

WIPO



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

IPC REVISION WORKING GROUP

**Eleventh Session
Geneva, June 14 to 24, 2004**

PREPARATION OF THE EIGHTH EDITION (IPC-2006) OF THE IPC

Document prepared by the Secretariat

1. At its ninth session, held in June 2003, the IPC Revision Working Group discussed issues relating to the preparation of the eighth edition of the IPC and associated publications and approved the procedure therefor and the time schedule proposed by the International Bureau (see Annex J to document IPC/WG/9/8).
2. The approved procedure included the following actions: preparation of changes to references and subclass indexes to be made in view of the amendments to the IPC, updating of the official catchword indexes to the IPC and preparation of the revision concordance data between the seventh and eighth editions of the IPC.
3. Preparation of changes to references and subclass indexes in the IPC has been carried out by the IPC Revision Working Group in time for the thirty-fourth session of the IPC Committee of Experts, held in February 2004, and subsequently those changes have been adopted by the Committee. This work has been essentially completed subject to a small number of possible changes to references and subclass indexes that could emanate from a few remaining IPC revision projects.

4. According to the procedure approved at the ninth session of the IPC Revision Working Group, updating of the official catchword indexes and preparation of the revision concordance data was planned for the time period of March to June 2004. In view of the decision made by the IPC Committee of Experts to postpone the entering into force of the eighth edition of the IPC for one year (see document IPC/CE/34/10, paragraph 43), this work can now be done later, following the time schedule proposed below.

5. The updating of the official catchword indexes will be based on a compilation of the amendments to the IPC adopted at the thirtieth to thirty-fourth sessions of the IPC Committee of Experts and on the amendments to the IPC which will be forwarded to the thirty-fifth session of the Committee. These materials will be submitted by the International Bureau by September 15, 2004, together with the reverse lists of the catchword indexes and a list of new catchwords and catchword phrases approved the IPC Revision Working Group during the current revision period, to offices that will volunteer to participate in the updating of the catchword indexes. The offices concerned will be invited to submit proposals to the International Bureau by December 15, 2004.

6. For the preparation of the revision concordance data between the seventh and eighth editions of the IPC, the International Bureau will submit, by September 15, 2004, to the rapporteurs for the projects concerned, the compilation and the amendments referred to in the preceding paragraph, together with a list of the groups in the IPC that have been deleted, with transfer information indicated for these groups. The rapporteurs will be invited to submit revision concordance data to the International Bureau by December 15, 2004.

7. At its tenth session, held in November/December 2003, the IPC Revision Working Group approved the distribution of new groups in the IPC, introduced during the current revision period, between the core and the advanced levels, which was subsequently adopted by the IPC Committee of Experts. The Working Group agreed that checking of the core level should be carried out in order to verify that the structure and contents of the core level are sufficient for classifying without consulting the advanced level. The Working Group noted that the EPO, Ireland and Sweden volunteered to participate in this work and agreed on the time schedule for conducting the checking (see document IPC/WG/10/3, paragraphs 48 to 50).

8. In view of the postponement of the entering into force of the eighth edition of the IPC, the International Bureau was obliged to carry out modifications of its internal plans and was not able to prepare the final distribution of IPC groups between the core and the advanced levels for the eighth edition in the time agreed upon by the IPC Revision Working Group. However, this work continued and is currently close to completion. As soon as it is finalized, the International Bureau will implement the final distribution of IPC groups between the core and advanced levels on the IBIS website and will inform the offices indicated in paragraph 7, above, of the procedure and timing for checking of the core level.

9. The Working Group is invited to approve the remaining actions for the preparation of the eighth edition of the IPC.

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