

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

**Thirty-Seventh Session
Geneva, May 15 to 19, 2017**

REPORT

adopted by the Working Group

INTRODUCTION

1. The IPC Revision Working Group (hereinafter referred to as “the Working Group”) held its thirty-seventh session in Geneva from May 15 to 19, 2017. The following members of the Working Group were represented at the session: Brazil, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI), the European Patent Office (EPO) (26). Patent Office of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC Patent Office) and Saudi Arabia were represented as Observers. 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. The Working Group unanimously elected Mr. F. Brady (Ireland) as Chair and Mr. E. Lee (Republic of Korea) as Vice-Chair for 2017.

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

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5. The Working Group unanimously adopted the revised 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-NINTH SESSION OF THE IPC COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

7. The Working Group noted an oral report by the Secretariat on the forty-ninth session of the IPC Committee of Experts (hereinafter referred to as “the Committee”) (see document IPC/CE/49/2).

8. The Working Group noted that the Committee adopted the updated IPC Revision Roadmap by agreeing on the continuous application of the IPC Revision Roadmap with updates including additional elements such as New Emerging Technologies, as the road map guiding IPC revision work by the Working Group. It also noted the agreement by the Committee that this updated IPC Revision Roadmap would be effective until otherwise decided by the Committee.

9. It was also noted that the Committee decided to create a task force dedicated to specific aspects in relation to the IPC Working List Management Solution (hereinafter referred to as “IPCWLMS”) business requirements in order to realize the handover of the reclassification working lists management from the EPO to WIPO, which was foreseen in 2018 for IPC 2019.01 and that the physical meeting of the task force would be held in the week following this session.

10. The Working Group further noted that the Committee adopted amendments to the *Guide to the IPC* and the Guidelines for Revision of the IPC, including the use of new indicators.

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

11. The Working Group noted an oral report by the EPO on behalf of the FiveIPOffices.

12. It was noted that, during the sixteenth session of the IP5 WG1, the IP5 offices agreed to promote 14 IP5 projects (F projects) to the IPC phase.

13. The Working Group further noted that the EPO, on behalf of the FiveIPOffices, had posted, to the IPC e-forum (hereinafter referred to as the “e-forum”) under project [CE 456](#) (see Annex 19 to project file), a list of all ongoing IP5 projects and proposals, in order to avoid overlap between the IPC revision requests and the IP5 ongoing revision activities.

PROPOSAL ON THE TREATMENT OF REFERENCES IN NOTES AND GUIDANCE HEADINGS IN THE IPC

14. Discussions were based on Annex 1 to project file [WG 371](#) containing a proposed solution to the problem of the existence of references (or “()”) in some of the notes and guidance headings in the IPC.

15. The Working Group agreed on the proposed solution that three new maintenance projects would be created with the International Bureau as Rapporteur covering three technical fields, dealing with 18 cases that had been found in the notes and guidance headings in the IPC (see paragraph 30 below). It was further noted that four more cases which overlapped with existing revision and maintenance projects would be dealt with under those projects concerned, for which the International Bureau would submit the proposed amendments to those projects for the consideration by rapporteurs of those projects.

IPC REVISION PROGRAM

16. The Working Group discussed 35 revision projects, namely: [C 476](#), [C 479](#), [C 486](#), [C 487](#), [C 488](#), [C 489](#), [C 490](#), [C 491](#), [F 008](#), [F 024](#), [F 035](#), [F 039](#), [F 044](#), [F 045](#), [F 046](#), [F 047](#), [F 050](#), [F 051](#), [F 052](#), [F 054](#), [F 055](#), [F 056](#), [F 058](#), [F 059](#), [F 061](#), [F 062](#), [F 063](#), [F 064](#), [F 065](#), [F 066](#), [F 067](#), [F 069](#), [F 078](#), [F 080](#) and [F 087](#).

17. The Working Group completed 22 revision projects with respect to scheme revision, namely: [C 476](#), [C 479](#), [C 486](#), [F 008](#), [F 024](#), [F 039](#), [F 044](#), [F 046](#), [F 047](#), [F 051](#), [F 052](#), [F 054](#), [F 055](#), [F 056](#), [F 058](#), [F 061](#), [F 062](#), [F 063](#), [F 064](#), [F 066](#), [F 069](#) and [F 080](#) which would enter into force in IPC 2018.01.

18. 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.

19. Rapporteurs of revision projects were reminded to review systematically the references in the revised areas of the revision projects and to provide proposals for removal of Non-Limiting References (NLRs) from the scheme if any, together with the revision proposal, as well as to provide definitions where needed (see Annex VII to document IPC/CE/47/2).

20. The Secretariat informed the Working Group that the standard table for proposals of removal of NLRs, which was available as Annex 36 under project [D 000](#), as well as Annex 21 under project [WG 191](#), should be used for the future submissions of proposals of removal of NLRs.

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

22. The Secretariat further indicated that volunteering offices were invited to carry out the regular task for the removal of NLRs under maintenance projects (M 200 to M 500). The Working Group noted with gratitude that Sweden volunteered to be Rapporteur for the task of removal of NLRs in subclasses F23H, F23J, F23K, F23M, F23N, F24B, F24C and F24D. Projects M 212 to M 219 were therefore created accordingly (see Annex VII to document IPC/CE/47/2 for greater detail with respect to procedures).

IPC DEFINITIONS PROGRAM

23. The Working Group discussed two definition projects, namely: [D 271](#) and [D 310](#).
24. It was noted that the Working Group completed definition project [D 271](#), which would be published with the IPC 2018.01 version.
25. The status of project [D 310](#) and the list of future actions and deadlines are indicated in the project [D 310](#) on the e-forum. The decision and observations are also available in the “Working Group Decision” Annex of the project on the e-forum.
26. The Working Group noted that guidelines for drafting definitions would need to be updated, and in particular, on how to draft definitions at subclass, main group and subgroup-level with respect to limiting references under the heading “References” and their relationship with the scheme. The International Bureau was invited to submit a proposal to modify the said guidelines to be submitted to the Committee for its consideration.

IPC MAINTENANCE

27. The Working Group discussed ten maintenance projects, namely: [M 611](#), [M 614](#), [M 616](#), [M 769](#), [M 771](#), [M 773](#), [M 774](#), [M 775](#), [M 776](#) and [M 777](#).
28. The Working Group completed five maintenance projects, namely: [M 614](#), [M 616](#), [M 771](#), [M 773](#) and [M 777](#) which would enter into force in IPC 2018.01.
29. 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.
30. The Working Group agreed to create eight new maintenance projects as follows:
 - Mechanical: [M 780](#) (International Bureau) – originating from project [WG 371](#);
[M 782](#) (A63B 67/16, United Kingdom) – originating from project [M 611](#);
[M 784](#) (F16L, China) – originating from project [F 052](#);
[M 785](#) (B60N, China) – originating from project [F 054](#); and
[M 786](#) (B32B, EPO) - originating from project [C 487](#).
 - Chemical: [M 778](#) (International Bureau) – originating from project [WG 371](#);
[M 781](#) (C12Q, Canada) – originating from project [F 047](#); and
[M 783](#) (B05B, Japan) – originating from project [F 024](#).
 - Electrical: [M 779](#) (International Bureau) – originating from project [WG 371](#)

UPDATES ON IPC-RELATED IT SUPPORT

31. The Working Group noted a [presentation](#) by the Secretariat on the status update of the various IT systems and projects supporting the IPC.
32. The Working Group was informed, in the context of the IPCWLMS project, about the status of MCD findings and some related IPCRECLASS developments to address the treatment of legacy IPC reclassification and to simplify the definition of the future Working Lists distribution algorithm.
33. The Working Group was also informed about the status of the upgrade of the IPC publication platform (IPCPUB 7) to be used for the IPC 2018.01 early publication with a live demonstration of the most recently implemented features.
34. The International Bureau announced the availability of the corresponding IPCPUB 7 software package for offices publishing their respective national translations prepared in the IPCRMS by those offices.
35. The Working Group noted that several offices expressed their desire to improve the general performance of IPCPUB 7, e.g. to increase the density of displayed information for expert users.

NEXT SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP

36. 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.
37. The Working Group noted the following tentative dates for its thirty-eighth session:

November 13 to 17, 2017.

38. This report was unanimously adopted by the Working Group by electronic means on June 12, 2017.

[Annexes follow]