

WIPO



IPC/CE/35/8 Suppl.1
ORIGINAL: English only
DATE: October 29, 2004

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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
GENEVA

SPECIAL UNION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL PATENT CLASSIFICATION
(IPC UNION)

COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

Thirty-Fifth Session
Geneva, October 25 to 29, 2004

IMPLEMENTATION OF IPC REFORM AT INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY OFFICES

Document prepared by the Secretariat

1. During the thirty-fifth session of the IPC Committee of Experts, a separate meeting of IT experts of the member States was held. At this meeting, particular questions concerned with the implementation of IPC reform were collected and discussed. A collection of these questions, together with short summaries of the outcome of the discussions related to each question, is given in the Annex to this document.

2. *The Committee of Experts is invited to consider the contents of the Annex to this document.*

[Annex follows]

ANNEX

IT EXPERTS INFORMAL MEETING

Questions

Delegation CH

1. Where and how do we get/access the new IPC definitions data?
Final location, communication means and notification process to be decided by the IPC Committee of Experts (IPC/CE).
File transfer from WIPO site, web services, e-mail, DVD?
2. Who is the contact person within EPO for the EBD and MCD data exchange? (to define when and how we can do some tests, before going live on January 1, 2006)
 - The contact name for the EBD files will be communicated by the EPO as soon as possible. The major change will be the transfer to Standard ST.36 (planned for next year).
 - The contact name concerning the MCD files is Mr. Trevor Watson – email: twatson@epo.org
3. Who is the contact person within WIPO for the PCT data (to define when and how we can do some tests, before going live on January 1, 2006)?
The SPIDI contact name is Mr. Pierre Brachet – email: pierre.brachet@wipo.int
The Rule 87/Article 20 contact name is Mr. Johan Maurissen – email: johan.maurissen@wipo.int

Delegation PT

4. How will PT know the exact formats of the new IPC and rules of validation?
See Question 1.
The files will be in XML format. The details will be provided later.
The test files should be made available as soon as possible, even if not final. Specifications similar to the ones provided for the validity file are welcome (DTDs and explanation).
5. After the local IPC tables are modified in order to contain IPC8, how to best fill them and keep them updated?
The validity and scheme files contain the information.

6. How to exchange/supply data relative to new PT applications with the MCD providers and how best to load data from the MCD into the local databases in order to minimize work to examiners?

The Standard ST.36 format has been preferred for both reclassification and supply of new PT applications.

IPC data will be included in the existing DocDB backfile products.

Some countries have expressed the need for more specific backfile information.

The format of the notification to offices of the applications to be reclassified (working list) is to be decided.

The following representatives expressed their wish to receive from MCD the list of documents affected by reclassification with the result of the reclassification: CA, PT, DE, CH, RO, BG and RU. GB needs to consider its position on this item.

7. What are the contacts in WIPO and EPO in matters connected to the PCT data exchange?

See Question 3.

Delegation CA

8. Can offices classifying at the advanced level ignore core level updates? If not, when a new core edition is published, what will be the impact on offices using the advanced level?

See validity file specifications.

9. What will the mechanism for receiving updates to the scheme and concordance tables be?

See output file list Annex.

10. What will the format of update files be?

See validity files Annex. The other formats are not in their final form.

11. What transaction types are foreseen (e.g. Add Stop Update Replace)?

Transactions can be derived from the RIPCIS output set of files.

12. What will the format of the concordance tables be?

In the RIPCIS output file list, concordance table is the very next file to be specified.

Target date is end of 2004, but draft specification could be ready end of November.

13. What exactly will CIPO receive from the EPO after an advanced level update? For instance will we receive only impacted Canadian documents? What will the format be?

See Question 6.

14. Will it be possible to get an extract of all changes affecting Canadian documents from time to time?

Such specific service request will be proposed for discussion during the plenary session of the IPC/CE.

15. Will we get MCD reclassifications from the Trilateral Offices all at once?
Yes, from the MCD when the reclassification is completed. See Question 6.

16. If the reclassification is not completed by TOs, does the IPC version enter into force?
CONOPS indicates that the entry into force is when reclassification is completed, which might be an issue for the date indicated in the validity file.
CA would need to be able to find CA documents affected (direct access or as family member).

17. Can we get electronic copies of previous concordance tables?
WIPO will check the existence of the earlier versions.

Delegation RO

18. IPC valid symbols file: When and in what format will be available for the national office? Will it deal with the “history” of transformation?
See validity specifications.

19. MCD: new documents published after January 1, 2006: The circuit of information between the national office and MCD, format of files, fields in those files. Are there any possible collisions between Standards ST.8 and ST.36?
See CONOPS and see Questions 4 and 6.
Inform SCIT if there is such collision.

20. Requirements and recommendations for a national office whose patent documents are not to be found in the PCT minimum documentation.
Refer to the plenary session of the IPC/CE for this question.

21. MCD: documents in backlog. Almost the same questions as for “new” documents.
Refer to the plenary session of the IPC/CE for this question.

Delegation BG

22. When will the process of the reclassification of MCD start and will it be possible to use the same way (format) to produce data?

No deadline set by EPO for sending reclassification data for the backfile.

EPO prefers to receive data in only one format: Standard ST.36.

BG noted possible discrepancies between classification at publication time (paper documents) and classification in the MCD.

23. Which format will be used for Front file data, sending to MCD (SGML, XML)?

BG sends data in Standard ST.32, but given EPO's preference, in the long term, to receive Standard ST.36, BG will need time to adapt and test.

24. When will the EPO start to send EBD files with new IPC data – from January 1, 2006 or when every office prepared the storage dbase?

Data will be produced by the EPO in November 2005. Participants pointed out that test data are needed as early as possible to adapt their systems (Spirit, CS (Common software), CS Soprano) in particular.

25. Who will be responsible for making the changes of the IPC data of applications in MCD (if necessary) after January 1, 2006 – EPO or a national office sending the application?

For non-PCT minimum offices, national offices are responsible.

The EPO planned that such updates would be done through existing channels of communications but also plans to provide national offices with the possibility to register on-line corrections in the MCD.

PT, BG, RO requested the possibility to send updates to MCD.

Delegation RU

26. When will the IPC valid symbol file be available for the national patent office?

Validity file is expected to be available three months before entry into force for publication purpose.

Proposal to perform repetition in Summer 2005.

27. Why do we use an italic font style for an IPC symbol of advanced level?

Refer to Standard ST.10/C.

RU indicated that technical constraints make such implementation impossible.

28. Describe please the procedure of making changes of the IPC if any symbol will produce some any others?

See concordance table and scheme files.

29. What will a format of changes of IPC data be?
See list of RIPCIS output files.

Delegation GB

30. How is the key to be provided (SOAP, DVD, FTP) and from whom?
See RIPCIS output files and Question 1.
Test data in IBIS site URL= <http://www.wipo.int/ibis/index.html>

31. Is the XML similar to the ECLA XML provided by the EPO?
No. The question will be looked at by the EPO.

32. How often are revisions produced? Will they be available before they enter into force?
Every three months for the advanced level (see CONOPS). The first will be available in June 2005.

33. What is a mechanism for flagging change of scope? Can this be extended back to IPC7 classifications?
See validity file specifications, changes requiring reclassification are indicated.
Changes in scope between IPC7 and the reformed IPC are not indicated because all IPC7 symbols will have a new record in reformed IPC.

34. Will the IPC revisions be linked to ECLA revisions bearing in mind ECLA is issued retrospectively?
Question for the IPC/CE plenary session.

35. IPC will be passed to EPO as Standard ST.8 before date of publication so there is scope for term becoming invalid on load to MCD. Will it be loaded? Communication is one way as far as I can tell.
The EPO indicates that validation will take place when loading into the MCD but any invalid or corrupted IPC symbols will be loaded in the MCD. Error notification mechanism to be decided upon.

36. What validations will be in place when load attempted to MCD?
Valid according to the validity file.

37. How are images/formulae handled will a special display mechanism be required?
No for bitmap, yes for SKC and CDX formats.

38. We are developing classification tool. But to some extent re-inventing EPO work. Is the EPO class tool to be generally available?
No WIPO plan for such feature.
Refer to the CE plenary session for EPO answer.

Delegation DE

39. The question of standardization of priority family numbers was raised and noted by the EPO.

[End of Annex and of document]