

# WIPO



**IPC/WG/10/3**  
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**WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION**  
GENEVA

**SPECIAL UNION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL PATENT CLASSIFICATION  
(IPC UNION)**

**IPC REVISION WORKING GROUP**

**Tenth Session**

**Geneva, November 24 to December 5, 2003**

REPORT

*adopted by the Working Group*

1. The IPC Revision Working Group (hereinafter referred to as “the Working Group”) held its tenth session in Geneva from November 24 to December 5, 2003. The following members of the Working Group were represented at the session: Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, Egypt, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States of America, African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI), European Patent Office (EPO) (22). Morocco was represented by an observer. The list of participants appears as Annex A to this report.
2. The session was opened by Mr. H. Wongel (EPO), Chairman of the Working Group. Mr. J. Erstling, Director, Office of the PCT (Patent Cooperation Treaty), WIPO, welcomed the participants on behalf of the Director General.

#### OFFICERS

3. Mr. A. Farassopoulos (WIPO) acted as Secretary of the session.

## ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

4. The Working Group unanimously adopted the agenda, which appears as Annex B 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 THIRTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE IPC COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

6. The Working Group noted an oral report by the Secretariat on the thirty-third session of the IPC Committee of Experts (hereinafter referred to as “the Committee” (see document IPC/CE/33/12)), at which session the Committee had adopted amendments to the seventh edition of the IPC relating to 23 subclasses. The Working Group was informed that the Committee had adopted recommendations made by the Working Group with regard to separate indexing schemes in the IPC.

7. The Working Group noted that the Committee had adopted results of elaboration of the following two tasks on the program of the Working Group: “Introduction of Illustrating Chemical Formulae in the Electronic Layer of the IPC” and “Checking of Notes and References in the Reformed IPC” and had agreed to consider these tasks as completed. The Working Group also noted that the Committee had underlined the importance of the timely preparation of the IPC training and explanatory material for the use of the reformed IPC.

## ELABORATION OF CLASSIFICATION DEFINITIONS

8. Due to time constraints, the Working Group was not in a position to consider the proposals contained in the compilations of the definition projects distributed during the session and did not approve any projects. The Working Group, however, noted that for D projects which cover subclasses under class C07, the notes after class C07 were not treated consistently by the rapporteurs of different projects. The Working Group agreed that in this, and in other similar cases, notes relating to several subclasses should be disclosed in a consistent manner.

9. In order to reach the target of fifty definition projects for inclusion in the next edition of the IPC and in view of the limited time left, the Working Group recommended to its members to intensify the use of the e-forum and to indicate their approval of projects on the e-forum whenever they agree with the latest Rapporteur’s proposal.

10. The Secretariat informed the Working Group that a table summarizing the status of all D projects had been established. The table would also indicate translating offices for projects D 004, D 018, D 019, D 038, D 050 and D 051, and deadlines for the next actions to be taken. Definition projects created during this session were also included in the table, which appears as Annex F to this report.

11. The Working Group noted the request made by the Committee (see document IPC/CE/33/12, paragraph 12) to establish a procedure for considering proposals for improving the IPC, collected in definition projects, with the objective of their incorporation in the scheme of the IPC. In view of the lack of time, the Working Group was not in a position to consider such a procedure and agreed to discuss it at its next session.

#### REARRANGEMENT OF MAIN GROUPS ACCORDING TO THE STANDARDIZED SEQUENCE

12. The Working Group discussed the Guidelines on the Rearrangement of the Main Groups According to the Standardized Sequence (see the Annex to document IPC/WG/9/2) and approved them in the English version with some amendments (see Annex G to this report).

13. The Working Group provisionally approved the French version of the Guidelines on the understanding that the text of the Guidelines should be reconsidered with regard to terminology used so as to bring this terminology in accordance with terminology used in the new Guide to the IPC. Offices having French as a working language were invited to submit proposals in respect of terminology of the Guidelines by March 1, 2004. The Working Group agreed to reconsider the French version of the Guidelines at its next session on the basis of the proposals to be submitted.

14. The Working Group agreed that these Guidelines should be published in the *WIPO Handbook on Industrial Property Information and Documentation* as they would serve as a source of guidance for the future maintenance of the IPC.

15. Based on a working document prepared by the International Bureau, the Working Group discussed problems related to certain main groups and headings with the titles referring to "preceding groups" or the like. Such titles could lead to inconsistent scope of these groups when they are presented in the standardized sequence. It was decided that for all truly residual groups the term "preceding" should be replaced by "other," while for all other groups the explicit range of groups should be indicated. The list of all these groups with their amended titles is given in Annex H to this report.

16. It was further agreed to consider these amendments as minor amendments to the IPC and the International Bureau was authorized to introduce them directly to the IPC.

17. The Working Group considered the proposals contained in the compilations of rearrangement projects distributed during the session, and approved all of them. The Working Group further reconsidered a limited number of projects approved during its previous session and approved a number of changes to these projects. The list of projects approved during this session, including the standardized sequences of main groups for each relevant subclass, is given in Annex I to this report.
18. The Working Group discussed the question as to whether standardized sequences should be established for indexing subclasses as well, and decided that rearrangement of indexing codes would not be needed in view of the absence of any priority relation between indexing codes.
19. It was noted that the currently finalized standardized sequences of main groups of IPC subclasses could in the future require amendments and agreed that such amendments should be dealt with in the framework of the maintenance of the IPC.
20. The Working Group agreed that the task relating to the elaboration of standardized sequences of main groups in subclasses of the IPC was completed.

#### CHECKING OF NOTES AND REFERENCES IN THE REFORMED IPC

21. It was recalled that the Working Group, at its ninth session, had noted problems related to limiting references in entries of the advanced level of the IPC pointing to groups located in another hierarchical branch. Discussions were based on a proposal prepared by the International Bureau and comments submitted by Sweden on this proposal (see Annexes 1 and 2 to project file IPC/WG 091, respectively). The Working Group also considered the list resulting from an automatic search algorithm (see Annex III of Suppl.1 to document IPC/WG/9/3) indicating all these entries which was posted on the IBIS website.
22. The Working Group noted the significant amount of approximately 3000 affected groups of the core level and, in order to provide sufficient means for correct classification at the core level, decided that the “more elaborate solution” described in paragraph 6 of Annex 1 above, should be implemented.
23. The Working Group agreed that the users of the core level should be warned about references in the advanced level that could influence classification in the core level. The Working Group also agreed that the following notes should be used in order to warn classifiers and searchers about the potential problems in these core level groups. Namely, a general indicator drawing attention to an appropriate note should be attached to each affected core level group.

#### For the Internet Presentation:

“The advanced level subgroups of the present core level group contain at least one reference which points to a group located in another hierarchical branch than the present one. The user should be aware that such references could affect the scope of the present group by explicitly referring out subject matter that would otherwise be classified in the present group.”

For the Presentation in the Printed Version:

“In some instances, advanced level subgroups of a core level group may contain one or more references which point to places located in other hierarchical branches than the core level group. The user should be aware that such references could affect the scope of the core level group by explicitly referring out subject matter that would otherwise be classified in this core level group. Such core level groups are indicated by an asterisk (\*).”

24. The Working Group finally agreed that a more comprehensive solution which could be applied in the future should be elaborated during the next revision period after removal of informative references from the IPC scheme and a study of the impact of remaining such references to the scope of the relevant core level groups.

## CONVERSION OF INDEXING SCHEMES TO CLASSIFICATION SCHEMES

### Double-Purpose Schemes

25. Discussions were based on the last rapporteur reports of hybrid projects related to the replacement of double-purpose indexing schemes by multiple classification schemes.

26. The Working Group approved notes for multiple classification based on the standardized notes already approved at its ninth session (see document IPC/WG/9/8, paragraphs 32 and 33). The corresponding amendments to the English version of the IPC, including the above notes, appear in Annex J to this report.

27. Bearing in mind the instruction given by the Committee of Experts at its thirty-third session that Notes (3) and (4) after group A61K 8/00 adopted under Project C 412 should be reconsidered, in light of the ongoing hybrid project H 003 (see document IPC/CE/33/12, paragraph 13), the Working Group noted that Note (3) after group A61K 8/00 did not cover the same subject matter as Note (2) after the subclass title of A61K. The Working Group agreed to move the said Note (3), after Note (2) following the title of subclass A61K, to delete new Note (4) after group A61K 8/00 and to delete existing Notes (1) and (2) after group A61K 31/00. For practical purposes, the amendments to the IPC corresponding to project H 003 were incorporated in the technical annexes to project C 412 (see Annex 6 to this report).

28. Concerning the scheme C03C 25/24 to 25/54 (project H 011), the EPO was invited to submit a revision request to the Special Subcommittee for the revision of the advanced level of the IPC in order to adapt the approved notes to the classification practice in that area with the indication of whether the last place priority rule should be applied in this area in order to solve overlap between groups covering organic and inorganic materials.

29. During consideration of project H 014, the Working Group agreed that a new definition project should be created for subclass C07D (project D 056), in order to specify the scope of this subclass after the deletion of Note (7) under the subclass title and noted, with gratitude, that Ireland volunteered to draft definitions for this subclass.

30. When considering project H 029 (subclass D21H), it was agreed to keep also one-dot subgroups of group D21H 17/00 in the core level, in view of the file size of those subgroups and of the last place priority rule applied in this main group.

#### Separate Indexing Schemes

31. The Working Group agreed to retain the indexing scheme C08G 101:00 (project H 017) in view of its importance as a search tool.

32. The Working Group recalled that the EPO had been invited to investigate whether indexing codes G06F 159:00 and 161:00 could be incorporated in the classification scheme of main group G06F 19/00 (see document IPC/WG/9/8, paragraph 51). The Working Group approved the Rapporteur's proposal to delete these two indexing codes without introducing any transfer notes. Main group G06F 19/00 was amended in the framework of revision project C 424 (see Annex 11 to this report).

33. Concerning project H 046, the Working Group decided that multiple classification should be allowed between subgroups of group B21B 1/081 approved at the ninth session of the Working Group (see document IPC/WG/9/8, paragraph 45) using the general rules of classification and therefore a specific note for multiple classification in this limited and well-defined area was not needed.

#### REMOVAL OF THE TERM "MISCELLANEOUS" FROM THE IPC

34. Discussions were based on Annex 12 to project file WG 092, containing Rapporteur's consolidated proposal for the removal of the word "miscellaneous" from the English version of the IPC, and on Annex 13 to the said project file WG 092 containing the French version of Rapporteur's consolidated proposal, as well as additional entries relating to the removal of the word "divers" from the French version of the IPC.

35. The Working Group approved the amendments to the IPC resulting from the removal of the words "miscellaneous" from the English version and "divers" from the French version of the IPC which appear in Annex K to this report.

#### IPC REVISION PROGRAM

##### General

36. The Working Group had before it, in particular, document IPC/WG/9/8 and the relevant project files.

37. The Working Group discussed 11 pending IPC revision projects and approved amendments relating to those projects (see Annexes 1 to 13 to this report). The decisions of the Working Group with respect to those projects are listed in Annex C to this report and further information with respect to some of these decisions is given in paragraph 38, below. A list indicating to which classes or subclasses amendments have been approved during the revision period appears as Annex D to this report. Changes to amendments approved at earlier sessions are indicated in Annex E to this report.

### IPC Revision Projects

38. The Working Group made the following observations, in addition to the decisions set forth in Annex C to this report, with respect to the IPC revision projects.

Project C 387 (mechanical) – It was agreed that all new subgroups of main group B60J 11/00 should belong to the advanced level in view of the file size of that group and in order to avoid references from core level groups to advanced level groups.

Project C 388 (mechanical) – The Working Group noted the detailed proposal submitted by the EPO, on behalf of the Trilateral Offices, for the creation of a new subclass B60W covering “Conjoint control of vehicle diverse sub-units” (See Annex 15 to the project file). It was considered that the creation of this subclass was necessary in order to collect in one place subject matter covered by several subclasses, in view of the rapid growth of technology in that area. It was noted that this project should be considered by the IPC Revision Working Group since it implies revision of the core level. However, in view of time restrictions, this project was referred to the next revision period. A new rapporteur (EPO) was appointed for the project in view of the considerable change of its scope.

The Rapporteur was invited to submit a proposal on behalf of the Trilateral Offices, for the core level of the IPC in subclass B60W, by January 30, 2004, in light of the complete scheme presented in Annex 15 to the project file.

Comments were invited, by April 15, 2004 on:

- the general structure of the scheme;
- the titles of the main groups;
- the borderline between the new subclass B60W and other related subclasses, in particular on the necessary references and deletion of existing groups.

The Rapporteur was invited to submit a report on the above matter by May 15, 2004. The report should include information on development of the advanced level of subclass B60W by the Trilateral Offices.

Furthermore, definition project D 058 was created for the new subclass. The revision and definition projects would develop in parallel.

Project C 393 (mechanical) – Concerning the distribution of new groups between the core and advanced levels, it was agreed to follow the Committee's recommendation and it was decided therefore that all new subgroups of groups E21B 10/00 and 27/00 should belong to the advanced level.

Project C 394 (mechanical) – The Working Group confirmed the new classification scheme adopted at its ninth session in subclass F04D. Furthermore, it was agreed to have all one-dot groups, namely groups F04D 29/04, 29/05 and 29/06, in the core level, while all their subgroups should belong to the advanced level.

Project C 395 (mechanical) – The Working Group considered the illustrating drawings provided by the Rapporteur as helpful and approved them. These drawings would be published in the definitions of the corresponding groups. It was further noted that the definitions would not contain any patent documents. The Working Group decided that all new groups approved in subclass F16D should be in the advanced level, as recommended by the Committee.

Project C 411 (mechanical) – It was agreed that new one-dot groups A47B 21/007 and 21/013 should be in the advanced level, in view of the file size of main group A47B 21/00.

Project C 420 (electrical) – The Working Group approved an amended scheme under main group G06F 3/00 (see Annex 7 to this document), in order to bring that scheme more in line with the technical developments in that area. It was noted that, although transfer notes were approved from deleted subgroups of group G06K 11/06 to subgroups of group G06F 3/03, some overlap could remain between those two groups. In order to better define the borderline between subclass G06F and other subclasses, in particular G06K, the Working Group agreed to create a new definition project (D057) for subclass G06F and appointed the EPO as rapporteur. It was furthermore decided that, in addition to the new one-dot group G06F 3/01, the new two-dot group G06F 3/048 and the new three-dot group 3/041 should belong to the core level, while all other new groups should belong to the advanced level.

Project C 422 (chemical) – The Working Group agreed to extend the scope of subgroups C40B 9/08 and 9/14 to include cleavage methods thereto (see Annex 9 to this report). Following the decision of the Committee to apply the sequence 10/00, 20/00, ..., 90/00 for numbering of main groups in new subclasses where the first place priority rule is introduced, the Working Group agreed that this sequence could also be applied to subclass C40B. However, for practical reasons, it was agreed to implement this renumbering during the next session of the Committee when this project would be finally adopted. It was also agreed that only main groups of subclass C40B should belong to the core level.

Project C 424 (electrical) – The Working Group modified the title of subclass G06Q and some of its main groups that were approved at its ninth session, and approved a new main group and a residual main group in this subclass (see Annex 12 to this report). Furthermore, the Working Group agreed to apply the new sequence (10/00, 20/00...) in the numbering of the main groups, as decided by the Committee. It was also agreed to introduce obligatory multiple classification with regard to group 50/00. Concerning non-technical documents, a note was approved indicating when and how to classify those documents in subclass G06Q.



The Working Group requested the Committee to adopt the already approved scheme of subclass G06Q in order to include it in the eighth edition (IPC-2005) of the IPC. Furthermore, it was agreed that Project C424 should continue during the next revision period, in view of the possible inclusion in the core level of subdivisions of the approved main groups and the need for further investigation of the borderline of the new subclass G06Q with other places of the IPC. The development of definition project D054 would be particularly helpful in that respect.

Project C 425 (chemical) – The Working Group agreed to renumber groups A61K 36/18 to 36/9068 adopted at its ninth session, so that they appear in the scheme in alphabetical order of their botanical names, at each indentation level (see Annex 13 to this report). It was furthermore agreed that all one-dot subgroups of main group A61K 36/00 and all two-dot subgroups of group A61K 36/18 should belong to the core level.

#### INTRODUCTION OF NEW CATCHWORDS AND INFORMATIVE REFERENCES RELATING TO COMPLETED PROJECTS

39. Discussions were based on Annexes 59 and 60 to project file IPC/C 371, on Annex 32 to project file IPC/C 417 and Annex 67 to project file IPC/C 278, containing proposed amendments to the Catchword Indexes related to the corresponding revision projects.

40. The Working Group approved amendments as mentioned above.

41. In view of the adoption by the Committee of the amendments emanating from revision projects C 371 and C 417, with regard to the informative references included in Annexes 59 and 60 to project file IPC/C 371, it was agreed that those references should be included in the definition projects D 019 and D 020 respectively, as informative references in the definitions of the relevant groups. These definitions should be presented separately from the subclass definitions in these projects.

#### PREPARATION OF THE EIGHTH EDITION (IPC-2005) OF THE IPC

##### Consideration of Changes to References and Subclass Indexes

42. Discussions were based on document IPC/WG/10/2 and project files WG 094 and WG 095 containing, respectively, changes to references and subclass indexes proposed by offices-rapporteurs as a consequence of the amendments to the IPC adopted by the Committee at its thirtieth to thirty-third session.

43. Following some modifications made, the Working Group approved the proposed changes to references which appear in Annex L to this report.

44. The Working Group also approved, with minor amendments, the proposed changes to subclass indexes which appear in Annex M to this report.

45. The Working Group noted that checking of references and subclass indexes should also be done with regard to the amendments to the IPC which would be forwarded to the thirty-fourth session of the Committee and requested the International Bureau to submit, by January 10, 2004, to offices-rapporteurs a compilation of those amendments together with the reverse references list. On the basis of this material, the offices-rapporteurs were invited to submit, by February 10, 2004, proposed changes to references and subclass indexes.

#### Distribution of New Groups in the IPC Between the Core and Advanced Levels

46. On the basis of the project file WG 096, the Working Group considered the distribution of new groups in the IPC, adopted by the Committee, between the core and the advanced levels as proposed by offices-rapporteurs and taking into account a general rule recommended by the Committee, namely that new main groups and one-dot groups should be included in the core level.

47. The Working Group approved the distribution of new groups between the core and the advanced levels as contained in Annex N to this report.

48. The Working Group noted the request made by the Committee (see document IPC/CE/32/12, paragraph 25) to consider how the correctness of the structure of the core level could be checked and to propose a procedure for such checking. The Working Group agreed that the purpose of checking should be to verify that the structure and contents of the core level is sufficient for classifying without consulting the advanced level and, if certain corrections were found necessary, they should be made by moving IPC groups between the core and the advanced levels without changes to the text of the IPC except obvious corrections.

49. The Working Group noted the following distribution of work among the volunteering offices:

<u>Office</u>	<u>Area of the IPC</u>
EPO	Sections D, E and G
Ireland	Sections A and C
Sweden	Sections B and F

The Working Group noted that, if no office would volunteer to do the checking for Section H of the IPC, it would be done by the International Bureau.

50. The Working Group noted that the International Bureau would implement a final distribution of IPC between the core and the advanced level on the IBIS website in February 2004, and requested the International Bureau to present the core level in a form appropriate for easy viewing and checking. The volunteering offices were invited to submit to the International Bureau proposed corrections to the core level by the end of March 2004.

## UPDATING OF IPC TRAINING EXAMPLES

51. The Working Group considered a summary of unofficial discussions of the Task Force on IPC Training Examples, held on November 25, 2003, and approved, with some amendments, the recommendations concerning the categories to be used to select IPC training examples and the future activities of the Task Force. This summary appears as Annex O to this report.

52. The Working Group agreed that a Task Force meeting would be necessary for detailed discussion and accepted, with gratitude, an invitation made by the Delegation of Germany, to host the meeting of the Task Force at the German Patent and Trade Mark Office (GPTO), Munich, from May 3 to 7, 2004.

## STATUS OF THE WORK

53. The Chair stated that 11 revision projects on the agenda of this session (see Annex B to this report) had been dealt with in a satisfactory manner and ten projects had been completed. He pointed out that the whole revision program had been nearly completed at this, last session in the current revision period. The Chair indicated that Annex C to this report gave the status of each revision project and brief information on actions to follow. He also indicated that newly created Annex F to this report gave the status of each definition project on the program.

54. The Chair stated that, at this session, the Working Group had continued an important work program of the implementation of the results of IPC reform and had achieved good progress. The Chair specified that the Working Group had completed two more tasks on the said work program, namely, the Task relating to the preparation of rearranged main groups for all IPC subclasses and the Task relating to the conversion or other treatment of all indexing schemes in the IPC.

## NEXT SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP

55. The Working Group, having assessed the workload expected for its next session (see paragraph 56, below), agreed to devote the first three days of the first week to the mechanical field, the remainder of that week to the electrical field and the first two days of the second week to the chemical field.

56. The Working Group noted the following tentative dates for its eleventh session:

June 14 to 24, 2004.

*57. This report was unanimously adopted by the Working Group at its closing meeting on December 5, 2003.*

[Annexes follow]