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

**Forty-Second Session
Geneva, November 4 to 8, 2019**

REPORT

adopted by the Working Group

INTRODUCTION

1. The IPC Revision Working Group (hereinafter referred to as “the Working Group”) held its forty-second session in Geneva from November 4 to 8, 2019. The following members of the Working Group were represented at the session: Brazil, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Japan, Mexico, Republic of Korea, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, the Eurasian Patent Organization (EAPO), the European Patent Office (EPO), the Patent Office of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) (22). Hungary was represented as an observer. The list of participants appears as Annex I to this report.

2. The session was opened by Mr. Y. Takagi, Assistant Director General, Global Infrastructure Sector, who welcomed the participants. Mr. Takagi appreciated the tremendous achievements of the Working Group during the long history leading up to the [C 500](#) revision project. He also appreciated their excellent work in the last revision cycle, proven by the significant number of amendments introduced in IPC 2020.01.

OFFICERS

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

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

4. The Working Group adopted the revised agenda, with one minor amendment, 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 VIRTUAL TECHNICAL SESSION OF THE IP5 WG1-WORKING GROUP ON CLASSIFICATION

6. The Working Group noted an oral report by CNIPA on behalf of the FiveIPOffices.

7. It was noted that during the second pilot virtual technical session of the IP5 WG1, the fiveIPOffices agreed to promote four IP5 projects (F-projects) to the IPC phase, namely: F 120 (H01S – US), F 122 (C22C – CN), F 132 (A23L – KR) and F 133 (C01F – KR).

8. The Working Group further noted that CNIPA, on behalf of the fiveIPOffices, had posted a list of all ongoing IP5 projects and proposals under project [CE 456](#) (see Annex 29 to project file) to the IPC e-forum (hereinafter referred to as the “e-forum”), in order to avoid overlap between the IPC revision requests and the IP5 ongoing revision activities.

IPC REVISION PROGRAM

9. The Working Group discussed 28 revision projects, namely: [C 490](#), [C 492](#), [C 493](#), [C 497](#), [C 500](#), [C 498](#), [C 499](#), [F 050](#), [F 068](#), [F 070](#), [F 071](#), [F 081](#), [F 082](#), [F 089](#), [F 094](#), [F 098](#), [F 104](#), [F 106](#), [F 107](#), [F 110](#), [F 113](#), [F 115](#), [F 116](#), [F 119](#), [F 121](#), [F 123](#), [F 126](#) and [F 127](#).

10. 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.

11. The Working Group completed seven revision projects, one of which were completed with respect to scheme revision, as well as definitions where available, namely: [C 493](#), which would enter into force in IPC 2021.01; meanwhile six of which were completed with respect to definitions, namely: [F 050](#), [F 070](#), [F 081](#), [F 094](#), [F 110](#) and [F 113](#), while scheme revision had been published in IPC 2020.01 early publication. It was informed that those definitions would be included in IPC 2020.01 upon its entering into force on January 1, 2020, together with the corresponding scheme amendments.

12. The Working Group recalled the decision by the Committee of Experts at its fifty first session with respect to the pilot project [F 082](#) to carry out discussions electronically by using the e-forum to the extent possible. Only issues where no agreement could be reached electronically would be discussed during the Working Group sessions. Having evaluated the positive progress of project [F 082](#), the Working Group recommended applying this flexible approach to projects of similar feature, such as projects [F 071](#) and [F 089](#).

13. The Working Group also invited offices to use the e-forum more actively for the discussion of all IPC revision projects and to submit comments and counter proposals well in advance of each session of the Working Group.

IPC DEFINITIONS PROGRAM

14. The Working Group discussed two definition projects, namely, projects: [D 310](#) and [D 312](#).

15. 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.

16. The Working Group completed one definition project, which would be included into the IPC 2021.01 version.

IPC MAINTENANCE

17. The Working Group discussed 12 maintenance projects, namely: [M 628](#), [M 629](#), [M 787](#), [M 791](#), [M 792](#), [M 793](#), [M 794](#), [M 795](#), [M 796](#), [M 797](#), [M 799](#) and [M 800](#).

18. 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.

19. The Working Group completed five maintenance projects, namely: [M 787](#), [M 793](#), [M 795](#), [M 797](#) and [M 800](#), which would enter into force in IPC 2021.01.

20. The Working Group agreed to create a new maintenance project, namely:

Electrical: [M 801](#) (H05B, EPO) – originating from project [M 628](#).

STATUS OF REMOVAL OF NLRs WITHIN M 200 TO M 500 PROJECTS

21. Discussions were based on a status report prepared by the International Bureau, concerning maintenance projects for removal of NLRs for the scheme of the IPC (see Annex 36 to project file [WG 191](#)).

22. The Working Group noted that among the 17 active projects, agreement had been reached for the following five projects during discussions on the e-forum and these projects could be considered completed. The corresponding amendments to the scheme and definitions would thus be included in IPC 2021.01.

[M 202](#) Removal of NLRs in Subclass A23G (Rapporteur – International Bureau);

[M 203](#) Removal of NLRs in Subclass A24B (Rapporteur – International Bureau);

[M 204](#) Removal of NLRs in Subclass B21C (Rapporteur – International Bureau);

[M 224](#) Removal of NLRs in Subclass F02B (Rapporteur – United States of America);
and

[M 232](#) Removal of NLRs in Subclass F02N (Rapporteur – United States of America).

23. The Working Group understood there would be a need for reclassification for projects [M 212](#), [M 217](#) and [M 218](#), and agreed to continue discussions within these projects, without converting them into revision projects.

24. The Working Group further noted that discussions should continue on the e-forum for the remaining nine active projects. The status of all projects and the list of future actions and deadlines for ongoing projects are indicated in the corresponding projects on the e-forum.

25. The Secretariat indicated that an updated table summarizing the status of the removal of NLRs from the scheme would be posted to project file [WG 191](#).

UPDATES ON IPC-RELATED IT SUPPORT

26. The Working Group noted a brief presentation by the International Bureau on the status update of the various IT systems and projects supporting the IPC.

27. The International Bureau presented various evolutions that had been implemented in the newly available IPCPUB version 8.0, some of which were important for IPC 2020.01 early publication.

28. The Working Group was informed about the progress of the IPCWLM project and was reminded about the milestones of the transition plan from IPCRECLASS to IPCWLMS.

29. The Working Group was also informed about the progress toward integration of IPC e forum functionality into IPCRMS.

30. The International Bureau further presented various new functionalities that were recently made available in IPCRMS, as well as those to be made available in the near future, which made the IPCRMS a more powerful and user-friendly tool for rapporteurs, translators and commenting offices to manage their IPC revision proposals and comments.

NEXT SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP

31. The Working Group, having assessed the workload expected for its next session, agreed to devote Monday and Tuesday to the electrical field, Wednesday and Thursday morning to the chemical field and Thursday afternoon and Friday to the mechanical field.

32. The Working Group noted the following tentative dates for its forty-third session:

April 27 to May 1, 2020.

33. *This report was unanimously adopted by the Working Group by electronic means on December 5, 2019.*

[Annexes follow]