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

**Forty-First Session
Geneva, May 13 to 17, 2019**

REPORT

adopted by the Working Group

INTRODUCTION

1. The IPC Revision Working Group (hereinafter referred to as “the Working Group”) held its forty-first session in Geneva from May 13 to 17, 2019. The following members of the Working Group were represented at the session: Belarus, Brazil, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Japan, Mexico, Republic of Korea, Romania, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America, the Eurasian Patent Organization (EAPO), the European Patent Office (EPO) (22). Hungary, Singapore and Viet Nam were represented as observers. The list of participants appears as Annex I to this report.

2. The session was opened by Mr. Y. Takagi, Assistant Director General, who welcomed the participants.

OFFICERS

3. The Working Group unanimously re-elected Mr. F. Brady (Ireland) as Chair and elected Mr. Jeremy Cowen (United Kingdom) as Vice-Chair for 2019.

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 NINETEENTH SESSION OF THE IP5 WG1-WORKING GROUP ON CLASSIFICATION

7. The Working Group noted an oral report by the USPTO on behalf of the five IPOffices.

8. It was noted that during the nineteenth session of the IP5 WG1, the five IPOffices agreed to promote 11 IP5 projects (F projects) to the IPC phase.

9. The Working Group further noted that the USPTO, on behalf of the five IPOffices, had posted to the IPC e-forum (hereinafter referred to as the “e-forum”) under project [CE 456](#), a list of all ongoing IP5 projects and proposals (see Annex 27 to project file) in order to avoid overlap between the IPC revision requests and the IP5 ongoing revision activities.

REPORT ON THE FIFTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE IPC COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

10. The Working Group noted an oral report by the Secretariat on the fifty-first session of the IPC Committee of Experts (hereinafter referred to as “the Committee”) (see document IPC/CE/51/2).

11. It was noted that the Committee expressed its satisfaction with the work done by the Working Group and invited the Working Group to consider the effective use of more flexible and efficient format for its work. The Committee further encouraged offices to actively participate in the IPC Revision Program by submitting revision requests under the IPC Revision Roadmap.

12. The Working Group noted, in particular, that the Committee decided to endorse a “New Class(es) Approach” and mandated the Expert Group on Semiconductor Technology (EGST) to continue its work by focusing on this approach only, with special attention to minimizing the reclassification workload.

13. It was further noted that the Committee adopted an updated plan for removal of non-limiting references from the scheme of the IPC and an agenda item concerning the status of this task would be introduced at each session of the Working Group for its information (see Annex II to this report and paragraphs 26 to 30, below).

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

IPC REVISION PROGRAM

15. The Working Group discussed 50 revision projects, namely: projects: [C 488](#), [C 490](#), [C 492](#), [C 493](#), [C 494](#), [C 495](#), [C 496](#), [C 497](#), [F 050](#), [F 068](#), [F 070](#), [F 071](#), [F 072](#), [F 074](#), [F 075](#), [F 076](#), [F 078](#), [F 081](#), [F 082](#), [F 089](#), [F 094](#), [F 095](#), [F 097](#), [F 098](#), [F 100](#), [F 101](#), [F 103](#), [F 104](#), [F 106](#), [F 107](#), [F 108](#), [F 109](#), [F 110](#), [F 111](#), [F 112](#), [F 113](#), [F 114](#), [F 115](#), [F 116](#), [F 117](#), [F 119](#), [F 121](#), [F 123](#), [F 124](#), [F 125](#), [F 126](#), [F 128](#), [F 129](#), [F 130](#) and [F 131](#).

16. The Working Group completed 22 revision projects with respect to scheme revision, as well as definitions where available, namely: [C 488](#), [C 494](#), [C 495](#), [C 496](#), [F 078](#), [F 095](#), [F 097](#), [F 100](#), [F 101](#), [F 103](#), [F 108](#), [F 109](#), [F 111](#), [F 112](#), [F 114](#), [F 117](#), [F 124](#), [F 125](#), [F 128](#), [F 129](#), [F 130](#) and [F 131](#) which would enter into force in IPC 2020.01.

17. The Working Group completed eight revision projects with respect to scheme revision only, namely: [C 493](#), [F 050](#), [F 068](#), [F 070](#), [F 081](#), [F 094](#), [F 110](#) and [F 113](#) which would enter into force in IPC 2020.01.

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.

IPC DEFINITIONS PROGRAM

19. The Working Group discussed three definition projects, namely: [D 310](#), [D 311](#) and [D 312](#).

20. 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.

21. The Working Group completed one definition project, namely: [D 311](#), which would be published in IPC 2020.01.

IPC MAINTENANCE

22. The Working Group discussed six maintenance projects, namely: [M 622](#), [M 623](#), [M 625](#), [M 769](#), [M 789](#) and [M 790](#).

23. 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.

24. The Working Group completed six maintenance projects, namely: [M 622](#), [M 623](#), [M 625](#), [M 769](#), [M 789](#) and [M 790](#) which would enter into force in IPC 2020.01.

25. The Working Group agreed to create eight new maintenance projects as follows:

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| Chemical: | M 792 (A01N, EPO) – originating from project F 109 ; |
| | M 793 (C40B, EPO) – originating from project M 623 ; |
| | M 794 (C03C, US) – originating from project M 623 ; |
| Electrical: | M 795 (H02M, US) – originating from project M 622 ; |
| | M 796 (G01N, EPO) – originating from project M 622 ; |
| | M 797 (H04W, US) – originating from project M 622 ; |
| | M 799 (G02B, Korea) – originating from project F 100 ; and |
| Mechanical: | M 800 (EPO) – originating from project M 625 |

STATUS OF REMOVAL OF NLRs WITHIN M 200 TO M 500 PROJECTS

26. Discussions were based on a status report prepared by the International Bureau, concerning maintenance projects for removal of NLRs for the scheme of the IPC (see Annex 34 to project file [WG 191](#)).

27. The Working Group noted that among the 15 active projects, agreement had been reached for the following nine projects during discussions on the e-forum and these projects could be considered completed. The corresponding amendments to the scheme and definitions would thus be included in IPC 2020.01.

M 213	Removal of NLRs in subclass F23J;
M 214	Removal of NLRs in subclass F23K;
M 215	Removal of NLRs in subclass F23M;
M 216	Removal of NLRs in subclass F23N;
M 219	Removal of NLRs in subclass F24D;
M 221	Removal of NLRs in subclass B09C;
M 222	Removal of NLRs in subclass B01B;
M 225	Removal of NLRs in subclass A01J; and
M 226	Removal of NLRs in subclass A01L.

28. The Working Group agreed that discussions on the harmonization of the title of group F23H 9/00 in English and French should continue within project [M 212](#). The Working Group would consider, at a later stage, whether there would be a need to convert project [M 212](#) to a revision project.

29. The Working Group further noted that discussions should continue on the e-forum for the remaining four active projects. The status of all projects and the list of future actions and deadlines for ongoing projects are indicated in the corresponding projects on the e-forum.

30. 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](#).

UPDATES ON IPC-RELATED IT SUPPORT

31. The Working Group noted a brief [presentation](#) by the International Bureau on the status of the various IT systems and projects supporting the IPC.

32. The Working Group was informed on the progress of the IPCWLM project and was reminded about the deadline for feedback on the second wave of tests requested by offices during the fifty-first session of the Committee.

33. The International Bureau presented various IPCPUB evolutions such as RCL and compilations tabs as well as Definitions. Those improvements will appear in the IPC 2020.01 publication.

34. The Working Group emphasized its interest in an increased IPCCAT visibility in the IPCPUB user interface through a new tab dedicated to search.

35. The Working Group noted that, as requested by Offices at the fifty-first session of the Committee, the International Bureau had initiated actions toward integration of the e-forum functionality into IPCRMS.

NEXT SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP

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

37. The Working Group noted the following tentative dates for its forty-second session:

November 4 to 8, 2019.

38. This report was unanimously adopted by the Working Group by electronic means on June 13, 2019.

[Annexes follow]