

ANNEX IV

COORDINATION OF WORK BETWEEN THE SPECIAL SUBCOMMITTEE
FOR THE SUPERVISION OF THE ADVANCED LEVEL
AND THE IPC REVISION WORKING GROUP

The following additional procedures supplement the document “Revision Policy and Revision Procedure for the Reformed IPC” which was adopted by the Committee of Experts (see Annex IV to document IPC/CE/33/12).

Process for optimizing resources by coordinating core and advanced level revision projects and accelerating creation of definitions:

1. The advanced level subcommittee (ALS) will appoint an ALS rapporteur for any area in the advanced level where project work is proposed or begun; the project will be given a project number appropriate for an advanced level project, and an appropriate indication of scope and objectives of the project. The International Bureau will officially notify the IPC Revision Working Group (IPC/WG) of the advanced level project.
2. After this notification, the IPC/WG will not initiate new core level revision projects within an area of the IPC that is impacted by an advanced level project until work on the advanced level project is completed or otherwise concluded in the advanced level. However, if the IPC/WG considers it necessary for a new core level revision project proposal to be considered in a subclass impacted by an ALS project, it can request that the ALS integrate it into the ALS discussions.
3. If a previously approved subclass definition does not already exist for the area covered by the advanced level project, the ALS rapporteur will draft a provisional definition for the impacted subclass based on existing IPC borderlines and any proposed advanced level changes to the scope of the subclass. If an approved subclass definition exists, it will be used, and modified where needed, to create a provisional subclass definition for the advanced level. The ALS rapporteur will also draft provisional definitions for any new or existing main groups within the area covered by an advanced level project and within extensively impacted related areas. The provisional definitions for the subclass and appropriate main groups will be made available on the e-forum for comment within a specified period of time. One of the primary goals of the definitions is to ensure harmonization of future document placement while accurately reflecting the existing back file. A provisional scheme for the impacted area will also be drafted and posted to the e-forum for comments. Members of the IPC/WG can post their individual comments to the e-forum.
4. After finalization of the scope of the advanced level project, the ALS Rapporteur will identify any current IPC/WG maintenance projects, or parts of projects, that may directly or indirectly impact the scope of the subclass or groups within the advanced level project (e.g., rewording of titles in the core level scheme, subclass definition projects or projects creating notes in related subclasses). The ALS rapporteur will notify the International Bureau of any existing IPC/WG projects that could overlap with the advanced level project.

5. After this notification, the IPC/WG will suspend or redistribute work on any maintenance project, or part of a project, that could overlap with the advanced level project until work is concluded on the advanced level project. In the situations where work must continue on core level projects that overlap with projects in the advanced level, the IPC/WG and ALS agree to distribute work in such a way that work done on one project does not overlap with the work done on the other project. After conclusion of the advanced level project, the IPC/WG will reevaluate and determine if any related maintenance projects that were suspended should continue, be modified, or cancelled.
6. After the subclass and appropriate main group definitions have been completed, any relevant subgroup definitions that have not already been agreed to at the advanced level will be written or rewritten utilizing the above procedure.
7. When a finalized version of the provisional scheme and the relevant advanced level subclass and group definitions have been appropriately tested by document placement and approved by the ALS, the portion of the definitions and scheme which are to become part of the core level are referred to the IPC/WG for their review and approval.
8. During review, the IPC/WG should only make changes to those portions of a provisional advanced level scheme, or their definitions, which are to become part of the core level. The changes made by the IPC/WG should normally not require additional reclassification of patent documents in the advanced level.
9. If the portion of the provisional scheme and its advanced level subclass and group definitions, which are to become part of the core level, are approved by IPC/WG without significant changes, the definitions are officially incorporated into the IPC and the scheme is submitted to the Committee of Experts for adoption.
10. If a significant change is made by the IPC/WG to a portion of a provisional advanced level scheme or its definitions when approving their incorporation into the core level scheme (e.g., a change in a title's wording that would cause document reclassification in the advanced level); the provisional advanced level scheme and definitions will continue to be used, as they were initially proposed to IPC/WG, in the advanced level by the ALS until a suitable compromise on any inconsistencies can be achieved.

[Annex V follows]