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

IPC REVISION WORKING GROUP

**Twentieth Session
Geneva, November 24 to 28, 2008**

REPORT

adopted by the Working Group

INTRODUCTION

1. The IPC Revision Working Group (hereinafter referred to as “the Working Group”) held its twentieth session in Geneva from November 24 to 28, 2008. The following members of the Working Group were represented at the session: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Kingdom, United States of America, African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI), European Patent Office (EPO) (25). Ukraine was represented as observer. The list of participants appears as Annex I to this report.

2. The session was opened by Mr. F. Brady (Ireland), Chair of the Working Group.

OFFICERS

3. Mr. L. Mailänder (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 SIXTH SESSION OF THE IPC ADVANCED LEVEL SUBCOMMITTEE

6. The Working Group noted an oral report by the Secretariat on the sixth session of the IPC Advanced Level Subcommittee (hereinafter referred to as the "ALS") which took place at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (hereinafter referred to as "USPTO") in Alexandria, Virginia, from September 17 to 19, 2008 (see document IPC/ALS/6/8).

7. The ALS reviewed the status of advanced level projects. In particular, the English versions of projects A 007 and A 011 were adopted. The French version of project A 008 was also adopted and it was decided to refer this project to the IPC Committee of Experts (hereinafter referred to as "the Committee") as a candidate for entering into force prior to completing reclassification of the PCT minimum documentation, such as project A 005. Concerning project A 005, the EPO indicated that complete reclassification of their share, including US documentation, is expected to be completed by December 31, 2008.

8. The ALS accepted four IPC advanced level revision requests based on Harmony projects. During the session of the Working Group, the ALS had an extraordinary session in order to approve two additional revision requests (see Projects A 017 to A 022).

9. In order to limit the number of PCT applications published without IPC symbols, the ALS accepted, on *interim*, a proposal by the USPTO according to which, for such applications where the USPTO is the Receiving Office but not the International Searching Authority, the USPTO would transmit to WIPO the IPC symbols of the corresponding US applications.

10. Finally, it was agreed to postpone revision of CONOPS until a decision is taken by the Committee on projects CE 404 and CE 405.

REMOVAL OF NON-LIMITING REFERENCES FROM THE SCHEME

11. Discussions were based on a compilation of project file M 032, and in particular on Annex 41, submitted by the International Bureau, relating to a proposal for the removal of non-limiting references from eight subclasses for which definitions had already been published.

12. The Working Group recalled its previous decisions relating to the procedure of removing of informative references from the scheme (see paragraphs 16 to 22 of document IPC/WG/19/2) and invited further comments on the proposal of Annex 41. The International Bureau was invited to prepare a consolidated proposal for approval by the Task Force, and technical annexes for approval by the Working Group at its next session. The International Bureau indicated that it would also post additional proposals for further subclasses.

13. The Working Group also recalled paragraph 39 of the *Guidelines for Revision of the IPC* and therefore agreed that this task should not only cover purely informative references but also references from function-oriented to application places. However, it was also noted that some of these references could be of limiting nature and rapporteurs were therefore invited to carefully investigate their proper nature.

14. It was further agreed that, for the time being, approved subclass definitions would not be systematically reviewed as to whether some of the references should be relocated to group definitions.

15. The Secretariat informed the Working Group that Annex 8 to the project file WG 191 contains a table summarizing the status of the task of removal of non-limiting references for each subclass, which would be updated after this session in order to take into account decisions taken in the framework of definition projects.

INTRODUCTION OF GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATIONS IN THE IPC

16. Discussions were based on a compilation of project file WG 171, in particular on Annex 33 prepared by the International Bureau, relating to a proposal on how to further proceed with this project, and on Annexes 34 and 35, containing comments submitted by Japan and the United States of America.

17. The Working Group agreed on the following guidelines for the introduction of graphic illustrations:

(a) The task of introduction of graphic illustrations in the electronic layer of the IPC should be carried out in the framework of definition projects.

(b) For subclasses where graphic illustrations are available in the Spanish Patent and Trademark Office (OEPM) and the USPTO or other collections to be made available in the future, Rapporteurs of respective definition projects may identify illustrations that could be useful; Rapporteurs should consider if the selected drawings need to be amended in order to improve their clarity and simplicity.

(c) Rapporteurs of definition projects may identify groups where illustrations could be useful but are not available in the said collections and should therefore be created either by finding suitable examples in patent documents or by drafting new illustrations from scratch.

(d) Proposals containing graphic illustrations should be submitted to the relevant definition projects.

(e) Any office may also submit proposals to the corresponding definition projects, or submit comments on rapporteur proposals of definition projects.

(f) Graphic illustrations should not have any limiting impact on the scope of corresponding IPC places. Rather, they should serve only for the purpose of illustration for facilitating the understanding of the subject matter covered by a place in the IPC, and for drawing attention to the fact that the subject matter of the illustration is definitely covered by the place in question.

(g) For the purpose of clarity and simplicity, illustrations for each IPC place should normally be limited to a few examples; however, in some cases, it may be necessary to show a variety of embodiments in order to better illustrate the extent of a place's scope.

(h) In graphic illustrations, textual indications and explanations should normally be avoided and should be as short and clear as possible, where needed; handwriting or hand-drawing should not be used.

(i) The approved graphic illustrations should be presented in the electronic layer of the IPC as they are currently presented, e.g. F23B 50/02-F23B 50/12.

(j) Any illustrations that are needed to define the scope of an IPC place should be put in the respective definition documents as set out in the *Guidelines for Drafting Definitions* (see Annex 1 to project D 000).

(k) No illustrations should be used where there is any risk of violation of copyright. Illustrations should therefore be original or taken from published patent documents.

RENUMBERING OF PRE-REFORM RESIDUAL MAIN GROUPS

18. Discussions were based on the latest rapporteur proposal (see Annex 60 to project file WG 111) relating to residual main groups with subgroups.

19. The Working Group agreed to delete the residual main group B67D 5/00 and its subgroups, and to transfer the deleted main group to a new standardized residual main group, the deleted one-dot subgroups to new main groups and the deleted hierarchically lower subgroups to respective subgroups of the new main groups (see Technical Annex 43 to this report).

20. The Working Group further agreed to delete the residual main group C08H 5/00 and its subgroups, to transfer the deleted main group to new standardized residual main group and the deleted one-dot subgroups to new main groups, and to amend the title of subclass C08H (see Technical Annex 44 to this report). A new revision project C 455 was created, with the EPO as Rapporteur, for clarifying the overlap between the new main groups C08H 7/00 and 9/00 and the existing main group C07G 1/00. The International Bureau was invited to transfer the Annexes 61 and 62 of project file WG 111 to the new project.

21. The Secretariat informed the Working Group of its plan to post an updated version of Annex 59 to the e-forum, which would summarize all decisions of the Working Group with respect to the introduction of new residual main groups and the renumbering of existing residual main groups.

REQUESTS FOR REVISION OF THE CORE LEVEL OF THE IPC

22. Discussions were based on a request submitted by the International Bureau that originated from project R 706 and comments received from Japan and the United States of America (see Annexes 15 to 17 to project file WG 020). The Working Group agreed that a revision project would not be needed but that project R 706 should be reopened because there had been consensus that a residual main group would be needed. The Rapporteur was asked to submit a corresponding proposal.

PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVING THE IPC

23. The Working Group considered projects M 700, M 701, M 702, M 703, M 704, M 705, M 706, M 707, M 708, M 710, M 711 and M 712. A list of M projects, indicating their status and relevant future actions with deadlines, is given in Annex III to this report.

Project M 700 – B27K (mechanical) – Discussions were based on a rapporteur report and comments submitted (see Annexes 17 to 21 to the project file). Since no common conclusion could be reached on the questions raised by the Rapporteur in Annex 15 to the project file, it was decided to create a new definition project D 215 for subclass B27K, with Sweden as Rapporteur, in order to solve the outstanding issue.

Project M 701 – B60L 15/00 (mechanical) – The Working Group approved, with some modifications, the English version of Annex 16 to the project file (see Technical Annex 53 to this report). The definition project D 060 was reopened and the Rapporteur was invited to modify the corresponding parts of the definitions according to the changes made in project M 701.

Project M 702 – C (chemical) – The Working Group approved, with some amendments, the English version of Annex 18 to the project file and a French version which was prepared by the EPO during the session (see Technical Annexes 54 to 60 to this report). The project was therefore considered as completed.

Project M 703 – A62B, A62D (mechanical) – The Working Group approved, with some amendments, the French version of Annex 7 to the project file (see Technical Annexes 61 to 62 to this report). The project was therefore considered as completed.

Project M 704 – B29K (mechanical) – The EPO was invited to prepare a French version for consideration by the Working Group at its next session.

Project M 705 – B01D (chemical) – The Working Group approved the English version of Annex 11 to the project file, subject to several amendments (see Technical Annex 63 to this report). A French version was requested for consideration at the next session of the Working Group.

Project M 706 – B65D (mechanical) – The French version of Annex 12 to the project file was approved, with some amendments (see Technical Annex 64 to this report). The project was therefore considered as completed.

Project M 707 – B27G (mechanical) – Discussions were based on Annex 8 to the project file containing comments submitted by Sweden. A further round of comments was invited on the questions set out in the report of the Working Group at its nineteenth session (see paragraph 41 of document IPC/WG/19/2) in light of the comments submitted by Sweden in Annex 8, to be followed by a rapporteur report.

Project M 708 – G01T (electrical) – Discussions were based on an initial proposal submitted by the Rapporteur and comments received (see Annexes 3 to 7 to the project file). The Working Group approved the removal of references pointing to groups H01J 40/00 and H01J 49/00 from the title of subclass G01T and the corresponding changes in subclass definitions, as proposed by the Rapporteur in Annex 3 to the project file (see Technical Annex 65 to this report). The Working Group invited comments on whether a reference to group H01J 43/00 should be added to the subclass title in view of the reference to group G01T 1/28 in group H01J 43/00).

Project M 710 – C07C (chemical) – The Working Group approved the deletion of the reference to group C07C 43/32 from the title of group C07C 69/00 (see Technical Annex 66 to this report) and the introduction of the deleted reference in group definitions, as proposed by the Rapporteur in Annex 3 to the project file. The project was therefore considered as completed.

Project M 711 – A61P, A61Q (chemical) – The Working Group approved, with some modifications, the English version of Annex 2 to the project file and the French version which was prepared by France during the session (see Technical Annexes 67 to 68 to this report). The project was therefore considered as completed.

Project M 712 – C04B (chemical) – Following the proposal of the Rapporteur in Annex 11 to the project file, the Working Group agreed to abandon this project.

IPC CORE LEVEL REVISION PROGRAM

General

24. The Working Group discussed nine pending IPC core level revision projects and approved amendments relating to those projects (see Technical Annexes 1 to 22 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

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

Project C 436 (chemical) – The French version of the project and some minor modifications of the English version were approved (see Technical Annex 1 to this report). The project was thus completed.

Project C 441 (mechanical) – The French version of the project was approved (see Technical Annexes 2 to 5 to this report) and a minor correction was introduced in the English version (see Technical Annex 3 to this report). The project was thus completed.

Project C 443 (chemical) – Discussions were based on the latest rapporteur report (see Annex 26 to the project file). It was decided to amend the titles of subclasses C13B and C13K. Furthermore, the subgroups of subclass C13B were approved as well as the transfer notes from the deleted groups of subclasses C13C, C13D, C13F, C13G, C13H and C13J (see Technical Annexes 6 to 13 to this report).

Rapporteur was invited to submit notes in subclass C13B explaining the use of the terms “sugar” and “sugar juices” in the said subclass. The French version of the project would be considered at the next session of the Working Group.

Project C 447 (electrical) – Discussions were based on the latest rapporteur proposal (see Annex 20 to the project file) which was approved (see Technical Annex 14 to this report).

It was however pointed out that the problem of where to classify “sorting, counting and handling of paper currency or similar valuable papers” was not solved. Proposals were invited on how to achieve consistent classification of the above subject matter, taking into account that this subject matter is covered under different IPC main groups in ECLA and in FI. A viable solution should also propose ways for an automatic reclassification of the PCT minimum documentation.

Furthermore, comments were invited on whether a residual main group is needed in subclass G07D. The Rapporteur was invited to submit a report following the submission of the above proposals/comments.

Project C 449 (electrical) – Discussions were based on the latest rapporteur report (see Annex 28 to the project file). The proposal therein was approved, with some amendments (see Technical Annexes 15 to 16 to this report). Rapporteur was invited to consider whether the second part of the title of subclass G07B and the part of the G07B subclass index relating to group 15/00, in particular the use of the term “apparatus”, were adequate to cover the subject matter of group 15/00 as presently defined, and to prepare a proposal for their modification, if needed.

A French version was requested for consideration at the next session of the Working Group.

Project C 450 (chemical) – The French version of the project was approved, with some modifications (see Technical Annex 17 to this report) and the project was thus completed.

Project C 452 (electrical) – A general discussion took place which was based on Annexes 10 to 22 to the project file and, in particular, on Annex 20 containing a rapporteur report.

It was noted that the purpose of the new proposed scheme was:

- to collect in one single place, readily visible to all users, all art related to nanotechnology;
- to serve for searching, in combination with classification symbols, nanotechnology aspects in places where subdivisions relating to nanotechnology are not explicit;
- to help in identifying places where nanotechnology-related subdivisions should be created and in identifying the documents to be reclassified therein;

In order to serve the above purposes, this scheme should be:

- universal, i.e. applied in combination with any other symbol throughout the IPC;
- used obligatorily, in the sense that its use should be compulsory and not in the sense that it should be used to classify invention information only;
- secondary, i.e. that its symbols should be allotted with at least one additional ordinary classification symbol (primary symbol);
- applied even if the primary symbol already covers the particular aspect of nanotechnology; and
- “temporary”. When in the future nanotechnology becomes a “mature” technology and is concentrated in particular areas in the IPC where nanotechnology groups are created, then this scheme could be abolished without any harm or need for reclassification.

Currently, the *Guide to the IPC* has provision for two types of schemes in addition to ordinary classification:

- indexing schemes. However, their application is not compulsory, they are applied in combination with symbols from identified specific places in the IPC (i.e. indexing schemes are not universal) and they provide aspects that do not exist in the ordinary associated classification schemes. Furthermore, subdivision of classification places along the line of an indexing scheme is prohibited; and
- secondary classification schemes. Their use is obligatory; however, like the indexing schemes, they are not universal. They provide different aspects than the associated classification schemes which cannot be subdivided along the line of the secondary scheme.

In view of the above limitations, it was agreed that a new type of universal (tagging, indexing, secondary classification) scheme is needed. This new type should be:

- universal;
- secondary;
- obligatorily applied;
- allow the development of related subdivisions in ordinary classification schemes;
- “temporary”; and
- readily visible to all users.

In that respect, it was agreed that a new section (e.g. “J”) could be created, which could, in the future, collect other technologies or uses with universal application (e.g. environment protection, biotechnology, although these are examples from the past).

It was therefore decided to bring this matter to the attention of the Committee at its forty-first session in March 2009. The International Bureau was requested to draft an official request for the creation of this new type of scheme, including all necessary amendments to the *Guide*. A relevant CE project should also be created to offer a forum of discussion.

It was however noted that, although the Working Group had a preferred choice, other solutions could be presented during the discussion, such as broadening the use of existing secondary classification schemes.

In order to allow the continuation of the technical discussion in project C 452, the Rapporteur was requested to draft a new proposal taking into account the rules of the new type of scheme as described above.

In addition, it was agreed that this new proposal should contain a limited number of entries at the main group level only. Comments were invited on this proposal to be submitted, to be followed by a rapporteur report.

Project C 453 (electrical) – Discussions were based on the latest rapporteur proposal (see Annex 10 to the project file). It was decided to use Option 2 as the basis for the amendments that were finally approved (see Technical Annexes 18 to 21 to this report). Rapporteur was invited to check whether the approved amendments had an impact on the definitions of subclasses G01M and G01R (projects D 027 and D 179, respectively) and to propose any corrections needed.

A French version was requested for consideration at the next session of the Working Group.

Project C 454 (electrical) – Discussions were based on the initial rapporteur proposal (see Annex 4 to the project file). The new main group H04N 21/00 was approved, as well as amendments of the relevant scope-modified core level groups H04N 5/00, 7/00, 7/16, 7/24 and 7/52 (see Technical Annex 22 to this report). It was noted that the subgroups of H04N 21/00 that were used as references in some of the above approved amendments had not yet been approved since they would be considered by the ALS in the framework of project A 014.

Rapporteur was invited to consider as to whether the notes in group H01N 21/00 could be condensed in order to appear in the scheme, in particular whether Note (2) could be transformed into a limiting reference, or whether they could simply appear only in the definitions of that group.

Finally, Rapporteur was also invited to consider Annex 2 to the project file which contains a list of existing references in subclass H04N, submitted by the International Bureau, and to submit an amended version as needed.

IPC DEFINITIONS PROGRAM

26. The Working Group had before it, in particular, document IPC/WG/18/4 and compilations of the relevant definition project files. The decisions of the Working Group with respect to those projects, in particular new deadlines and the 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 28, below.

27. The Working Group recalled its decision at its fifteenth session that Rapporteurs of definition projects which were active at the end of 2007 had been invited to submit proposals for non-limiting references that should be removed from the scheme (see paragraph 29 of document IPC/WG/15/4), and noted that such proposals had been submitted for several projects. Rapporteurs of definition projects for which such proposals had not yet been submitted were asked to do so at the earliest time possible, or to indicate on the e-forum that the respective subclass did not contain any non-limiting references.

IPC Definition Projects

28. 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.

Project D 039 (chemical) – The Working Group agreed that the first paragraph in the section “Special Rules of Classification” of the current definition should be reworded according to the proposal in Annex 48, and invited comments on whether the reference to group A61K 48/00 in the current definition of subclass C12N should be considered as limiting and whether it should also be included in group C12N 5/00. The Rapporteur was invited to submit a new proposal taking into account the comments to be received and the latest comments, in particular on the glossary.

Project D 055 (mechanical) – The Working Group approved the removal of informative references as proposed in Annexes 101 and 108 (see Technical Annexes 23 to 24 to this report), and invited the International Bureau to include them in the relevant definitions according to the instructions given in the said Annexes. The Working Group also agreed to include a limiting reference to group F21V 7/20 in the title of group F21V 29/00 (see Technical Annex 24 to this report).

The Working Group reviewed the proposals for the French versions of all subclass definitions of class F21 that are collectively under consideration in this project and took the following decisions:

- Subclass F21K: The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 102.
- Subclass F21L: The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 103.
- Subclass F21S: The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 104, subject to moving the reference to subclass B60Q under the informative references and some editorial amendments.
- Subclass F21V: The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 105.
- Subclass F21W: The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 106, subject to subject to an editorial amendment.
- Subclass F21Y: The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 107, subject to an editorial amendment, and agreed to amend the English version in a similar way (see the Editorial Board versions in Annexes 109 and 110).

Project D 067 (mechanical) – The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 17, and further agreed to replace, in the English version, “turves” by “turf” in the reference pointing to group A01B 45/04, and to modify accordingly the title of group A01B 45/04 (see Technical Annex 25 to this report).

Project D 068 (mechanical) – The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 17, subject to some editorial amendments, and to moving the informative reference to group A01D 85/00 to the appropriate subsection of the limiting references in both language versions.

Project D 069 (mechanical) – The Working Group approved the list of non-limiting references to be removed from the scheme, as proposed in Annex 12 (see Technical Annex 26 to this report), and invited the International Bureau to include them in the relevant group definitions. The Working Group invited the Rapporteur to consider the placement of the limiting reference to groups A01D 76/00 to 84/00 in the section “Relationships Between Large Subject Matter Areas”.

Project D 070 (mechanical) – The Working Group agreed to reword the reference to subclass A23P as proposed in Annex 28 and to leave it in its place. The Rapporteur was invited to submit a proposal for the removal of non-limiting references.

Project D 071 (chemical) – The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 23.

Project D 076 (mechanical) – The Working Group approved the list of informative references to be removed from subclass B05B, as proposed in Annex 25 (see Technical Annex 27 to this report). The Working Group further agreed to invite the Rapporteur to review all references to application places in subclass B05B and also all references in the title of class B05. New definition projects for subclasses B05C and B05D with the United Kingdom as Rapporteur were created. The Working Group further agreed to reword the informative reference to subclass B32B (see the Editorial Board version in Annex 27).

Project D 078 (electrical) – The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 16, and the list of informative references to be removed from the scheme, as proposed in Annex 15 (see Technical Annex 28 to this report).

Project D 079 (mechanical) – The Working Group approved the list of informative references to be removed from the scheme, as proposed in Annex 30, and agreed to remove also the reference to subclass G01V in group A63B 29/02 (see Technical Annex 30 to this report). The Working Group further agreed to replace “mountain climbing irons” by “crampons” in the English version of the definition and the corresponding reference in group A63B 29/00 in the scheme, and to delete the example “mountain climbing irons” in group A43C 15/06 (see Technical Annexes 29 to 30 to this report).

Project D 081 (mechanical) – The Working Group approved the list of informative references to be removed from the scheme, as proposed in Annex 16, except for the references in groups B65D 41/00 and 90/50, and also agreed to remove the unspecific reference “materials *per se*, see the relevant classes” in the title of group B65D 65/00 (see Technical Annex 31 to this report). The International Bureau was invited to include deleted references in relevant group definitions as indicated in Annex 18. The Rapporteur was also invited to submit a proposal for the removal of references to application places, taking into account the agreement mentioned in paragraph 13, above.

Project D 086 (electrical) – The Working Group invited a further round of comments, to be followed by a new rapporteur report. The Rapporteur was invited to submit a proposal for the treatment of the references removed from the scheme during project M 103.

Project D 098 (mechanical) – The Working Group approved the list of informative references to be removed from the scheme, as proposed in Annex 34, and agreed to include a limiting reference to group A63B 33/00 in group A61F 9/02 (see Technical Annex 32 to this report) and to move this reference accordingly to the definitions. The Working Group also agreed that a residual main group would not be needed in this subclass.

Project D 100 (chemical) – The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 19, and invited the Rapporteur to submit a proposal for the removal of non-limiting references.

Project D 101 (mechanical) – The Working Group agreed that all limiting references in Annex 21 pointing to places in subclasses F16D and F16H should be treated as informative references. The Working Group also agreed that the title of subclass F16C could be amended in the framework of this definition project and invited the Rapporteur to prepare a corresponding proposal, to prepare a consolidated proposal for the subclass definition and to consider if Note (2) after the subclass title could be fully deleted since its references were included in the subclass definition.

Project D 102 (mechanical) – The Working Group approved the English version of Annex 19, subject to replacing, in the limiting references section, the groups B60W 10/02 and 10/18 by group B60W 30/00. The Rapporteur was invited to consider if the Note after the subclass title could be fully deleted since its references were included in the subclass definition. The Working Group also invited a consolidated proposal for the list of non-limiting references to be removed from the scheme, to be followed by a round of comments.

Project D 103 (mechanical) – The Working Group approved the English version of Annex 32, subject to replacing the first paragraphs of the section “Relationship Between Large Subject Matter” with the wording proposed by Japan in Annex 33, to moving the reference to D07B under the informative references, and to some further editorial amendments. The Rapporteur was invited to consider if the Note after the subclass title could be fully deleted in view of the references in the subclass definition, and if a residual main group would be needed, in particular in view of the modification of the section “Relationship Between Large Subject Matter”. The Working Group also approved the list of informative references to be removed from the scheme, as proposed in Annex 34 (see Technical Annex 33 to this report), and invited the International Bureau to include them in the relevant definitions according to the instructions given in said Annex 34.

Project D 104 (mechanical) – The Working Group agreed to modify the already approved English and French versions, i.e. to modify the title of the reference to subclass A61F to “Non-Dental Implants or Prostheses” and to remove the limiting reference to group A61B 1/24. The Working Group approved the list of informative references to be removed from the scheme, as proposed in Annex 17, except for the references in groups A61C 5/02, 5/04 and 5/08. The Working Group further agreed to amend the reference in group A61C 19/04 (see Technical Annex 34 to this report).

Project D 105 (mechanical) – The Working Group approved the English version of Annex 14, subject to moving all informative references to the relevant group definitions and to some editorial amendments. The list of informative references to be removed from the scheme, as proposed in Annex 15, was approved (see Technical Annex 35 to this report). The International Bureau was invited to include the informative reference to subclass A61M in the definition of group A61D 7/00.

Project D 106 (mechanical) – The Working Group invited a new round of comments on the list of non-limiting references in Annex 23, in particular on the proper nature of the references pointing to groups A61B 5/04, A61B 5/05 and A47K 7/02, and on the proposal of Annex 24, in particular the list of limiting references. It was agreed that the references pointing to groups A61B 5/04 and A61B 5/05 should be removed from the subclass definition and be placed in the respective main group definition, and that, in the fourth last paragraph of the definition statement, the first bracket should be worded “e.g. sweating suits for therapy”.

Project D 107 (mechanical) – The Working Group approved the list of informative references to be removed from the scheme, as proposed in Annex 21 and agreed to move them to the respective group definitions. The Working Group also agreed to amend the limiting reference in group A61J 1/03 (see Technical Annex 36 to this report), and to remove from the proposal of Annex 15 the last paragraph in the section “Relationship Between Large Subject Matter” and the limiting references to groups A21D 13/00, A47G 9/02 and subclass A63H, and invited comments on the remaining limiting references to places in subclass A61M, in

particular in view of the informative reference to A61M 37/00 and the reference to subclass A61J in the title of subclass A61M (see also project D 109).

Project D 115 (chemical) – The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 26, and the list of informative references to be removed from the scheme, as proposed in Annex 25 (see Technical Annex 37 to this report).

Project D 116 (chemical) – The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 23, subject to removing the first two entries in the section for synonyms, and the list of informative references to be removed from the scheme, as proposed in Annex 22 (see Technical Annex 38 to this report). It was also agreed to amend, in the French version, the wording of the Note after group C22B 3/00 according to the first paragraph in the section “Special Rules of Classification” of Annex 23 (see Technical Annex 38 to this report).

Project D 117 (chemical) – The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 24, subject to moving the reference to class B21 under the informative references of the appropriate main group definition, and invited comments on the proper nature and suitability of the other limiting references. The Working Group also agreed to amend the English version according the suggestions in Annex 22, and approved the list of informative references to be removed from the scheme, as proposed in Annex 23 (see Technical Annex 39 to this report).

Project D 124 (C 434) (electrical) – In view of the late submission of comments, the Working Group invited a further round of comments, to be followed by a new rapporteur report.

Project D 125 (electrical) – The Working Group invited a round of comments on the latest rapporteur proposal relating to group definitions.

Project D 137 (chemical) – The Working Group approved the English version of Annex 18, subject to several amendments (see the Editorial Board version in Annex 19 of the project file), and agreed that the scheme would not include non-limiting references. It was also agreed to create a new maintenance project M 713, with Sweden as Rapporteur, for amending the title of subclass C10J.

Project D 138 (electrical) – The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 15, subject to some editorial amendments and to adding a reference to group A61F 7/00 to the list of references pointing to application places (see the Editorial Board version in Annex 16 of the project file), and invited the International Bureau to include it in the English version as well. The Rapporteur was invited to include in his proposal for the removal of non-limiting references also references to application places, taking into account the agreement mentioned in paragraph 13 of this report and the views in project D 098.

Project D 141 (chemical) – The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 15.

Project D 167 (electrical) – The Working Group invited a further round of comments.

Project D 170 (electrical) – The Working Group invited a new rapporteur report and a proposal for the removal of non-limiting references.

Project D 171 (C 448) (electrical) – The Working Group approved the English version of Annex 10.

Project D 172 (electrical) – The Working Group invited a new rapporteur report and a proposal for the removal of non-limiting references.

Project D 173 (electrical) – The Working Group approved the English version of Annex 7, subject to the amendments proposed in Annex 8. The Rapporteur was invited to submit a proposal for the removal of non-limiting references.

Project D 174 (electrical) – The Working Group approved the English version of Annex 9, subject to the amendments proposed in Annex 13 and the second paragraph of Annex 10. The Rapporteur was invited to submit a proposal for the removal of non-limiting references.

Project D 194 (chemical) – The Working Group invited a new rapporteur report taking into account the latest comments, and a proposal for the removal of non-limiting references.

Project D 195 (chemical) – The Working Group approved the English version of Annex 7. The Rapporteur was invited to submit a proposal for the removal of non-limiting references.

Project D 196 (chemical) – The Working Group agreed that the first part of the subclass title should be added to the definition statement, and invited a new rapporteur report taking into account the latest comments and a proposal for the removal of non-limiting references.

Project D 197 (chemical) – The Working Group approved the English version of Annex 7, subject to several amendments (see the Editorial Board version in Annex 9 of the project file), and agreed to amend the title of subgroups C14B 1/60, C14B 7/02 and C14C 7/00 both in the English and French languages (see Technical Annex 40 to this report). The Rapporteur was invited to submit a proposal for the removal of non-limiting references.

Project D 198 (chemical) – The Working Group approved the English version of Annex 7, subject to several amendments (see the Editorial Board version in Annex 10 of the project file), and to modifying the English title of subclass C14C (see Technical Annexes 41 to 42 to this report). The Rapporteur was invited to submit a proposal for the removal of non-limiting references.

Project D 199 (chemical) – The Working Group approved the English version of Annex 8. The Rapporteur was invited to submit a proposal for the removal of non-limiting references.

Project D 200 (chemical) – The Working Group approved the English version of Annex 8. The Rapporteur was invited to submit a proposal for the removal of non-limiting references.

IPC SYSTEMATIC MAINTENANCE

General

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

IPC Systematic Maintenance Projects

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

Project M 101 – C07B (chemical) – The Working Group approved, subject to some additional amendments, the English version of Annex 24 to the project file (see Technical Annex 45 to this report).

The Working Group noted that a large number of Japanese documents are currently classified in the FI subgroups under the residual main group C07B 61/00 and that this classification had been propagated to all family members because of the automated reclassification in the MCD in the context of the IPC to IPC-8 conversion. Japan was therefore invited to make particular effort to find a solution for reducing the number of Japanese documents classified under those subgroups.

Project M 102 – F23G (mechanical) – The French version of Annex 21 to the project file was approved (see Technical Annex 46 to this report). The project was therefore considered as completed.

Project M 103 – H04M (electrical) – The Working Group approved, with amendments, the French version of Annex 12 to the project file (see Technical Annex 47 to this report). The project was therefore considered as completed.

Project M 104 – C08L (chemical) – The Working Group approved, with amendments, the English and French versions of the project (see Technical Annex 48 to this report). The project was therefore considered as completed.

Project M 105 – C09D (chemical) – The Working Group approved, subject to some amendments, the English and French versions of the project (see Technical Annex 49 to this report). The project was therefore considered as completed.

Project M 106 – C09J (chemical) – The Working Group approved, with amendments, the English and French versions of the project (see Technical Annex 50 to this report). The project was therefore considered as completed. The United Kingdom, as Rapporteur of definition project D 095 for subclass C09J, was requested to modify the definition documents according to the proposed amendments in Annex 14 to project file M 106.

The International Bureau was requested to harmonize the presentation of the abbreviation “ABS” in the three subclasses C08L, C09D and C09J according to the *Guidelines for Revision of the IPC* (see Technical Annexes 48 to 50 to this report).

Project M 107 – F04C (mechanical) – The Working Group approved, with several additional modifications, the English version of Annex 14 to the project file (see Technical Annexes 51 to 52 to this report). A French version was requested for consideration at the next session of the Working Group. The Rapporteur of the already completed definition project D 018 for subclass F04C was invited to include the amendments with respect to the definition of the term “working fluid” in the glossary of the definition documents.

31. The Working Group noted an intervention by Sweden with respect to the continuation of the systematic maintenance of the IPC in the future. It was recalled that 12 subclasses had been treated as pilot projects during projects M 100 to M 106 and M 110 and have been completed for the English language version at this session. Bearing in mind the importance of the systematic maintenance of the IPC for standardizing the IPC in order to achieve a better quality of the Classification, the Working Group invited Sweden to prepare a proposal on how to carry out the systematic maintenance of the IPC in the future, in order to facilitate the continuation of the discussion by the Working Group at its next session. A new project WG 022 was created therefor.

STATUS OF THE WORK

32. The Chair stated that, on the agenda of this session, 12 definition projects were approved in English and 11 definition projects were completed in both English and French. In total, 113 definition projects have been completed so far. Annex IV to this report gives the status of each definition project on the program. He also indicated that three revision projects have been dealt with and completed in both languages (see Annex III to this report for the status of each revision project). Furthermore, 19 maintenance projects have been dealt with (see Annex III to this report for the status of each maintenance project).

33. 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.

NEXT SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP

34. The Working Group, having assessed the workload expected for its next session, agreed to devote the first two days to the mechanical field, the following two 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 possibility of shortening the session by one day, depending on the envisaged amount of work, and for the modification of the number of days dedicated to each technical field.

35. The Working Group noted the following dates for its twenty-first session:

June 15 to 19, 2009.

36. The Working Group unanimously adopted this report by electronic means on December 19, 2008.

[Annexes follow]