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IPC REVISION WORKING GROUP

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UPDATING OF IPC TRAINING EXAMPLES

Document prepared by the Secretariat

1. At its thirty-second session, held from February 24 to 28, 2003, the IPC Committee of Experts underlined the importance of IPC training examples for teaching the staff of industrial property offices and instructed the IPC Revision Working Group to create a Task Force on updating and revising IPC training examples. The Committee requested the International Bureau to prepare background material on this matter for consideration by the IPC Revision Working Group at its ninth session in June 2003 (see document IPC/CE/32/12, paragraph 69).
2. The Committee was informed of the elaboration of a broad program of modernized training in the use of the IPC, including computer-based and Internet training tools, which would include information packages about IPC reform. The Committee was also informed that a composite part of the program would be interactive IPC tutorials which were being prepared under the CLAIMS Project on the basis of the sets of IPC training examples published in the *WIPO Handbook on Industrial Property Information and Documentation*. Those training examples should be updated and revised according to amendments introduced in the IPC in the course of its reform and revision.
3. The current version of the *WIPO Handbook on Industrial Property Information and Documentation* contains two sets of IPC training examples, which have been considered and approved by the Working Groups of the Committee of Experts. The first set includes 58 examples of patent families, having members in at least English, French and German languages, intended for the training of classifiers in the use of the IPC. The examples are

divided into three categories: examples in which the classification is obvious, examples selected to illustrate certain aspects of the IPC and examples which are difficult to classify. The second set contains 20 IPC training examples of patent documents illustrating classifying in function-oriented and application places of the IPC, which is considered as the most difficult IPC problem. These two sets of training examples have been updated and revised according to the seventh edition of the IPC.

4. The new edition of the IPC will enter into force on January 1, 2005. This edition will differ from the previous edition not only with regard to amendments introduced in the course of IPC revision but also with regard to new rules and principles introduced in the process of IPC reform.

5. Updating and revision of IPC training examples should include the following actions:

- modification of classification symbols assigned to training examples in view of revision changes in the next edition of the IPC;
- reconsideration of classification information given for training examples in view of new principles resulted from IPC reform, including, for example, a new definition of invention information or new presentation and use of indexing codes;
- provision of more detailed explanatory information in training examples which would be needed for using them in interactive IPC tutorials; and
- selection of separate training examples for the core level and the advanced level of the IPC.

6. As significant work is necessary for updating and revising of two sets of training examples, the Committee of Experts has instructed the IPC Revision Working Group to set up a task force for this work already at its ninth session. Upon creation of the task force, a detailed procedure and time frame for carrying out the work should be established.

7. The Working Group is invited to consider the creation of a task force on updating and revising IPC training examples and to take decisions as appropriate.

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