

ANNEXIV

IPC REFORM IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

1. The Implementation Plan covers the years 2002-2004. The timing takes account of the requirements of the Strasbourg Agreement, according to which amendments to the Classifications shall be notified to the competent authorities of the IPC Unions six months before their entering into force. Given that the next edition of the IPC enters into force on January 1, 2005, it should be published by July 1, 2004, and last amendments to the current editions should be adopted by the Committee in early 2004.
2. The Plan indicates timelines and milestones with regard to major activities which will be necessary to carry out for completion of IPC reform. Those activities could be divided in two parts, namely activities relating to the elaboration of IPC reform tasks, which is in the responsibility of the ad hoc IPC Reform Working Group (IPC/REF) and the International Bureau (IB), and activities relating to the realization of the elaborated decisions in the IPC itself, which is in the responsibility of the IPC Revision Working Group (IPC/REV). The Implementation Plan also covers the IPC revision program carried out by the IPC Revision Working Group. A major part of decisions and recommendations of both Working Groups should be finally adopted by the Committee of Experts (IPC/CE).
3. The Plan of elaboration of IPC reform tasks is shown in the Table 1, below.

TABLE 1

Task No.	Task Title	Action	Timeline
2[9]	Consider the IPC revision policy, the revision procedure and the criteria for accepting new revision proposals in relation to the core and advanced level of the reformed IPC	Final proposal by IB Discussion by IPC/REF and Task completion Adoption by IPC/CE	Q1/2002 Q2/2002 Q1/2003
3	Consider the introduction of electronic data illustrating the contents of IPC entries	Task completion Adoption by IPC/CE Task completed	Q4/2001 Q1/2002
4	General principles of classification; elaboration of rules for multiple classification in the IPC	Final guidelines on obligatory classification by US Discussion by IPC/REF and Task completion Adoption by IPC/CE	Q1/2002 Q2/2002 Q1/2003
5	Review the hybrid systems in the IPC	Task completion Adoption by IPC/CE Task completed	Q4/2001 Q1/2002

TaskNo.	TaskTitle	Action	Timeline
7	Determinethemost appropriatedurationof revisioncycles	FinalproposalbyIB DiscussionbyIPC/REFand Taskcompletion AdoptionbyIPC/CE	Q1/2002 Q2/2002 Q1/2003
8	Elaborateprinciplesofthe creation,maintenanceand functioningoftheMaster ClassificationDatabase (a)Concepto fOperations of classificationand reclassification (b)Creationandmaintenance ofMCDandpropagationof classificationdata	Proposalonclassificationand reclassificationprocedure (ConceptofOperations) DiscussionbyIPC/REF Finalproposalby TO DiscussionbyIPC/REF AdoptionbyIPC/CE CreationofMaster ClassificationDatabasebyEP	Q2/2002 Q2/2002 Q3/2002 Q4/2002 Q1/2003 Q3/2003
10	Developageneralquestionand answerpamphletonthe applicationofthe IPC	DraftpamphletbyIB DiscussionbyIPC/REF ReviseddraftpamphletbyIB DiscussionbyIPC/REFand Taskcompletion AdoptionbyIPC/CE	Q1/2002 Q2/2002 Q3/2002 Q4/2002 Q1/2003
12	Studyautomatedclassification andindexingtoolsandconduct pilotprojectsontheiruse,in particularforthe reclassificationofbacklog patentfiles	CLAIMSprojectbyIB PeriodicreportsbyIBonthe projectprogress ConsiderationbyIPC/CE	2002-2003 2002-2003 Q1/2004
13	ImproveIPctrainingby providingmodertraining techniques,forexample, computer-basedandInternet trainingtools,involving,in particular,enhancedsupport fordevelopingcountriesinthe useoftheIPC	ReportbyIB DiscussionbyIPC/REF ReportbyIB DiscussionbyIPC/REFand Taskcompletion AdoptionbyIPC/CE	Q3/2002 Q4/2002 Q3/2003 Q4/2003 Q1/2004
14	Determinethemost appropriatecontentsofthecore levelofthereformedIPC	FinaldistributionofIPC entriesbetweenthecoreand advancedlevelbyEP DiscussionbyIPC/REFand Taskcompletion AdoptionbyIPC/CE	Q1/2003 Q2/2003 Q1/2004

TaskNo.	TaskTitle	Action	Timeline
15	Study the feasibility of introducing a simplified set of rules in the IPC, in particular a uniform precedence rule	Adoption of the standardized sequence of main groups by IPC/CE Report on using the top -to-bottom precedence rule by TO Discussion by IPC/REF Consideration by IPC/CE	Q1/2003 Q3/2002 Q4/2002 Q1/2003
16	Study ways and means for the establishment of the French version of the advanced level of the IPC	CLAIMS project by IB Periodic reports by IB on the project progress Consideration by IPC/CE	2002-2003 2002-2003 Q1/2004
17	Revise the Guide to the IPC to provide for a more comprehensive explanation of the principles and rules of the IPC and to take into account the results of the IPC reform	2 nd draft proposal by IB Discussion by IPC/REF Adoption by IPC/CE	Q1/2002 Q2/2002 Q1/2004
18	Prepare an IPC reform implementation plan	Adoption by IPC/CE Continuous update	Q1/2002

4. The Plan of implementation of reform results in the IPC by the IPC/REV is shown in Table 2, below.

TABLE 2

TaskTitle	Action	Timeline
IPC revision program	Completion of remaining revision projects	Q4/2003
Elaboration of classification definitions	Completion of definitions for 100 subclasses	Q4/2003
Revision of subclass indexes according to the standardized sequence of main groups	Preparation of revised subclass indexes for all IPC subclasses	Q4/2003
Introduction of illustrating structural chemical formulae in the electronic layer of the IPC	Preparation of a final collection of chemical formulae	Q4/2002
Checking of notes and references in the reformed IPC	Completion of checking and modifying of notes and references	Q4/2003
Conversion of indexing schemes to classification schemes	Conversion or other treatment of all indexing schemes	Q4/2003

[Annex V follows]