033 were moved to the IPC phase. Also at this session some clarifications were made to the Operating Procedures of the IP5 WG1.

IPC REVISION PROGRAM

14. The Working Group discussed 36 revision projects, namely: A 052, A 059, C 459, C 460, C 461, C 462, C 464, C 465, C 466, C 467, C 468, C 469, C 470, C 471, C 472, C 473, C 474, C 475, F 008, F 013, F 014, F 015, F 019, F 020, F 021, F 022, F 023, F 025, F 026, F 027, F 028, F 029, F 030, F 031, F 032 and F 037. The status of those projects and the list of future actions and deadlines are indicated in the corresponding projects on the IPC e-forum. All decisions, observations and technical annexes are available in the "Working Group Decision" annexes of the corresponding projects on the IPC e-forum.

15. The Working Group completed 10 revision projects with respect to scheme, namely: C 459, C 461, C 462, C 465, C 467, C 468, C 475, F 013, F 014 and F 037 which would enter into force in IPC 2015.01.

IPC DEFINITIONS PROGRAM

16. The Working Group discussed 21 definition projects, namely: projects D 009, D 049, D 191, D 224, D 228, D 233, D 247, D 248, D 255, D 261, D 271, D 273, D 283, D 294, D 297, D 299, D 300, D 301, D 302, D 303 and D 304. The status of those projects and the list of future actions and deadlines are indicated in the corresponding projects on the IPC e-forum. All decisions, observations and technical annexes are available in the "Working Group Decision" annexes of the corresponding projects on the e-forum. The Working Group completed 10 definition projects which would be published with the IPC 2015.01 version.

IPC MAINTENANCE

17. The Working Group discussed seven maintenance projects, namely: M 011, M 012, M 013, M 014, M 748, M 750 and M 751. The status of those projects and the list of future actions and deadlines are indicated in the corresponding projects on the e-forum. All decisions, observations and technical annexes are available in the "Working Group Decision" annexes of the corresponding projects on the IPC e-forum.

18. The Working group completed five maintenance projects, namely: M 011, M 012, M 013, M 014 and M 750, which would enter into force in IPC 2015.01.

19. The Working Group agreed to create three new maintenance projects as follows:

- Mechanical:
- M 752 (F21V, Sweden) – removal of NLRs, originating from project C 467;
 - M 753 (B31, Sweden) – removal of NLRs of subclasses under B 31, originating from project M 750; and
 - M 754 (B65B 59/00, Germany) – originating from project D 233.

UPDATES ON IPC-RELATED IT SUPPORT

20. The Working Group noted a short presentation by the International Bureau on the status of the various IT systems and projects supporting the IPC.

21. The International Bureau reported on the progress of the FIPCPC parallel viewer project and announced that a first release was made available at the end of April 2014. A new version 5.0 of the IPC Internet publication platform (IPCPUB) integrating the most recent versions of the CPC and FI would then replace the current one.

22. The International Bureau reported on the status of the IPC Revision Management (IPCRM) Project. After the creation of terms of references for the outsourcing of the solution, the project is now at the stage of publishing an expression of interest (EOI) to select companies eligible for request for proposals.

23. The International Bureau indicated that the backlog of IPC reclassification should be cleared through the upload in IPCRECLASS of subsequent waves of Working Lists for old editions. The EPO was requested to produce those Working Lists, as well as the IPC 2015.01 reclassification Working Lists from the Master Classification Database as early as possible, preferably in July 2014.

NEXT SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP

24. The Working Group, having assessed the workload expected for its next session, agreed tentatively to devote Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning to the mechanical field, Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning to the chemical field and Thursday afternoon and Friday to the electrical field.

25. The Working Group noted the following tentative dates for its thirty-second session:

October 27 to 31, 2014.

26. This report was unanimously adopted by the Working Group by electronic means on June 5, 2014.

[Annexes follow]