

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

**Thirty-Sixth Session
Geneva, October 31 to November 4, 2016**

REPORT

adopted by the Working Group

INTRODUCTION

1. The IPC Revision Working Group (hereinafter referred to as “the Working Group”) held its thirty-fifth session in Geneva from October 31 to November 4, 2016. The following members of the Working Group were represented at the session: Brazil, Canada, China, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Japan, Norway, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States of America, the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI), the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO), the European Patent Office (EPO) (22). The list of participants appears as Annex I to this report.

2. The session was opened by Mr. K. Fushimi, Director, International Classifications and Standards Division.

OFFICERS

3. Mrs. N. Xu (WIPO) acted as Secretary of the session.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

4. The Working Group unanimously adopted the agenda, with several modifications, 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 FIFTEENTH SESSION OF THE IP5 WG1-WORKING GROUP ON CLASSIFICATION

6. The Working Group noted an oral report by the State Intellectual Property Office of the People's Republic of China (SIPO) on behalf of the FiveIPOffices.

7. The Working Group noted that during the fifteenth session of the IP5 WG1, the FiveIPOffices agreed to promote three F-projects to the IPC phase, namely: F 050, F 078 and F 080.

8. The Working Group further noted that the FiveIPOffices agreed that E/J proposals under discussion in the pre-IP5 phase shall be added to the list of active IP5 projects (F-projects) and proposals (P-proposals) made available to the IPC community, for the purpose of increasing transparency of the work of the FiveIPOffices. SIPO, on behalf of the FiveIPOffices, had posted such updated list of all active IP5 proposals and projects to the IPC e-forum (hereinafter referred to as the e-forum) under project [CE 456](#).

IPC REVISION PROGRAM

9. The Working Group discussed 35 revision projects, namely: [C 471](#), [C 474](#), [C 476](#), [C 479](#), [C 481](#), [C 483](#), [C 484](#), [C 486](#), [C 487](#), [F 008](#), [F 024](#), [F 034](#), [F 035](#), [F 039](#), [F 041](#), [F 044](#), [F 045](#), [F 046](#), [F 047](#), [F 051](#), [F 052](#), [F 054](#), [F 055](#), [F 056](#), [F 057](#), [F 058](#), [F 059](#), [F 061](#), [F 062](#), [F 063](#), [F 064](#), [F 065](#), [F 066](#), [F 067](#) and [F 069](#).

10. 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 e-forum.

11. The Working Group iterated its invitation to rapporteurs of revision projects to review systematically the references in the revised areas of the revision projects and to provide proposals for removal of non-limiting references (hereinafter referred to as NRLs) from the scheme if any, as well as to provide definitions where needed (see Annex VII to document IPC/CE/47/2).

12. The Secretariat indicated that an updated table summarizing the status of the removal of NRLs from the scheme would be posted to project file [WG 191](#).

IPC DEFINITIONS PROGRAM

13. The Working Group discussed three definition projects, namely: [D 271](#), [D 306](#) and [D 228](#).

14. 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 e-forum. The Working Group completed two definition projects which would be published with the IPC 2018.01 version. 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](#).

15. The Working Group agreed to create a new definition project, namely [D 310](#) with the EPO as rapporteur, dealing with subclass H05K, originating from project [M 613](#).

IPC MAINTENANCE

16. The Working Group discussed seven maintenance projects, namely: [M 613](#), [M 756](#), [M 768](#), [M 769](#), [M 770](#), [M 771](#) and [M 772](#).

17. 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 e-forum.

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

Chemical: [M 773](#) (A21D, Brazil) – originating from project [C 481](#);

Electrical: [M 774](#) (G06T, United Kingdom) – originating from project [C 474](#); and [M 775](#) (H04W, Brazil) – originating from projects [F 058](#) and [F 062](#).

PROPOSAL ON THE USE OF THE IPCRMS AND THE IPC E-FORUM

19. Discussions were based on Annex 4 of project [WG 351](#), which contained a proposal by the International Bureau concerning the procedures on the use of the IPC Revision Management Solution (IPCRMS) and its relationship with the IPC e-forum.

20. The Working Group agreed that the e-forum would continue to be the main discussion forum, e.g., to manage the IPC revision workflow, setting or monitoring deadlines for actions, allowing offices to submit general comments, etc., which would be complemented by the IPCRMS that allowed drafting, management and decision on amendments of the IPC in a more efficient manner.

21. The Working Group agreed with the proposed procedures as best practice on the use of the IPCRMS and the e-forum, by which offices would be able to follow the discussion on the e-forum without checking both the IPCRMS and the e-forum on a daily basis.

22. The Working Group strongly encouraged offices to start using the IPCRMS following the agreed procedures, which appear as Annex III to this report.

23. The Working Group further agreed with the proposed deadlines for actions to be followed by offices in paragraphs (a) to (c) of the said proposal in order to assure effective and efficient discussions during the physical Working Group sessions. The Working Group requested the International Bureau to apply them in a strict manner.

24. It was agreed that the procedures could be further improved once more experience using the IPCRMS and the e-forum from offices and the International Bureau was accumulated.

UPDATES ON IPC-RELATED IT SUPPORT

25. The Working Group noted a presentation by the International Bureau on the updated status of the various IT systems and projects supporting the IPC.
26. The Working Group was informed about the status and the detailed schedule of the planned migration to named login authentication for IPC related applications. It was further noted that the Organization-wide decision in June 2016 on the changed authentication technology delayed such migration.
27. The Working Group was also informed that the IPC 2017.01 Working List would be made available in mid-November 2016.
28. The Working Group was further informed about the implementation status of the upgrade of the IPC publication platform (IPCPUB 7) and was provided with a live demonstration on the most recently implemented features, and in particular, on the archiving features for legacy IPC versions and smart search based on the newly reworked IPCCAT web service.
29. The International Bureau would make available the IPCPUB 7 software package, upon requests by offices, in order to further assist offices concerned in the publication of the IPC in their respective national translations prepared by using the IPCRMS.

NEXT SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP

30. The Working Group, having assessed the workload expected for its next session, agreed to devote the first two days to the electrical field, the following day to the chemical field and the last two days to the mechanical field.
31. The Working Group noted the following tentative dates for its thirty-seventh session:

May 15 to 19, 2017.

32. This report was unanimously adopted by the Working Group by electronic means on November 29, 2016.

[Annexes follow]