

WIPO



IPC/CE/36/10 Suppl.1
ORIGINAL: English only
DATE: February 11, 2005

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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
GENEVA

SPECIAL UNION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL PATENT CLASSIFICATION
(IPC UNION)

COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

Thirty-Sixth Session
Geneva, February 14 to 18, 2005

IMPLEMENTATION OF IPC REFORM AT INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY OFFICES

Document prepared by the Secretariat

1. The Annex to this document contains a status report on the technical implementation of the IPC reform, submitted by the EPO.

2. The Committee of Experts is invited to consider the status report contained in the Annex to this document.

[Annex follows]

ANNEX



**Europäisches
Patentamt**

GD1

**European
Patent Office**

DG1

**Office européen
des brevets**

DG1

**Principal Directorate Tools/Documentation
Directorate 1.3.5 - Classification**

The Hague, 2 February 2005

**Technical implementation of the IPC Reform at the EPO
- Status Report -**

1. Introduction

Two projects were set up for the implementation of the IPC reform in the EPO:

- IPC Reform - EPO systems
All changes to systems/interfaces throughout the EPO to make the EPO's patent granting process ready to accommodate the reformed IPC
- IPC Reform – Master Classification Database
The creation of the Master Classification Database (MCD) as a worldwide server for patent documents classified according to the reformed IPC as agreed by the Committee of Experts of the IPC Union

As both projects and in particular the creation of the MCD are closely linked to the current undertaking of the EPO to migrate its main document database DocDB from the IDMS to a DB2 environment, the two IPC Reform projects, the DocDB rebuild and the DocDB maintenance operations were put under a common project and budget umbrella, steered jointly by the Principal Directorates Information Systems and Tools-Documents.

2. Status of the project "IPC Reform - EPO Systems"*IPC Server*

In order to simplify IPC processing for EPO systems, a set of general services is being developed. There are two main types of service :

- those based on the IPC Validity File

- reformatting services

Work on these services has reached the technical design stage. The IPC work for many EPO systems depends on the availability of the services, therefore implementation work is planned to begin as soon as the technical design is accepted.

Status within systems

Around 35 separate systems have been identified as needing to be changed for IPC Reform. Complexity of the changes varies from system to system, but in the vast majority of cases, the changes required are well understood, and implementation schedules are being planned. For all of the systems, IPC-2006 is just one of a number of changes that are being made, therefore timing of the implementation depends on the scheduling of other work.

The EPO's Bibliographic Data (EBD) File

Measures have been taken which will minimise the impact of IPC Reform on the systems which participate in the creation of the EBD file, while guaranteeing that IPC-2006 will be present on all documents published from 01.01.06 onwards. The IPC-2006 changes can be seen as a part of the transition of EBD file to WIPO Standard ST.36.

Soprano

The Soprano software (or its predecessor, "common software") is used by some offices to extract national data from EPO's publication file and to produce national publication files for printing or for producing a bulletin and for transmitting publication data to the EPO. This software is going to be updated to be compatible with the IPC reform.

Discussions between the IPC and Soprano teams are ongoing, with the intention of making the product IPC-2006-compliant during 2005.

It is important to note that also user input is needed in order to properly implement the changes. Offices using Soprano, or intending to use it, are invited to cooperate with the Soprano team by communicating their needs and proposals with respect to the features of the IPC reform. Comments can be sent to the Soprano application manager Charles Herbaut (cherbaut@epo.org)

3. Status of the project "IPC Reform - Master Classification Database"

Backfile

The EPO is in the process of creating IPC data for documents in its DocDB database. The IPC symbols are derived from ECLA classifications in order to make sure that the latest version is applied. This is done using a concordance table between ECLA and the advanced level of IPC-2006. A pre-production version of this table is already loaded in a DB2 database. The processes to derive advanced-level IPC from the table have been developed and run against a full copy of DocDB. Derivation of core-level symbols from the Validity File will be added when the IPC Server is ready.

The Annex to this document contains a detailed status of the current classifications in DocDB per country / office and publication kind code.

The conversion process from ECLA to IPC-2006 is currently being tested in a development copy of the MCD. Due to a certain degree of inconsistency between ECLA and IPC, only a part (currently about 80%) of the PCT minimum documentation could be converted up to now. It is foreseen to have a first complete version of the conversion table ready by the end of the first quarter of 2005. Up to now 94% of all IPC subclasses are ready or in preparation.

The table has to be drawn up intellectually because of the deviations between ECLA and IPC which were allowed in the past. As all ECLA subclasses have to be checked to spot anomalies, a complete picture will be available soon about these deviations. In this way a useful instrument will be available to bring ECLA in line with IPC as quickly and as completely as possible.

The missing back file data, resulting from the deviations, will partly be delivered by the German Patent and Trademark Office (DPMA). Detailed discussions have taken place on the procedure to follow for the data exchange. Roughly estimated for about 1% of the systematic classified documents in EPODOC, the IPC classification data of the DPMA will be requested. Test versions of the files which identify the supplementary data to be requested from DPMA have been produced.

Offices that are interested to deliver their own back file data (i.e. documents published until 2005 with IPC classifications updated to version 2006) to the MCD are invited to contact the EPO

Frontfile

IPC-2006 frontfile data will be part of the regular patent bibliographic data stream. National Offices are requested to discuss changes to front file data formats as early as possible with the EPO. Late format changes will mean that IPC-2006 data cannot be guaranteed to be included in the MCD from 01.01.06.

Web services

The current intention is to report IPC-2006 errors back to National Offices by means of a simple web service which will return an XML file. Any other services will only be implemented if they are essential to the proper functioning of the MCD. National Offices are invited to comment on this issue. How security will be implemented for these services is still an open issue.

4. Concept of Operations

Under IPC project CE354, the Concept of Operations for the reformed IPC (CONOPS) was revised by the EPO in order to adapt it to recent developments and agreements about the IPC procedures.

IPC/CE/36/10 Suppl.1
Annex, page 5

Annex

Status: 03-12-2004

Office +kind code	all 42395680	classified in ecla 23576288	no ecla 18819392	classified in ipc, but no ecla 15662520	neither ecla nor ipc 3156872	
APA	1216	1185	31	31	0	
APU	1	0	1	1	0	
BAA	113	39	74	74	0	
BAB	102	2	100	100	0	those not covered by BAA
BAD	1	0	1	1	0	
BEA	537076	524885	12191	2479	9712	
BEB	1	1	0	0	0	those not covered by BEA
BGA	43094	11352	31742	31500	242	
BGB	4272	2521	1751	1750	1	those not covered by BGA
BGU	996	8	988	988	0	
BGY	230	7	223	223	0	those not covered by BGU
BRA	284893	200030	84863	84101	762	
BRC	8	2	6	6	0	those not covered by BRA
BRU	69734	916	68818	68072	746	
CAA	825250	715749	109501	85451	24050	
CAB	353	274	79	59	20	those not covered by CAA
CAC	68977	60940	8037	8027	10	those not covered by CAA
CAE	20	13	7	7	0	those not covered by CAA
CHA	691189	550003	141186	4841	136345	
CHB	1690	1687	3	2	1	those not covered by CHA
CHC	1	1	0	0	0	those not covered by CHA
CHD	6911	6812	99	15	84	those not covered by CHA
CHE	3	3	0	0	0	those not covered by CHA
CHH	8	8	0	0	0	those not covered by CHA
CNA	408683	166552	242131	241957	174	
CNB	8282	7725	557	557	0	those not covered by CNA
CNC	1733	1617	116	116	0	those not covered by CNA
CNU	602100	3035	599065	598384	681	
CNY	7840	51	7789	7789	0	those not covered by CNU
CSA	44389	7034	37355	35901	1454	
CSB	96869	20593	76276	76032	244	those not covered by CSA
CUA	1144	206	938	925	13	
CUB	739	71	668	651	17	those not covered by CUA
CYA	2340	2209	131	106	25	
CZA	47211	31572	15639	15639	0	
CZB	2915	1695	1220	1220	0	those not covered by CZA
CZU	5414	168	5246	5246	0	
DDA	220761	40974	179787	125148	54639	
DDB	8537	319	8218	2213	6005	those not covered by DDA
DDC	15	7	8	8	0	those not covered by DDA
DDU	5634	49	5585	0	5585	
DEA	1666934	1644384	22550	21945	605	
DEB	333623	325894	7729	1225	6504	those not covered by DEA
DEC	1013765	993733	20032	1002	19030	those not covered by DEA
DED	672527	508079	164448	164448	0	those not covered by DEA
DEI	257	175	82	82	0	those not covered by DEA
DEU	1205080	403275	801805	155780	646025	
DKA	102621	81687	20934	16635	4299	
DKB	29970	24211	5759	5752	7	those not covered by DKA
DKC	122067	16552	105515	21577	83938	those not covered by DKA
DKU	4632	507	4125	4124	1	
DKY	52	16	36	36	0	those not covered by KDU
EAA	223	176	47	47	0	
EAB	4530	4023	507	507	0	those not covered by EAA
EEA	4508	4211	297	297	0	
EEB	441	385	56	56	0	those not covered by EEA
EGA	9901	7090	2811	2774	37	
EPA	1473005	1424804	48201	48197	4	
ESA	229797	151486	78311	78288	23	

Annex, page 2

ESB	28	9	19	19	0	those not covered by ESA
ESU	127814	18523	109291	106933	2358	
ESY	82271	7154	75117	75089	28	those not covered by ESU
FIA	103753	79218	24535	23946	589	
FIB	24778	17643	7135	7066	69	those not covered by FIA
FIC	13823	10105	3718	3716	2	those not covered by FIA
FIU	6210	511	5699	5699	0	
FRA	2122109	2101609	20500	8354	12146	
FRB	17	16	1	1	0	those not covered by FRA
FRC	1	1	0	0	0	those not covered by FRA
FRE	94235	92976	1259	13	1246	
FRM	8091	7627	464	51	413	
GBA	2219012	1968782	250230	8472	241758	
GBB	10	10	0	0	0	those not covered by GBA
GRA	35683	17335	18348	1885	16463	
GRB	2607	624	1983	1961	22	those not covered by GRA
GRU	1213	36	1177	0	1177	
GRY	1575	40	1535	6	1529	those not covered by GRU
HKA	40875	37634	3241	3234	7	
HRA	6492	3601	2891	2891	0	
HRB	454	21	433	433	0	those not covered by HRA
HUA	71599	48719	22880	22866	14	
HUB	33314	16548	16766	16691	75	those not covered by HUA
HUU	2788	211	2577	2577	0	
IDA	14348	11514	2834	2482	352	
IDB	238	173	65	65	0	those not covered by IDA
IDS	53	51	2	-6	8	
IEA	14515	9925	4590	4585	5	
IEB	332605	328419	4186	4174	12	those not covered by IEA
IEL	62666	29510	33156	32897	259	those not covered by IEA
ILA	61412	49360	12052	11951	101	
INA	50327	21753	28574	28341	233	
ITA	81062	33028	48034	26171	21863	
ITB	332742	221256	111486	108976	2510	those not covered by ITA
ITU	35435	5034	30401	20237	10164	
ITY	1490	235	1255	1253	2	those not covered by ITU
ITZ	19926	3571	16355	13051	3304	those not covered by ITU
JPA	8601908	1972621	6629287	6481273	148014	
JPB	186078	56888	129190	66818	62372	those not covered by JPA
JPB1	1120	160	960	461	499	those not covered by JPA
JPB2	37106	34064	3042	3029	13	those not covered by JPA
JPC	58	17	41	31	10	those not covered by JPA
JPU	3715391	35893	3679498	3679463	35	
JPY	254408	448	253960	253881	79	those not covered by JPU
JPZ	6	0	6	0	6	those not covered by JPU
KEA	1336	1079	257	242	15	
KED	14	11	3	2	1	those not covered by KEA
KRA	281849	30788	251061	249126	1935	
KRB	259574	100859	158715	158684	31	those not covered by KRA
KRU	14737	18	14719	11287	3432	
KRY	198940	2827	196113	196087	26	those not covered by KRU
LTA	2354	1067	1287	1287	0	
LTB	106	61	45	45	0	those not covered by LTA
LTR	664	19	645	645	0	
LUA	60204	58910	1294	427	867	
LUD	15	12	3	3	0	
LVA	3655	1431	2224	2223	1	
LVB	1255	531	724	724	0	those not covered by LVA
MAA	7380	4804	2576	2488	88	
MCA	2559	1689	870	850	20	
MCE	97	7	90	89	1	
MDA	813	226	587	587	0	
MDB	672	35	637	637	0	those not covered by MDA
MDE	89	0	89	0	89	
MDF	1219	40	1179	1169	10	those not covered by MDA
MDU	21	2	19	19	0	

IPC/CE/36/10 Suppl.1
Annex, page 7

Annex, page 3

MDW	71	0	71	69	2	those not covered by MDU
MDY	14	0	14	14	0	those not covered by MDU
MNA	233	6	227	222	5	
MTA	545	264	281	0	281	
MWA	732	431	301	292	9	
MXA	42267	34409	7858	7785	73	
MXB	11399	9593	1806	1794	12	those not covered by MXA
MXE	4770	2814	1956	1938	18	
MYA	9618	8619	999	941	58	
MYU	1	0	1	1	0	
NLA	368424	363196	5228	2889	2339	
NLB	7521	7095	426	381	45	those not covered by NLA
NLC	147114	139636	7478	514	6964	those not covered by NLA
NLI	589	574	15	0	15	
NOA	138333	112590	25743	25668	75	
NOB	25185	19064	6121	4182	1939	those not covered by NOA those not covered by NOA,NOB
NOC	287	132	155	152	3	
NZA	79483	63442	16041	13576	2465	
OAA	11456	10763	693	690	3	
OAE	152	103	49	0	49	
PHA	18947	14254	4693	4588	105	
PHU	2859	8	2851	2831	20	
PLA	158561	47239	111322	111140	182	
PLB	34922	10880	24042	23977	65	those not covered by PLA
PLU	11065	128	10937	10933	4	
PLY	3001	94	2907	2907	0	those not covered by PLU
PTA	37892	32288	5604	4970	634	
PTB	223	185	38	36	2	those not covered by PTA
PTD	2	2	0	0	0	
PTU	2689	705	1984	1983	1	
PTY	157	10	147	147	0	those not covered by PTU
ROA	38588	8974	29614	28786	828	
ROB	17120	2644	14476	14443	33	those not covered by ROA
RUA	7	0	7	7	0	
RUC	230022	27486	202536	202103	433	
SEA	149919	110487	39432	38061	1371	
SEB	170681	132012	38669	38071	598	
SEC	203189	18344	184845	6857	177988	those not covered by SEB
SEE	3	1	2	0	2	those not covered by SEC
SGA	22295	18040	4255	4247	8	
SGG	10238	7768	2470	2465	5	
SIA	5301	2066	3235	3235	0	
SKA	20262	16852	3410	3410	0	
SKB	1004	702	302	302	0	those not covered by SKA
SUA	1159851	63402	1096449	1095079	1370	
SUC	1	1	0	0	0	
THA	3	3	0	0	0	
TJA	131	1	130	130	0	
TJB	105	63	42	42	0	those not covered by TJA
TJR	30	1	29	29	0	
TJU	14	0	14	14	0	
TRA	16767	12702	4065	3267	798	
TRU	4164	43	4121	4114	7	
TRY	1	0	1	1	0	those not covered by TRU
TTB	3	0	3	0	3	
TWA	5	4	1	0	1	
TWB	92930	62022	30908	30906	2	
TWY	79907	6756	73151	73142	9	
USA	6856851	5355596	1501255	141373	1359882	
USB	426425	393247	33178	33176	2	those not covered by USA
USE	23391	22872	519	228	291	
USF	59	59	0	0	0	
USH	2083	2052	31	31	0	
USI	4166	4014	152	8	144	
USP	11682	8514	3168	3166	2	

IPC/CE/36/10 Suppl.1
Annex, page 8

Annex, page 4

USS	61393	194	61199	0	61199	(Design)
UZB	1	0	1	1	0	
VNA	112	31	81	80	1	
VNU	52	0	52	52	0	
WOA	922061	863127	58934	58793	141	
YUA	29552	17479	12073	11853	220	
YUB	549	306	243	45	198	those not covered by YUA
ZAA	196806	138027	58779	58386	393	
ZAD	197	107	90	88	2	those not covered by ZAA
ZMA	2730	1527	1203	1171	32	
ZMD	1	0	1	1	0	those not covered by ZMA
ZWA	2639	1946	693	688	5	

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