

Special Union for the International Patent Classification (IPC Union)

IPC Revision Working Group

Twenty-Sixth Session

Geneva, November 14 to 18, 2011

Report

adopted by the Working Group

INTRODUCTION

1. The IPC Revision Working Group (hereinafter referred to as “the Working Group”) held its twenty-sixth session in Geneva from November 14 to 18, 2011. The following members of the Working Group were represented at the session: Brazil, Canada, China, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, and the European Patent Office (EPO) (24). Saudi Arabia 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. Mrs. N. Xu (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 IP5 WG1-WORKING GROUP ON CLASSIFICATION

6. The Working Group noted a short oral report by the EPO on behalf of the FiveIPOffices on the sixth session of the IP5 WG1-Working Group on Classification (WG1).
7. It was noted that 11 new F-projects, nine of which were based on a comparative study between ECLA and FI schemes led by the JPO, were launched. Concerning "WIPO's Proposal", the WG1 agreed to pursue the common publication platform in which the IPC, CPC and FI would be displayed optionally in parallel on WIPO's IPC website. Other administrative issues were also considered.

DEFAULT TRANSFER TABLES FOR COMPLETED REVISION PROJECTS

8. The Working Group considered and approved project [WG 261](#), containing a table of default transfers of revision projects that had been completed and entered into force since 2006. The project was thus completed.
9. As a general remark, where multiple default transfers were given, all the listed symbols in the default transfers must be allotted to the documents concerned.

REMOVAL OF NON-LIMITING REFERENCES FROM THE SCHEME

10. The Working Group considered and approved project [M 037](#), with some modifications. All decisions and observations are available in the "Working Group Decision" annex of this project on the e-forum. The project was thus completed.
11. The Secretariat informed the Working Group that an updated table summarizing the status of the task of removal of non-limiting references for each subclass would be posted to project file [WG 191](#).

IPC REVISION PROGRAM

12. The Working Group discussed 34 revision projects, namely: [A 023](#), [A 030](#), [A 033](#), [A 034](#), [A 035](#), [A 036](#), [A 037](#), [A 038](#), [A 040](#), [A 041](#), [A 042](#), [A 043](#), [A 044](#), [A 045](#), [A 046](#), [A 047](#), [A 048](#), [A 049](#), [A 050](#), [A 051](#), [A 052](#), [A 053](#), [A 054](#), [A 055](#), [A 056](#), [A 057](#), [A 058](#), [C 458](#), [F 002](#), [F 003](#), [F 004](#), [F 005](#), [F 006](#) and [F 007](#). The status of those projects and the list of future actions and deadlines are indicated in the corresponding projects on the e-forum. All decisions, observations and technical annexes are available in the "Working Group Decision" annexes of the corresponding projects on the e-forum.
13. Having noted an increase of staff movements in offices, the Working Group decided to create project [WG 263](#), with Ireland as Rapporteur, to collect practical information which was considered useful for offices to better understand the IPC-related procedural details, for example, how to submit a proposal or a comment to the IPC e-forum, etc.

IPC DEFINITIONS PROGRAM

14. During the consideration of the definitions in project [A 037](#), a number of group definition statements were removed from the proposal as being not informative. The Rapporteurs were therefore reminded that according to the *Guidelines for Drafting Definitions*: “the definition statement may be omitted in instances where the meaning of the classification place is clear enough from the title and would not benefit from further explanation”.
15. Having noted that more offices were participating as Rapporteurs in drafting definitions and that offices which had already been definition Rapporteurs had accumulated considerable experience, the Working Group considered that it was the appropriate moment to invite questions and comments from all offices on the current *Guidelines for Drafting Definitions*. It was therefore agreed to create new project [WG 262](#) for this purpose.
16. The Working Group discussed 70 definition projects, namely: [D 009](#), [D 017](#) (F), [D 019](#), [D 020](#), [D 032](#), [D 110](#), [D 111](#), [D 125](#) (F), [D 126](#) (F), [D 127](#) (F), [D 128](#) (F), [D 129](#) (F), [D 130](#) (F), [D 139](#), [D 142](#), [D 144](#) (F), [D 146](#), [D 149](#), [D 150](#) (F), [D 151](#) (F), [D 152](#), [D 154](#), [D 155](#), [D 157](#) (F), [D 158](#), [D 159](#), [D 160](#), [D 168](#), [D 179](#) (F), [D 182](#) (F), [D 186](#) (F), [D 219](#), [D 220](#), [D 223](#), [D 226](#) (F), [D 227](#) (F), [D 228](#), [D 233](#), [D 235](#), [D 236](#) (F), [D 237](#) (F), [D 238](#) (F), [D 239](#) (F), [D 240](#) (F), [D 241](#), [D 242](#), [D 245](#), [D 246](#), [D 247](#), [D 248](#), [D 249](#), [D 250](#), [D 251](#), [D 252](#), [D 253](#), [D 254](#), [D 255](#), [D 256](#), [D 257](#), [D 258](#), [D 259](#), [D 260](#), [D 261](#), [D 262](#), [D 263](#), [D 264](#), [D 265](#), [D 266](#), [D 267](#) and [D 268](#). The status of those projects and the list of future actions and deadlines are indicated in the corresponding projects on the e-forum. All decisions, observations and technical annexes are available in the “Working Group Decision” annexes of the corresponding projects on the e-forum.
17. The Working Group agreed to create new definition projects as follows:
- Mechanical: A01K ([D 269](#), GB), A01M ([D 221](#), GB), A41C ([D 290](#), RU), A45C ([D 270](#), BR), A45F ([D 287](#), RU), B29C ([D 271](#), BR), F03D ([D 272](#), GB), F23M ([D 273](#), SE);
- Electrical: G04D ([D 289](#), RU), H03B ([D 274](#), EP), H03C ([D 275](#), EP), H04N ([D 224](#), CA); and
- Chemical: C08B ([D 276](#), EP), C08C ([D 277](#), EP), C12J ([D 288](#), RU), C21B ([D 278](#), EP), C21C ([D 279](#), EP), C21D ([D 280](#), EP), D06L ([D 281](#), DE), D06M ([D 282](#), DE), D06N ([D 283](#), DE), D06P ([D 284](#), DE), D21B ([D 285](#), BR).
18. The Secretariat indicated that an updated table summarizing the status of the task of introduction of residual main groups would be posted to project file [WG 111](#).

IPC MAINTENANCE

19. The Working Group discussed six maintenance projects, namely: [M 012](#), [M 013](#), [M 014](#), [M 719](#), [M 735](#) and [M 736](#). The status of those projects and the list of future actions and deadlines are indicated in the corresponding projects on the e-forum. All decisions, observations and technical annexes are available in the “Working Group Decision” annexes of the corresponding projects on the e-forum.

WIPO IPCRECLASS PROJECT REVIEW

20. The Secretariat provided a presentation on the WIPO IPCRECLASS project, with a live demonstration based on the IPCRECLASS release available from the contractor's site.
21. The Working Group noted that the project implementation was outsourced and was now reaching its last stage before its integration at WIPO. Functional specifications would be available on demand. The cooperation between IPCRECLASS, and other IT support systems for the IPC, patent databases and other classification systems, was explained.
22. Although backward compatibility with the current protocol for submission of working lists was noted, the Secretariat emphasized the necessity to develop a transition plan based on the use of residual working lists.
23. The Working Group also noted that the system would be made available for external testing by Sweden in first quarter of 2012, in order to be used in production for IPC-2013.01.

NEXT SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP

24. Having noted the amount of paper documentation that was distributed during this session, and bearing in mind that the number of delegates using laptops had dramatically increased, the Working Group decided to discontinue paper document distribution as from the next session of the Working Group, with the exception of the Technical Annexes, which would continue to be distributed in paper. All documents included in projects concerned, as well as the IPC in split files, would be made available on USB keys at the beginning of the meeting.
25. The Working Group, therefore, encouraged all delegates to bring their laptops to the meeting, since all latest comments submitted after the preparation of the USB keys (to be done on Thursday before the meeting) would be available exclusively through the IPC e-forum.
26. 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 half day in the morning to the chemical field and the last two and a half days to the electrical field.
27. The Working Group noted the following dates for its twenty-seventh session:

June 4 to 8, 2012.

26. This report was unanimously adopted by the Working Group by electronic means on December 13, 2011.

[Annexes follow]

LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS/LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

I. ÉTATS MEMBRES/MEMBER STATES

(dans l'ordre alphabétique des noms français des États/
in the alphabetical order of the names in French of the States)

ALLEMAGNE/GERMANY

Ulrich RÖDIGER, Senior Patent Examiner, Classification Systems Section, German Patent and Trade Mark Office, Munich

Markus SEITZ, Senior Patent Examiner, Classification Systems Section, German Patent and Trade Mark Office, Munich

Fred ROTHE, Senior Patent Examiner, German Patent and Trade Mark Office, Munich

Martina FRITZSCHE-HENKE (Ms.), Senior Patent Examiner, German Patent and Trade Mark Office, Munich

BRÉSIL/BRAZIL

Catia VALDMAN (Miss), Patent Examiner, Telecommunications Division, National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI), Rio de Janeiro

CANADA

Nancy BEAUCHEMIN (Mme), chef de section, Classification, Direction des brevets, Office de la propriété intellectuelle du Canada (OPIC), Gatineau

CHINE/CHINA

ZHENG Jie (Ms.), Official, Patent Documentation Department, State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO), Beijing

LI Xiao (Ms.), Project Officer, International Cooperation Division I, International Cooperation Department, State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO), Beijing

ÉGYPTE/EGYPT

Nabila Mohamed MAHMOUD MEKKY (Mrs.), Senior Technical Examiner, Egyptian Patent Office, Cairo

ESPAGNE/SPAIN

Elena Patricia PINA MARTÍNEZ (Sra.), Técnico Superior Examinador, Departamento de Patentes e Información Tecnológica, Oficina Española de Patentes y Marcas (OEPM), Ministerio de Industria, Turismo y Comercio, Madrid

ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE/UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Terrence MACKEY, International Liaison Staff, Commissioner for Patents, United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), Department of Commerce, Alexandria

Mahmoud (Mike) FATAHIYAR, International Liaison Staff, Commissioner for Patents, United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), Department of Commerce, Alexandria

FÉDÉRATION DE RUSSIE/RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Natalia ALISOVA (Mrs.) Researcher, Federal Institute of Industrial Property (FIPS) of ROSPATENT, Moscow

Zoya VOYTSEKHOVSKAYA (Ms.), Senior Scientific Worker, Information Resources Development Department, Federal Institute of Industrial Property (FIPS) of ROSPATENT, Moscow

FINLANDE/FINLAND

Kenneth GUSTAFSSON, Senior Patent Examiner, National Board of Patents and Registration, Helsinki

Anti HOIKKALA, Patent Examiner, National Board of Patents and Registration, Helsinki

FRANCE

Yves MOLLET, ingénieur en chef, Département des brevets, Institut national de la propriété industrielle (INPI), Paris

Anne-Laure BONNEAU (Mme), ingénieur examinateur, Département des brevets, Institut national de la propriété industrielle (INPI), Paris

Stéphanie TOURNE (Mme), ingénieur examinateur, Département des brevets, Institut national de la propriété industrielle (INPI), Paris

IRLANDE/IRELAND

Fergal BRADY, Patent Examiner, Patents Examination, Patents Office, Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Kilkenny

JAPON/JAPAN

Ichiro KOHARA, Deputy Director, Patent Classification Policy Planning Section, Administrative Affairs Division, First Patent Examination Department, Japan Patent Office (JPO), Tokyo

Masamitsu TAKABA, Harmony Project Coordinator, Patent Classification Policy Planning Section, Administrative Affairs Division, First Patent Examination Department, Japan Patent Office (JPO), Tokyo

Yoshitaka OTA, Harmony Project Coordinator, Patent Classification Policy Planning Section, Administrative Affairs Division, First Patent Examination Department, Japan Patent Office (JPO), Tokyo

Yoshito NAKAJIMA, Harmony Project Coordinator, Patent Classification Policy Planning Section, Administrative Affairs Division, First Patent Examination Department, Japan Patent Office (JPO), Tokyo

Masaaki KOKAWA, Harmony Project Coordinator, Patent Classification Policy Planning Section, Administrative Affairs Division, First Patent Examination Department, Japan Patent Office (JPO), Tokyo

MEXIQUE/MEXICO

Pablo ZENTENO MÁRQUEZ, Examinador en Propiedad Industrial, Dirección divisional de Patentes, Instituto Mexicano de la Propiedad Industrial (IMPI), México

NORVÈGE/NORWAY

Natalie SCHLAF (Ms.), Chief Examiner, Industrial Chemistry, Norwegian Industrial Property Office (NIPO), Oslo

POLOGNE/POLAND

Maciej KLEBBA, Examiner, Examining Department, Patent Office of the Republic of Poland, Warsaw

PORTUGAL

Roxana Ioana ONOFREI (Ms.), Patent Examiner, National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI), Secretary of State for Justice and Judicial Modernization, Ministry of Justice, Lisbon

RÉPUBLIQUE DE CORÉE/REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Han, Ju Chull, Deputy Director, Patent Examination Cooperation Division, Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO), Daejun

LEE Sang-Ouk, Manager, IPC Revision, Information and Communications Team, Korea Institute of Patent Information (KIPI), Seoul

ROUMANIE/ROMANIA

Nicolae MURĂRUȘ, Senior Examiner, Patent Directorate, State Office for Inventions and Trademarks (OSIM), Bucharest

Ana ADREI (Mrs.), Senior Examiner, Patent Directorate, State Office for Inventions and Trademarks (OSIM), Bucharest

Lavinia CORNEA (Mrs.), Head, Electrical Engineering Division, Patent Directorate, State Office for Inventions and Trademarks (OSIM), Bucharest

Simona RADU (Mrs.), Senior Examiner, Patent Directorate, State Office for Inventions and Trademarks (OSIM), Bucharest

ROYAUME-UNI/UNITED KINGDOM

Jeremy COWEN, Senior Patent Examiner, Patents Directorate, United Kingdom Intellectual Property Office, Newport

SERBIE/SERBIA

Milan MILJEVIĆ, Senior Counselor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering and General Technique, Intellectual Property Office, Belgrade

SUÈDE/SWEDEN

Anders BRUUN, Patent Expert, Swedish Patent and Registration Office, Stockholm

SUISSE/SWITZERLAND

Pascal WEIBEL, chef examen, Division des brevets, Institut fédéral de la propriété intellectuelle (IPI), Berne

Michele BORDONI, expert principal en brevet et technologie, Division des brevets, Institut fédéral de la propriété intellectuelle (IPI), Berne

Philippe TATASCIORE, expert principal en brevet et technologie, Division des brevets, Institut fédéral de la propriété intellectuelle (IPI), Neuchâtel

UKRAINE

Tamara SHEVELEVA (Ms.), Adviser to the Chairman, State Intellectual Property Service of Ukraine, Kyiv

Liudmyla PLIUTO (Mrs.), Head, Pharmaceutical Division, Ukrainian Institute of Industrial Property, State Intellectual Property Service of Ukraine, Kyiv

Kateryna ZHADANENKO (Mrs.), Head, Mechanical Engineering Division, State Intellectual Property Service of Ukraine, Kyiv

II. ÉTAT OBSERVATEUR/OBSERVER STATE

ARABIE SAOUDITE/SAUDI ARABIA

Abdullah BINAABDULLGABAR, Permanent Mission, Geneva

Muteb ALDOSARI, Permanent Mission, Geneva

III. ORGANISATIONS MEMBRES/MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

OFFICE EUROPÉEN DES BREVETS (OEB)/EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE (EPO)

Roberto IASEVOLI, Head of Delegation, Head of Classification Board, Rijswijk

Gerhard PESCHEL, Examiner, Classification Board Member, München

Hasso MENDE, Directorate Adviser, Classification Board Member, Rijswijk

Ruben DE BEKKER, Principal Examiner, Expert for IPC/Physics, Classification Board Member, Rijswijk

Agnès GAMEZ (Ms.), Principal Examiner, Expert for IPC/Chemistry, Classification Board Member, Rijswijk

Christian KÖNIGSTEIN, Principal Examiner, Expert for IPC/Physics, Classification Board Member, Rijswijk

Trevor WATSON, Application Manager, Directorate Classification, Rijswijk

IV. BUREAU/OFFICERS

Président/Chair: Fergal BRADY (Irlande/Ireland)

Vice-présidente/Vice-Chair: ZHENG Jie (Chine/China)

Secrétaire/Secretary: XU Ning (OMPI/WIPO)

V. BUREAU INTERNATIONAL DE L'ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA PROPRIÉTÉ
INTELLECTUELLE (OMPI)/INTERNATIONAL BUREAU OF THE WORLD
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION (WIPO)

Antonios FARASSOPOULOS, chef du Service des classifications internationales et des normes de l'OMPI/Head, International Classifications and WIPO Standards Service

Patrick FIÉVET, chef de la Section des opérations et de l'appui informatiques/Head, IT Operations and Support Section

XU Ning (Mme/Mrs.), chef par interim de la Section de la classification internationale des brevets (CIB)/Acting Head, International Patent Classification (IPC) Section

Koichi MATSUSHITA, administrateur principal de la classification des brevets de la Section de la classification internationale des brevets (CIB)/Senior Patent Classification Officer, International Patent Classification (IPC) Section

[L'annexe II suit/
Annex II follows]

AGENDA

1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Report on the sixth session of the IP5 WG1-Working Group on Classification
4. Default transfer tables for completed revision projects
See project [WG 261](#).
5. Removal of non-limiting references from the scheme
See projects [M 037](#) and [WG 191](#).
6. IPC revision projects relating to the mechanical field
See projects [A 030](#), [A 033](#), [A 034](#), [A 035](#), [A 036](#), [A 037](#), [A 038](#), [A 042](#), [A 045](#), [A 046](#), [A 048](#), [A 053](#), [A 055](#), [A 057](#), [A 058](#) and [F 003](#).
7. IPC revision projects relating to the electrical field
See projects [A 023](#), [A 040](#), [A 041](#), [A 043](#), [A 044](#), [A 047](#), [A 049](#), [A 050](#), [A 051](#), [A 052](#), [A 054](#), [A 056](#), [C 458](#), [F 002](#), [F 004](#), [F 005](#), [F 006](#) and [F 007](#).
8. IPC definition projects relating to the mechanical field
See projects [D 017](#) (F), [D 019](#), [D 020](#), [D 032](#), [D 139](#), [D 144](#) (F), [D 146](#), [D 149](#), [D 150](#) (F), [D 151](#) (F), [D 152](#), [D 154](#), [D 155](#), [D 157](#) (F), [D 158](#), [D 159](#), [D 160](#), [D 219](#), [D 220](#), [D 223](#), [D 233](#), [D 235](#), [D 241](#), [D 242](#), [D 245](#), [D 246](#), [D 247](#), [D 263](#) and [D 264](#).
9. IPC definition projects relating to the electrical field
See projects [D 009](#), [D 125](#) (F), [D 126](#) (F), [D 127](#) (F), [D 128](#) (F), [D 129](#) (F), [D 130](#) (F), [D 142](#), [D 168](#), [D 179](#) (F), [D 182](#) (F), [D 186](#) (F), [D 226](#) (F), [D 248](#), [D 249](#), [D 250](#), [D 251](#), [D 252](#), [D 253](#), [D 254](#) and [D 265](#).
10. IPC definition projects relating to the chemical field
See projects [D 110](#), [D 111](#), [D 227](#) (F), [D 228](#), [D 236](#) (F), [D 237](#) (F), [D 238](#) (F), [D 239](#) (F), [D 240](#) (F), [D 255](#), [D 256](#), [D 257](#), [D 258](#), [D 259](#), [D 260](#), [D 261](#), [D 262](#), [D 266](#), [D 267](#) and [D 268](#).
11. IPC maintenance projects relating to the mechanical field
See projects [M 014](#), [M 719](#) and [M 735](#).

12. IPC maintenance projects relating to the electrical field
See projects [M 013](#) and [M 736](#).
13. IPC maintenance projects relating to the chemical field
See project [M 012](#)
14. WIPO IPCRECLASS project review
15. Next session of the Working Group
16. Adoption of the report
17. Closing of the session.

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