

# WIPO



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**WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION**  
GENEVA

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

**IPC REVISION WORKING GROUP**

**Ninth Session  
Geneva, June 2 to 13, 2003**

PREPARATION OF THE EIGHTH EDITION OF THE IPC (IPC-2005)

*Document prepared by the Secretariat*

1. In view of the approaching end of the current IPC revision period, the International Bureau of WIPO proposes that the time schedule for different actions relating to the preparation of the eighth edition of the IPC (IPC-2005) and associated publications thereof should be established by the IPC Revision Working Group, so as to achieve good planning of the work concerned. In the following paragraphs, an outline of the preparatory work is proposed by the International Bureau for consideration by the Working Group.
2. At the remaining session of the Working Group, in November 2003, all revision work for the eighth edition of the IPC should, in principle, be finalized, subject to some minor questions, which could be directly forwarded, if need be, to the last session of the IPC Committee of Experts in the current revision period.
3. The Committee of Experts will meet in 2003 and 2004, at the sessions scheduled to be held in October 2003 and in February 2004 (tentative time), to consider and finally adopt all the amendments to the seventh edition of the IPC approved by the Working Group.

4. In respect of changes to references in the IPC to be made because of the amendments approved, the International Bureau will submit to the Rapporteurs for the projects concerned, by October 15, 2003, a compilation of the amendments to the seventh edition of the IPC adopted by the Committee of Experts at its thirtieth to thirty-third sessions, together with the reverse reference list. On the basis of this material, the Rapporteurs will be invited to submit, by November 5, 2003, proposed changes to references in the IPC, which will be compiled by the International Bureau in a consolidated document, by November 20, 2003, for consideration by the Working Group at its tenth session. The remaining work relating to the checking of references, emanating from the amendments to the IPC which will be approved at that session, could be done in January 2004, before the thirty-fourth session of the Committee of Experts.

5. In respect of changes to subclass indexes to be made in view of the amendments approved, the Rapporteurs will be invited to submit proposals, on the basis of the compilation referred to in the preceding paragraph, by November 5, 2003, and the International Bureau will prepare a consolidated document thereof by November 20, 2003. The remaining changes to the subclass indexes, following the amendments which will be approved at the tenth session of the Working Group, could be prepared in January 2004.

6. The updating of the official catchword indexes to the IPC will be based on a compilation of the amendments to the IPC adopted at the thirtieth to thirty-fourth sessions of the Committee of Experts, which will be submitted by the International Bureau, by March 15, 2004, together with the reverse lists of the catchword indexes and a list containing new catchwords and catchword phrases accepted by the Working Group during the revision period, to offices that would volunteer to participate in the updating of the catchword indexes. The offices concerned will be invited to submit proposals to the International Bureau by June 1, 2004.

7. For the preparation of the revision concordance data between the seventh and eighth editions of the IPC, the International Bureau will submit, by March 15, 2004, to the Rapporteurs for the projects concerned, the compilation referred to in the preceding paragraph, together with a list of the groups in the IPC that have been deleted, with transfer information indicated for these groups. The Rapporteurs will be invited to submit revision concordance data to the International Bureau by June 1, 2004.

8. The International Bureau intends to publish the eighth edition of the IPC in June 2004, the official catchword indexes to the eighth edition of the IPC and the corresponding Revision Concordance List in September 2004.

*9. The Working Group is invited, upon consideration of this document, to approve the necessary actions and deadlines for the preparation of the eighth edition of the IPC (IPC-2005).*

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