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

IPC REVISION WORKING GROUP

Sixteenth Session
Geneva, November 27 to December 1, 2006

REPORT

adopted by the Working Group

INTRODUCTION

1. The IPC Revision Working Group (hereinafter referred to as “the Working Group”) held its sixteenth session in Geneva from November 27 to December 1, 2006. The following members of the Working Group were represented at the session: Brazil, Canada, China, Croatia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America, African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI), European Patent Office (EPO) (24). Ukraine was represented as observer. The list of participants appears as Annex I to this report.

2. The session was opened by Mr. M. Price, Chair of the Working Group.

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 II 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-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE IPC COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

6. The Secretariat made an oral report on the thirty-eighth session of the IPC Committee of Experts (hereinafter referred to as the “the Committee” (see document IPC/CE/38/10), in particular that the Committee had considered the subject of coordination of IPC revision and reclassification of patent files and issued a relevant recommendation to the Working Group (see paragraph 17 of the said document) and that the Committee had adopted amendments to the IPC prepared by the Working Group. The Committee had also expressed its satisfaction with the activities of the Working Group with regard to the tasks “Elaboration of Classification Definitions”, “Introduction of Residual Main Groups in IPC Subclasses” and “Updating of IPC Training Examples”.

7. The Secretariat informed of conclusions made by the Committee with regard to the implementation of the reformed IPC and underlined that one of the important tasks indicated by the Committee for the near future should be full implementation of the new revision procedure, namely, preparation and publication of new versions of the advanced level of the IPC. The first such version would enter into force on January 1, 2007.

8. In response to questions of some delegations concerning the 2007.01 version of the advanced level, the Secretariat indicated that this version in the French language would be published in December 2006, following its adoption by the Subcommittee responsible for the French version, and that new IPC master files, recently made public after the correction of certain errors, were considered by the International Bureau as final.

REPORT ON THE SECOND SESSION OF THE IPC ADVANCED LEVEL SUBCOMMITTEE

9. The Working Group noted an oral report by the Secretariat on the second session of the IPC Advanced Level Subcommittee (hereinafter referred to as “the ALS”) (see document IPC/ALS/2/10), in particular, that the ALS had completed revision and reclassification work on projects A 001 and A 004, and that it had fixed the date of entering into force of this revision as of January 1, 2007.

10. The Working Group was informed that the ALS had initiated the update of CONOPS, as foreseen in the IPC development program. The initial proposal would be submitted to project SC 022 and all members of the IPC Union were invited to participate in the discussions. The Working Group also noted the decision of the ALS to monitor the reclassification in the areas where new IPC groups had been created in IPC-8 and where reclassification work had not been completed, in order to inform patent information users on the degree of completion of the backfile data stored in the MCD.

11. The Working Group finally noted that the ALS had included in the revision program of the advanced level two new projects emanating from Harmony projects, namely A 007 and A 008. In the framework of project A 007, the ALS had invited comments on the overlap with other subclasses, in view of the broadening of the title of group G01N 13/10 and the deletion of the existing references, which could imply a reclassification at the core level. After extensive discussion, and taking into account the latest Rapporteur report of Annex 8 to the project file, the Working Group concluded that there would be indeed an overlap between groups G01N 13/10 and G12B 21/00 and reclassification would be needed at the core level. However, the ALS was authorized to carry on the revision in project A 007 and was furthermore requested to examine the option of collecting all technology covered by groups G12B 21/00 and G01N 13/10 in one place, if needed. The members of the Working Group were invited to participate in the discussion on the e–forum on project A 007.

12. During the session of the Working Group, the ALS held an extraordinary session where it was decided to postpone the final adoption of project A 006 to the next ordinary session of the ALS, in April 2007, in order to allow a better technical preparation for the publication of the corresponding new version of the advanced level and for the corresponding reclassification process. There would therefore be no new version of the advanced level published before July 1, 2007 (i.e., entering into force before October 1, 2007).

REMOVAL OF REFERENCES FROM GUIDANCE HEADINGS AND OF INFORMATIVE REFERENCES FROM THE SCHEME

13. Discussions were based on two compilations prepared by the International Bureau, one containing a proposal by the International Bureau relating to the removal of references from guidance headings for sections A and H and consolidated comments from commenting offices (see Annexes 2 to 9 to project file M 031), the other containing a proposal by the International Bureau regarding the removal of informative references from the scheme for several subclasses of sections A, B and G, as well as consolidated comments from offices (see Annexes 2 to 13 to project file M 032).

14. The Working Group approved, with amendments, some of the recommendations in the proposal relating to removal of references from guidance headings, which appear in the Technical Annexes to this report relating to project M 031. The rest of this proposal and the whole proposal relating to the removal of informative references from the scheme were not discussed because of time constraints. In addition, it was agreed to create a M project (M 109) with the EPO as Rapporteur, in order to improve the titles of groups under the guidance headings “Fishing” and “Angling” in subclass A01K.

15. The Working Group invited the Rapporteur and its members to continue carrying out these tasks, as scheduled at the fifteenth session of the Working Group, bearing in mind that these tasks should be completed by the end of 2007.

16. Having noted the considerable time that should be spent on these two subjects and other projects that should be treated with higher priority, the Working Group agreed to reconsider at its next session how to further carry out these tasks on time by using a more efficient approach, e.g., by creating a dedicated task force.

RENUMBERING OF PRE-REFORM RESIDUAL MAIN GROUPS

17. Discussions were based on a compilation of project file WG 111, and in particular on the latest rapporteur proposal of Annex 34. The Working Group agreed to delete the following residual main groups and to transfer them to new approved standardized residual main groups: A62B 37/00, B21F 21/00, B31C 13/00, B60D 7/00, B60R 27/00, B63J 5/00, B64G 9/00, F02K 11/00, F03H 5/00, F42D 7/00, H04J 15/00. It was also agreed that the residual main group D06C 29/00 should not be changed, whereas the title of main group D04G 5/00 should be amended (see the Technical Annexes relating to project M 099).

18. In view of the similarity between the subclasses of class C05, it was decided that a similar solution should be sought for all residual main groups in this class when considering the residual groups having subgroups.

19. The Working Groups finally agreed to continue the consideration of the remaining residual main groups at its next session and accepted an offer by the Secretariat to prepare a proposal for renumbering and amendment of residual main groups with references.

INTRODUCTION OF RESIDUAL MAIN GROUPS IN IPC SUBCLASSES

20. The Working Group had before it, in particular, document IPC/WG/15/4 and compilations of project files R 701 to R 706. The Working Group agreed that no new residual main groups should be created in the following subclasses: A01F, A63D, B01D, B05B, B21G, B27C, B27K, B29C, B44D, B60L, B60P, B60Q, B60T, B61G, B62M, B63C, B65C, B66D, B67C, C07C, C07D, C09H, C10J, C10K, C11B, C11D, C13C, C13K, C21C, E02D, F01K, F02D, F22B, F22D, F25C, F41J, G01B, G05G, H02J, H04N, H05B, H05G, H05H.

21. The Working Group agreed to create new residual main groups in the following subclasses: A01D, B21C, B62C, B67B, B68G, F21H, G01V, G06G, G10L, G21G, H02B, H02H (see the Technical Annexes relating to project M 099).

22. Following the Rapporteur proposals in projects R 701 to R 706, it was further agreed that, for the majority of the remaining subclasses without consensus, the need for a new residual main group should be further investigated in the context of definition projects. For the following subclasses definition projects already existed or were created at the present session of the Working Group: A01N (D 001), A44B (D 012), A45D (D 134), A47J (D 135), A61B (D 013), A61C (D 104), A61F (D 098), A61M (D109), A61N (D 014), A63D (D 136), B65D (D 081), C07C (D002), C07D (D 056), C10J (D 137), C30B (D 141), E01D (D 031), F16C (D101), F16D (D 102), F16G (D 103), F23Q (D 139), F23R (D 140), G01C (D 051), G12B (D 142), G21G (D 143), H05B (D 138).

23. In accordance with the decision on prioritizing definition projects taken at the fifteenth session of the Working Group (see document IPC/WG/15/4, paragraph 13(c)), it was also agreed that the following subclasses should receive priority for the creation of new definition projects in the future, when resources would be available: B22F, B23Q, B24B, B24C, B25B, B25D, B25F, B25H, B26D, B27B, B27G, B42D, B43L, B44B, B44F, B63B, B65G, E01C, E01F, E03D, E04C, E04F, E04G, E04H, G06K, H03K.

24. For all subclasses listed in paragraphs 22 and 23 above, the Rapporteurs of the respective definition project were invited to review, in the light of the comments submitted to projects R 701 to R 706, if a new residual main group was needed, or if the inclusion of further explanations, references or definitions for main groups would sufficiently clarify the exhaustion of the corresponding subclass by its main groups.

25. In addition to the above decisions, the Working Groups also made the following observations:

B21C – The Working Group agreed to create a C project (C 444) with Sweden as Rapporteur, in order to improve the title of main group B21C 37/00.

B27K – The Working Group invited Sweden to submit a proposal to improve the title of main group B27K 5/00 in the framework of project M 014.

B60L – The Working Group invited Sweden to submit a proposal to improve the title of main group B60L 15/00 in the framework of project M 014.

B61G – The Working Group invited Sweden to submit a proposal to improve the title of main group B61G 5/00 in the framework of project M 014.

B63C – The Working Group invited Sweden to submit a proposal to improve the title of main group B63C 3/00 in the framework of project M 014.

C13 – The Working Group agreed to create a C project (C 443) with the United Kingdom as Rapporteur for revising the whole class.

D06F – The Working Group agreed to create a C project (C 446) with the EPO as Rapporteur for the introduction of a new residual main group in this subclass.

F21S – It was agreed to consider the need for a residual main group in the framework of project C 438.

F22B – The Working Group invited Sweden to submit a proposal to improve the title of main group F22B 3/00 and to remove the guidance headings in this subclass, in the framework of project M 014.

F22D – The Working Group invited Sweden to submit a proposal to improve the title of main group F22D 7/00 in the framework of project M 014.

F41J – The Working Group invited Sweden to submit a proposal for a C project (C445) to improve the title of F41J 1/00.

G01B – The existing residual main group G01B 21/00 was considered to be residual to the whole subclass and should be reviewed in the context of project WG 111.

G05G – The Working group agreed to modify the title of main group G05G 25/00 (see the relevant Technical Annex to project M 099).

G06M – The Working Group agreed that a revision project was needed and invited the members of the ALS to investigate whether the necessary resources for reclassification would be available.

G07D – The Working Group agreed to create a C project (C 447) with the EPO as Rapporteur for the introduction of a new residual main group in this subclass.

G10L – The Working Group agreed that a C-project should be created in order to widen the scope of this subclass to “audio processing”, invited the members of the ALS to investigate whether the necessary resources for reclassification would be available and invited the EPO to act as Rapporteur.

CLUSTERING OF DOCUMENTS CLASSIFIED IN RESIDUAL PLACES

26. Discussions were based on document IPC/WG/16/2, prepared by the International Bureau, describing a computer-aided solution for the identification, in IPC residual places, of new emerging technologies, on the basis of clustering techniques. In addition, the document described business requirements and a reference scenario, which could be used for an analysis and prototyping phase for technical feasibility and financial evaluation of a full-scale implementation.

27. The Working Group approved the approach and invited the International Bureau to undertake testing in various technological fields of various file sizes. Collections belonging to main groups having already several identified subgroups could be selected, in order to check the relevance of the results. Existing residual main groups having subgroups or subdivisions in ECLA or FI should also be included in the test. The International Bureau was invited to report on the results of this testing at the next session of the Working Group in June 2007.

PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVING THE IPC

28. Following the procedure adopted at the twelfth session of the Working Group, proposals were submitted to projects M 013 and M 014, by the United States of America and the International Bureau concerning improvements in subclasses A63J, B41F, B29C, B29D, B32B, G01N and in class B60. In addition, the Working Group considered amendments in subclasses B21D and B60W pending from its previous session.

Subclass A63J – Discussions were based on Annex 2 to project file M 014 containing a proposal to add a reference in main group A63J 11/00 indicating that “mazes or labyrinths for animals” are classified in subclass A01K.

It was noted that there was no particular group in subclass A01K covering this subject matter, which, on the other hand, was not clearly covered by any other subclass. It was therefore decided that this reference was not appropriate and the matter should be considered in the framework of a new revision project, where other possible options could be explored, e.g., the creation of a dedicated group. Project C 440 was created in that respect with the United States of America as Rapporteur.

Subclass B21D – It was recalled that, at its fifteenth session, the Working Group had approved, in principle, the deletion of the one-dot subgroups B21D 51/02 and B21D 51/16, and the removal of one dot from the remaining subgroups of main group B21D 51/00. However, since this deletion would impact the advanced level, the ALS had been invited to consider whether intellectual reclassification of documents would be needed due to this deletion.

The ALS considered this matter at its second session, agreed that the above solution would indeed imply reclassification and that instead the titles of the subgroups of main group B21D 51/00 should be improved. It therefore invited its members to submit a counter proposal in that respect, which was then submitted by the EPO in Annex 7 to project file M 014.

It was decided that further discussion was needed on this proposal, project C 442 was therefore created and the EPO was appointed as Rapporteur.

Subclasses B29C, B29D, B32B – It was considered that the proposal submitted in Annex 4 to project file M 014 was more than a simple improvement that could be considered in the framework of this project. In view of the necessity to further discuss the revision in this area, project C 441 was created and Sweden was appointed as Rapporteur.

Class B60 – The proposed new subparagraph (h) of the Note after the class title was approved. Furthermore a reference to subclass B60V was added in the title of subclass B63H (see the corresponding Technical Annexes to this report relating to project M 014).

Subclass B60W – The proposed modification of Note (1) after the subclass title was not approved, since it was not considered as improvement.

Subclass G01N – It was considered that the proposed reference in subclass G01N to class B04 was informative and should therefore not appear in the Classification scheme.

Subclass G05G – It was decided to approve the proposal of Annex 1 to project file M 013 to replace the expression “mécanismes de commande manœuvrés à la main” by “mécanismes à commande manuelle”, in the French titles of main groups G05G 7/00 to G05G 13/00, since the latter corresponds to the English title and to the effective scope of these groups.

IPC CORE LEVEL REVISION PROGRAM

General

29. The Working Group discussed seven pending IPC core level revision projects and approved amendments relating to those projects (see the Technical Annexes to this report relating to revision projects). The status of those projects and the list of future actions and deadlines are indicated in Annex III to this report.

IPC Revision Projects

30. The Working Group made the following observations with respect to the IPC revision projects.

Project C 432 (chemical) – The French version of the Project was approved and appears in Technical Annex 1F to this document. Following the distribution of reclassification work relating to main group A01N 65/00 by volunteering offices at the thirty-eighth session of the Committee, the Working Group was informed that the EPO would reclassify families with the EPO's priority and any other remaining documents of the PCT minimum documentation.

It was finally decided that the practical details for the reclassification would be examined at the next session of the Working Group and the EPO was invited to prepare, shortly before that session, the lists of documents to be reclassified by each volunteering office.

Project C 434 (electrical) – Discussions were based on Annex 12 to project file C 434 containing a Rapporteur proposal, with the definition of additional terms in Note (1) of subclass H04H, transfer notes of the deleted groups in subclass H04H and amendments to two already approved groups, in reply to the comments requested at the last session of the Working Group. The Working Group approved, with some amendments, the said Rapporteur proposal which appears in Technical Annex 2E to this report. The French version of the amendments approved in English at the previous session of the Working Group, was also approved (see Technical Annex 2F to this report). The project was considered as completed in English.

It was noted that the example needed to clarify the content of group H04H 60/61 would be too long to be included in the scheme and the Rapporteur was requested to add it in the definition for this group.

It was further noted that in order to simplify the presentation of the transfer notes in the core and the advanced levels, the groups indicated in an interval of such a note would be at the same hierarchical level. It should be understood that the subgroups of these groups are implicitly included in the interval. The corresponding RCL, which would be available early enough before the official publication, would indicate the complete set of groups in each level and should serve for the reclassification.

Project C 435 (electrical) – Discussions were based on the Rapporteur's proposal of Annex 13 to project file C 435. The proposal, including modified notes for subclass G06W, was approved to a large extent, with some amendments, and appears in Technical Annexes 3 to 6 to this report.

Comments were invited on (see said Annex 6):

- the wording of Note (2) after the subclass title, in particular in relation to the potential relevance of main group G08C 17/00;
- whether an example was needed in group 4/06 to clarify the term “announcement”;
- whether an example was needed in group 4/10 in order to clarify its scope;
- whether main group 44/00 was placed in the right order in relation to group 48/00, in view of the first place rule applied in this subclass;
- whether there was an overlap between group 64/00 and the subject matter of “navigation” covered by subclass G08G;
- the table of Annex 14, which indicates the transfer notes, and on whether other places in the IPC would need reclassification.

Finally the Rapporteur was invited to redraft main group 72/00 and its subgroups, in order to clarify the subject matter covered therein.

Project C 436 (chemical) – Discussions were based on the Rapporteur's report of Annex 7 to the project file. It was noted that there was not enough support for the Rapporteur's proposal and this proposal was therefore withdrawn.

It was however pointed out that the area of main groups C12N 5/00 and C12P 21/00 needed revision in view of their file size largely exceeding 100,000 documents each, several of their subgroups containing tens of thousands of documents each. It was also pointed out that, in view of the inefficiency of the scheme, even major offices were not using the IPC as a tool for classification or search in this area.

The Working Group was informed that the Trilateral Offices were not in the position to undertake a major reclassification in that area in view of the large amount of documents to be reclassified. However, it was noted that delaying of any revision would further increase the problem in the years to come, since the documentation in this area was increasing at a high rate.

The Working Group invited the Rapporteur to investigate a partial solution, which would solve the classification problem faced in Israel, based on the ECLA/ICO scheme, and to submit a proposal to the e-forum, to be discussed at the next session of the Working Group. This would minimize the need for reclassification of the PCT minimum documentation.

Furthermore, the Committee of Experts was requested to examine how to proceed when a need for revision is evident in an area with a rapid rate of growth, while there is a lack of resources for reclassification in one office of the ALS. For example, if an incomplete reclassification of the backfile could be tolerated in such cases, thus allowing the new scheme to be used for the classification of the front file.

Project C 437 (mechanical) – The Working Group approved the latest Rapporteur proposal and the corresponding French version (see Technical Annex 7 to this report). The project was therefore considered as completed.

Project C 438 (mechanical) – The Working Group approved the deletion of Guidance Headings and other subsequent amendments in subclasses F21L and F21V (see Technical Annexes 8 to 10 to this report). Furthermore, Note (1) following the title of class F21 was deleted and new notes were inserted in subclasses F21L, F21S and F21V, containing instructions on how to classify non-electric lighting devices, or lighting devices where the nature of the light source is not clearly stated.

Comments were invited on whether these approved subclass notes cover completely the practice concerning the classification of non-electric lighting devices, as was indicated in the deleted Note (1) of class F21.

Project C 439 (mechanical) – The Working Group approved the broadening of the scope of group F25C 3/00 and noted that the EPO would reclassify the complete documentation belonging to groups F25C 1/00 and F25C 3/00 after the completion of this project.

Comments were invited on the various proposals for a broadened title of group F25C 3/00 submitted by Japan, the United States of America, the EPO and the Rapporteur, as indicated in Annex 16 to the project file.

UPDATING OF TRAINING EXAMPLES

31. The Working Group noted an oral report by the Secretariat, in particular, on the thirty-eighth session of the IPC Committee of Experts relating to the subject of updating of IPC training examples.

32. The Working Group was informed about the decision taken by the Committee that Rapporteurs of training example projects should provide the International Bureau with proposals on alternatives of multiple choices for each of the steps currently presented in the tutorials (see document IPC/CE/38/4, paragraph 9), in order to better illustrate, for example, a classification rule. It was also noted that the International Bureau had prepared and posted on the e-forum a template for submitting the said proposals, appearing as Annex 21 to project TE 000.

33. Rapporteurs were requested to consider the already introduced 10 tutorials by the International Bureau as prototypes (the prototypes can be found at <http://www.wipo.int/ipc-training/>) regarding how best to present multiple choices and submit their proposals, using the above-mentioned template, to the corresponding training example projects on the e-forum by February 28, 2007.

34. On the other hand the Working Group was informed by the Rapporteur of project TE 132 that he had encountered difficulties to choose the target patent document that could best illustrate “Markush-type formulae” and to fit it into the current training example template. The Working Group confirmed its decision taken at its previous session that an example illustrating “Markush-type formulae” was necessary. The Rapporteur was invited to adapt the template in this particular case and to submit an initial proposal by January 2007, in order to allow its consideration by the Working Group at its next session.

IPC DEFINITIONS PROGRAM

35. The Working Group had before it, in particular, document IPC/WG/15/4 and compilations of the relevant definition project files. The decisions of the Working Group with respect to those projects, in particular new deadlines and appointment of offices for the preparation of French versions, are listed in Annex IV to this report. Further information with respect to some of those decisions is given in paragraph 36, below.

36. The Working Group made the following observations, in addition to the decisions set forth in Annex IV to this report, with respect to the cited IPC definition projects. All references to annexes in this paragraph refer to annexes of the corresponding project file, unless otherwise stated.

IPC Definition Projects

The Working Group approved, without further changes, the English version of definition projects D 049 (Annex 28), D065 (Annex 22), D 088 (Annex 10), D 118 (Annex 11), D 120 (Annex 10), D 123 (Annex 9), and the French version of definition projects D 057 (Annex 12), D 059 (Annex 13), D 064 (Annex 20), D 080 (Annex 19), D 090 (Annex 16), and D 104 (Annex 9).

Project D 049 (electrical) – The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 28, subject to a clerical correction according to the latest remark on the e-forum.

Project D 054 (electrical) – Following the request of the Rapporteur, the Working Group invited new comments on the latest rapporteur proposal (see Annex 19).

Project D 056 (chemical) – The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 21, subject to replacing “et uniquement commun” with “et s’il n’y a pas de cycles ayant deux faces en commun” at the end of the glossary entry “Condensé en ortho”. It was further agreed to add, in the approved English version, “shared faces” at the end of the incomplete glossary entry “Ortho-condensed”.

Project D 060 (mechanical) – The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 17 and instructed the Editorial Board to harmonize the entry “vehicle” in the Glossary with corresponding entries in existing definitions of subclasses in class B60.

Project D 070 (mechanical) – The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 24; comments were also invited on whether the references to A23P in the English and French versions should be amended as proposed by the European Patent Office in Annexes 23 and 24.

Project D 072 (electrical) – The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 18 with the amendments indicated in Annex 20.

Project D 073 (mechanical) – The Working Group approved the English version of Annex 6 and instructed the Editorial Board to move the reference to main group B01D 21/00, to the informative references.

Project D 074 (mechanical) – The Working Group invited the Rapporteur to prepare a new proposal taking into account the latest comments by the United States (see Annex 10).

Project D 075 (mechanical) – The Working Group invited the Rapporteur to review the proposal in the light of the latest comments of the United States to project D 074 (see Annex 10 to project file D 074) and agreed to replace the reference to class F23 with a reference to groups F23C 3/00 and F23D 1/02.

Project D 076 (mechanical) – The Working Group invited the Rapporteur to prepare a new proposal taking into account the latest comments by the United States of America (see Annex 12), and agreed to move the reference to group B64D 1/16 to the references pointing to application places and to delete the reference to group E03C 1/16.

Project D 082 (electrical) – The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 21 with the amendments of Annex 23, and subject to replacing “de type liquide, matrice passive” with “nématique en super-hélice” in the entry “STN-LC” of the Glossary.

Project D 083 (electrical) – The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 13 with the amendments of Annex 15.

Project D 084 (electrical) – The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 8 with the amendments of Annex 10.

Project D 085 (electrical) – The Working Group approved the English version of Annex 10 subject to moving all limiting references to the subsection of references pointing to application places.

Project D 087 (electrical) – The Working Group invited new comments on the latest Rapporteur proposal, in particular on whether amendments were needed in view of the closely related new subclass H04W (see project C 435). It was further noted that the statement of a main group definition should not reproduce simply the title of the main group. If no additional information was available, then the statement should remain empty.

Project D 089 (chemical) – The Working Group invited comments on the reference to class C10 in the subclass definition and in the definition of main group C23F 11/00, in particular on whether it should be placed in both definitions, whether it belonged to limiting references or references to application places, and whether it could be more specific.

Project D 091 (chemical) – The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 16, subject to replacing the reference to main group C08G 83/00 (index (2)), in section “règles particulières...” on page 4, with a reference to main group C08G 85/00. It was further agreed to amend the English version correspondingly.

Project D 092 (chemical) – The Working Group approved the English version of Annex 6, subject to appending “, e.g., A23J” to the reference to class A23 and to replacing the reference to class C10 with references to groups C10C 3/00 and C08L 95/00.

Project D 093 (chemical) – The Working Group invited the Rapporteur to prepare a new proposal, taking into account the latest comments of the United States of America (see Annex 8). The Rapporteur was also requested to investigate if the reference to class D06 could be more specific.

Project D 094 (chemical) – The Working Group approved the English version of Annex 6, subject to replacing the reference to D06 with the references “Treating-textile compositions D06M” and “Dyeing or printing processes D06P”, and to adding the informative reference “Soaps or detergent compositions C11D”.

Project D 095 (chemical) – The Working Group approved the English version of Annex 7, subject to replacing the reference to class B05 with references to subclasses B05B and B05C.

Project D 119 (electrical) – The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 11 with the amendments included in Annex 20 of project D072.

Project D 121 (electrical) – The Working Group agreed that the proposed amendments in bullets 2 and 4 of Annex 11 should not be included and invited comments on the necessity of the amendments according to bullets 1 and 3 of the said Annex 11.

Project D 122 (electrical) – The Working Group agreed that the references to group G01J 3/00 and to subclass H05H should be considered as references to application places and invited comments on whether they could be more specific (e.g., referring to group G01J 3/443) and whether a reference to similar groups covering spectroscopy in main group G01N 21/00 (e.g., G01N 21/66) was needed.

STATUS OF THE WORK

37. The Chair stated that, on the agenda of this session, 10 definition projects were approved in English and sixteen definition projects were completed in both English and French. In total, 72 definition projects have been completed so far. Annex IV to this report gave the status of each definition project on the program. He also indicated that two revision projects have been dealt with and completed in both languages, while seven new revision projects were included in the program of the revision of the core level (see Annex III to this report for the status of each revision project).

38. 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 in the completion of the relevant tasks of the IPC development program. In particular, the Working Group has considered and created several new residual main groups (see task 5(a)) and has initiated work on the removal of references from guidance headings and of informative references from the scheme (see tasks 3 and 4).

NEXT SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP

39. The Working Group having assessed the workload expected for its next session (see paragraph 40 below), agreed to devote the first two days to the mechanical field, the third and fourth days to the electrical field and the last day to the chemical field. When convening the next session, the International Bureau was requested to consider, in consultation with the Chair, the possible need for an extension of the session, depending on the envisaged amount of work, and for the modification of the number of days devoted to any technical field.

40. The Working Group noted the following tentative dates for its seventeenth session.

June 4 to 8, 2007.

THANKS TO MR. PRICE

41. Having noted that Mr. Price would conclude his participation in the IPC revision work, the Working Group and the International Bureau thanked him and expressed their appreciation of his excellent contribution, for many years, to this work, both as Representative of the United Kingdom and in his capacity of Chairman of the Working Group, wishing him success in his continued career.

42. The Working Group unanimously adopted this report by electronic means on December 20, 2006.

[Annexes follow]