
Special Union for the International Patent Classification (IPC Union) IPC Revision Working Group

**Twenty-Seventh Session
Geneva, June 4 to 8, 2012**

REPORT

adopted by the Working Group

INTRODUCTION

1. The IPC Revision Working Group (hereinafter referred to as “the Working Group”) held its twenty-seventh session in Geneva from June 4 to 8, 2012. The following members of the Working Group were represented at the session: Brazil, Canada, China, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States of America, African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI), African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO), and the European Patent Office (EPO) (25). Saudi Arabia was represented as observer. The list of participants appears as Annex I to this report.

2. The session was opened by Mr. A. Farassopoulos, Head, International Classifications and WIPO Standards Service.

OFFICERS

3. The Working Group unanimously elected Mr. R. Iasevoli (EPO) as Chair and elected Ms. R. Onofrei (Portugal) as Vice-Chair for 2012.

4. Mrs. N. Xu (WIPO) acted as Secretary of the session.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5. The Working Group unanimously adopted the agenda, which appears as Annex II to this report.

DISCUSSIONS, CONCLUSIONS AND DECISIONS

6. 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 FORTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE IPC COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

7. The Secretariat presented an oral report on the forty-fourth session of the IPC Committee of Experts (hereinafter referred to as “the Committee”) (see document IPC/CE/44/2).

8. It was noted in particular that the Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC) subgroups would use the symbol of their IPC parent group with additional numerical digits. The total number of digits after the “/” would remain six, as for the IPC. When moving CPC groups into the IPC, investigation should be undertaken, on a case by case basis, on whether the CPC symbols can be used unchanged in the IPC. This transfer would be authorized if the file scope of the original symbols remained unchanged when introduced into the IPC and when the transferred groups fit the existing IPC structure. If this is not the case, a reorganization of the IPC scheme should be preferred, aiming however at avoiding intellectual reclassification as much as possible. In all cases, CPC symbols should not be used in the IPC with a different file scope.

9. In the framework of the IPC revision work, it was noted that the Committee had decided that maintenance corrections should be completed as much as possible by the Working Group, which should pay close attention to all maintenance issues. The International Bureau was requested to check for such corrections in definition projects and revision projects when preparing Technical Annexes

10. The Committee had adopted amendments to the *Guide to the IPC (Guide)*, the Guidelines for Revision of the IPC and the Guidelines for Drafting Definitions, in particular a new version of paragraph 100 of the *Guide*, in order to simplify how to classify “Markush formulae”. The Working Group noted that definitions should not contain references to example patent documents.

REPORT ON THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE IP5 WG1 - WORKING GROUP ON CLASSIFICATION

11. The Working Group noted a short oral report by the JPO on behalf of the Five IP Offices on the seventh session of the IP5 WG1–Working Group on Classification (WG1).

12. The seventh session of the WG1 took place at the JPO in Tokyo from March 12 to 16, 2012. The WG1 reviewed all 18 Common Hybrid Classification (CHC) projects and took necessary actions. It was noted that four out of the 11 CHC projects initiated at the sixth session had already integrated the IPC phase. No new projects were launched at this session

because the EPO and the USPTO are focusing resources on the CPC; in addition the WG1 would need to consider the initial CPC version scheme before proposing or starting new projects. The WG1 agreed on a timeline for discussing new projects toward the next session of the WG1, which will be hosted by the USPTO in March 2013. Concerning common publication platform for the IPC, CPC and FI, so called "Common Parallel Viewer (CPV)", the International Bureau presented a timeline for its development.

IPC REVISION PROGRAM

13. The Working Group discussed 23 revision projects, namely: [A 037](#), [A 042](#), [A 043](#), [A 046](#), [A 047](#), [A 048](#), [A 049](#), [A 050](#), [A 052](#), [A 053](#), [A 054](#), [A 055](#), [A 056](#), [A 057](#), [A 058](#), [A 059](#), [F 004](#), [F 005](#), [F 007](#), [F 009](#), [F 012](#), [F 016](#) and [F 018](#). 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.

14. During the consideration of definitions in some revision projects, e.g. in project [A 047](#), it was noted that some group definition statements may be unnecessary as being not informative. The rapporteurs were therefore reminded of the first paragraph of the Guidelines for Drafting Classifications Definitions, which is reproduced below:

"Users are expecting to find in definitions additional explanation and guidance that are not available in the scheme. If such additional material is not available, there is no need to draft definitions which would merely repeat information already available in the scheme."

15. The Working Group also noted, following a specific query of the International Bureau to their legal department, that publication of drawings extracted from patent documents carries no potential issue of copyright infringement. Therefore, if drawings were taken from a patent document and added into a definition, there is no need to quote the patent document number. Rapporteurs of ongoing projects were therefore asked to remove all patent document numbers from definitions. The International Bureau was asked to remove them from the already published definitions.

IPC DEFINITIONS PROGRAM

16. The Working Group discussed 32 definition projects, namely: [D 110](#) (F), [D 111](#) (F), [D 146](#) (F), [D 149](#), [D 152](#) (F), [D 154](#), [D 155](#) (F), [D 158](#) (F), [D 159](#) (F), [D 160](#), [D 168](#) (F), [D 220](#) (F), [D 221](#), [D 223](#) (F), [D 226](#) (F), [D 233](#), [D 241](#) (F), [D 242](#) (F), [D 245](#) (F), [D 246](#) (F), [D 249](#) (F), [D 250](#) (F), [D 251](#) (F), [D 259](#) (F), [D 260](#) (F), [D 262](#) (F), [D 264](#) (F), [D 265](#) (F), [D 266](#) (F), [D 267](#) (F), [D 268](#) (F) and [D 269](#). 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. The Working Group completed 25 definition projects, which would published with the IPC 2013 version.

17. The Working Group agreed to create new definition projects as follows:

Chemical: [D 291](#) (C05F, GB), [D 292](#) (C05G, GB), [D 293](#) (C12F, BR),
[D 294](#) (D21H, BR);

Mechanical: [D 295](#) (A45B, BR), [D 296](#) (B29K, BR); and

Electrical: [D 297](#) (G08B, CA).

IPC MAINTENANCE

18. The Working Group discussed nine maintenance projects, namely: [M 012](#), [M 013](#), [M 014](#), [M 736](#), [M 737](#), [M 738](#), [M 739](#), [M 740](#), and [M 741](#). 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.

UPDATES ON IPC-RELATED IT ISSUES

19. The International Bureau delivered a presentation on the IPC reclassification system (IPCRECLASS), on the IPC e-forum 2012 functional evolutions and on the IPC scheme master file.

20. The International Bureau indicated that after the move into production of IPCRECLASS in April, the system could only be partially used due to delays in the provision by the EPO of residual working lists for former IPC revisions (from IPC 2007.01 to 2012.01). The provision of those working lists during the meeting allowed the International Bureau to announce that the IPC reclassification process is therefore unblocked.

21. Offices were invited to fill their email contacts in the system to receive IPCRECLASS feedback on their submissions. The International Bureau confirmed that the IPC 2013.01 working lists will be uploaded as soon as they are received from the EPO. Offices thanked the International Bureau for this contribution and look forward to using IPCRECLASS for the IPC reclassification.

22. The International Bureau presented a list of IPC e-forum functional evolutions detailed under project [CE 445](#) which are the follow-up of the IPC e-forum rework earlier this year. They would include the addition of an action list tab, subscription to email reminders for some deadlines, filtering of projects by technical field, more file formats for annex submission, and the addition of rapporteur summary. A live demonstration of the main changes was provided and the provisional plan for their move into production announced for June 18, 2012.

23. A number of delegations expressed enthusiasm for the latest e-forum developments and in response offered additional suggestions to improve functionalities. The International Bureau invited offices to submit those suggestions to the IPC e-forum under project [CE 445](#).

24. The International Bureau announced that the specification of the IPC XML master file was published

<http://www.wipo.int/classifications/ipc/en/ITsupport/Version20120101/documentation/masterfiles.html> and will be used as basis for the creation of XML Scheme input files for the future FI/IPC/CPC parallel viewer project.

NEXT SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP

25. The Working Group, having assessed the workload expected for its next session, agreed to devote the first two days and a half to the electrical field, the following half day in the afternoon to the chemical field and the last two days to the mechanical field. It was also agreed that the third day morning might be shared by both the electrical and the chemical fields depending on the workload at that time.

26. The Working Group noted the following dates for its twenty-eighth session:

October 29 to November 2, 2012.

27. This report was unanimously adopted by the Working Group by electronic means on July 5, 2012.

[Annexes follow]