

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

Fifty-Second Session
Geneva, October 14 to 18, 2024

REPORT

adopted by the Working Group

INTRODUCTION

1. The IPC Revision Working Group (hereinafter referred to as “the Working Group”) held its fifty-second session in Geneva from October 14 to 18, 2024. The following members of the Working Group were represented at the session: Australia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Norway, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO), European Patent Office (EPO) (30). Hungary was represented as observer. The list of participants appears as Annex I to this report.

2. The session was opened by Mr. K. Natsume, Assistant General, Infrastructure and Platforms Sector, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), who welcomed the participants.

OFFICERS

3. Ms. A. Merle-Gamez (EPO) was elected as Chair and Ms. N. Beauchemin (Canada) as Vice-Chair for the IPC revision cycle of 2024-2025.

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 TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE IP5 WG1-WORKING GROUP ON CLASSIFICATION

7. The Working Group noted an oral report by the KIPO, on behalf of the FiveIPOffices (hereinafter referred to as “the IP5 Offices”), on the twenty-seventh session of the IP5 Working Group on Classification (IP5 WG1).

8. The IP5 Offices agreed to promote five IP5 projects (F projects) to the IPC phase, namely projects F 194, F 195, F 200, F 203 and F 205, where project F 194 was from the IPC Revision Roadmap candidate areas.

9. It was noted that the KIPO, on behalf of the IP5 Offices, had posted to the IPC e-forum, under project [CE 456](#), the updated lists of all ongoing IP5 projects and proposals (see Annex 48 to the project file) to avoid overlapping between the IPC revision requests and the IP5 ongoing revision activities.

REPORT OF THE EXPERT GROUP ON SEMICONDUCTOR TECHNOLOGY (EGST)

10. The Working Group noted an oral report by the EPO, the leading office of the EGST.

11. The Working Group noted that the eleventh session of the EGST (EGST/2024/11) took place in Geneva from October 9 to 11, 2024.

12. The Working Group was informed that it was an extremely intensive and extraordinarily productive session, where schemes for subclasses H10P and H10W, the last two subclasses of class H10, had been finalized and approved by the EGST and submitted to the Working Group for its approval. The issues within ongoing C projects [C 514](#), [C 515](#) and [C 516](#), relating to subclasses H10D, H10F and H10H, had also been discussed in depth.

13. It was also noted that the EGST agreed on an updated [CE 481](#) Roadmap (v3.3), which is found in Annex 505 of project [CE 481](#), where projects [C 517](#) and [C 518](#) covering subclasses H10P and H10W were expected to be completed with respect to the schemes and definitions by the end of May 2025, targeting for IPC 2026.01.

14. The Working Group expressed its sincere appreciation to all the EGST members and, in particular, to the EPO, the leading office of the EGST, for the considerable outcome achieved up to now.

IPC REVISION PROGRAM

15. The Working Group discussed 35 revision projects, namely: [C 510](#), [C 514](#), [C 515](#), [C 516](#), [C 517](#), [C 518](#), [C 519](#), [C 525](#), [C 529](#), [C 530](#), [C 531](#), [C 532](#), [C 533](#), [C 534](#), [C 535](#), [C 536](#), [C 537](#), [C 538](#), [C 539](#), [C 540](#), [F 140](#), [F 148](#), [F 170](#), [F 175](#), [F 177](#), [F 180](#), [F 184](#), [F 185](#), [F 186](#), [F 188](#), [F 189](#), [F 190](#), [F 191](#), [F 196](#) and [F 198](#).

16. The Working Group approved 16 revision projects, one of which was completed with a confirmation that no definition was needed, namely project [F 191](#), for which the scheme amendments would enter into force in IPC 2026.01, while five out of 16 were approved with respect to scheme amendments in both English and French versions, namely projects [C 532](#), [C 533](#), [F 140](#), [F 180](#) and [F 189](#), which would enter into force in IPC 2026.01. Meanwhile, ten out of 16 projects were completed with respect to definitions, which would be integrated into IPC 2025.01, namely projects [C 510](#), [C 514](#), [C 515](#), [C 516](#), [C 525](#), [F 170](#), [F 175](#), [F 177](#), [F 184](#) and [F 188](#), while their scheme amendments had been completed by the Working Group at its previous sessions.

17. The Working Group further approved (or partially/tentatively approved) nine revision projects with respect to the English version of the scheme amendments, namely projects [C 517](#), [C 518](#), [C 529](#), [C 536](#), [C 538](#), [F 148](#), [F 190](#), [F 196](#) and [F 198](#).

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. The Working Group agreed to create the following two new revision projects, namely:

Chemistry: [C 541](#) (Rapporteur – Germany) – originating from project [C 534](#); and
[C 542](#) (Rapporteur – Republic of Korea) – originating from project [M 627](#).

20. The Working Group agreed to create the following new definition project, namely:

Mechanics: [D 313](#) (Rapporteur – United States of America) – originating from project [F 170](#).

21. The Working Group, once more, strongly recommended that Rapporteur-offices, Translator-offices and commenting offices use the “Working Documents” or “Preparatory Technical Annexes”, prepared by the International Bureau, if any, when submitting proposals and comments during the IPC e-forum discussions.

IPC MAINTENANCE

22. The Working Group discussed 14 maintenance projects, namely: [M 000](#), [M 621](#), [M 627](#), [M 633](#), [M 634](#), [M 812](#), [M 831](#), [M 835](#), [M 836](#), [M 837](#), [M 838](#), [M 839](#), [M 840](#) and [M 841](#).

23. The Working Group approved 12 maintenance projects, one of which scheme and definition amendments would be integrated into IPC 2025.01, upon special request from the Working Group, namely project [M 837](#), while four projects were completed with respect to scheme and definition amendments, where available, which would be integrated into IPC 2026.01, namely projects [M 831](#), [M 835](#), [M 840](#) and [M 841](#). Meanwhile, the Working Group approved scheme and definition amendments resulting from multiple proposals, which scheme amendments would be included in IPC 2026.01, while definition amendments would be integrated into IPC 2025.01, namely for projects [M 627](#) and [M 633](#). The other two maintenance projects were approved without any immediate impact on the scheme and definitions, namely project [M 000](#) with an updated template for the removal of non-limiting references from the scheme and project [M 812](#) that was completed. The Working Group also noted definition amendments which would be integrated into IPC 2025.01 upon their electronic approvals in projects [M 621](#), [M 631](#) and [M 634](#).

24. 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.
25. The Working Group agreed to create the following two new maintenance projects, namely:
- T- independent: [M 842](#) (Rapporteur – EPO) – originating from project [M 831](#); and
- [M 843](#) (Rapporteur – United States of America) – originating from project [F 148](#).

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 the removal of NLRs from the scheme of the IPC (see Annex 52 to project file [WG 191](#)).

27. The Working Group noted that, among the 17 active projects, agreement had been or would soon be achieved for the following four projects during discussions on the e-forum and that these projects could be considered completed. The corresponding amendments to the scheme and definitions would thus be included in IPC 2026.01.

M 282	Removal of NLRs in subclass A24D (Rapporteur – Brazil)
M 287	Removal of NLRs in subclass A46B (Rapporteur – Israel)
M 288	Removal of NLRs in Subclass A46D (Rapporteur – Israel)
M 289	Removal of NLRs in Subclass G06D (Rapporteur - EPO)

28. The Working Group was informed that the rest of the 13 projects should continue their discussions on the IPC e-forum.

29. The Working Group invited offices to use the updated template for the removal of NLRs from the scheme in Annex 4 under project [M 000](#), which was just approved at this session.

30. The Working Group encouraged offices to actively take the task of removal of NLRs from the scheme, in view of the fact that more than 200 pending subclasses need to be dealt with. Volunteering offices should inform the International Bureau about their preferred subclass(es) selecting from the updated table to project file [WG 191](#) and the International Bureau would then create M 200 to M 500 projects on the IPC e-forum with those offices as Rapporteurs.

31. 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](#).

NEXT SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP

32. 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.

33. The Working Group noted the following tentative dates for its fifty-third session:

May 12 to 16, 2025.

CLOSING OF THE SESSION

34. The Chair closed the session.

35. *This report was unanimously adopted by the Working Group by electronic means on November 4, 2024*

[Annexes follow]