

WIPO



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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
GENEVA

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

COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

**Thirty-Sixth Session
Geneva, February 14 to 18, 2005**

**PUBLICATION OF THE EIGHTH EDITION OF THE IPC (IPC-2006)
AND RELATED MATERIAL**

Document prepared by the Secretariat

1. At its thirty-fourth session, held in February 2004, the IPC Committee of Experts considered a proposal by the International Bureau regarding the publication of the eighth edition of the IPC (IPC-2006) and related material (see document IPC/CE/34/9). The Committee generally supported the presented plan of publication and noted that certain details could be later specified in order to adapt the plan in view of the decision to postpone entering into force of the eighth edition (see document IPC/CE/34/10, paragraphs 56 and 57).
2. Based on the above decision made by the Committee, the International Bureau has prepared an updated plan of the publication of the eighth edition of the IPC (IPC-2006) and related material, which is described below.
3. The International Bureau will publish, in June 2005, the core level of the eighth edition in the printed form. The publication will contain five volumes, as follows: Volume 1 – Sections A and B, Volume 2 – Sections C and D, Volume 3 – Sections E and F, Volume 4 – Sections G and H, and Volume 5 – Guide to the IPC. This publication will be intended for industrial property offices wishing to use the core level of the IPC for classifying their published patent documents and for the general public.

4. Also in June 2005, the Internet version of the eighth edition will be published on the WIPO IPC website. The Internet version will be considered as an official publication of the IPC. Compared with the printed version, the Internet version will contain a complete text of the Classification and will incorporate the electronic layer including supplementary information facilitating the use of the Classification, such as classification definitions, illustrating chemical formulae and main groups in a standardized sequence.
5. The International Bureau will publish, in September 2005, the updated Official Catchword Indexes to the eighth edition in the printed form and on the Internet. References in the Catchword Indexes to the core level of the IPC will be distinguished from references to the advanced level. No further updating of the Catchword Indexes will be made in the course of the next IPC revision period. However, the IPC symbols in the Internet version of the Catchword Indexes will be updated with regard to amendments of the advanced level of the IPC.
6. Also in September 2005, the Revision Concordance List between the seventh and eighth editions will be published on the Internet. It will consist of two parts relating, respectively, to the core and to the advanced levels of the IPC.
7. The International Bureau will publish, in November 2005, a new version of the IPC:CLASS CD-ROM (Version 5). This version will contain a complete text of the eighth edition in English and French, including the electronic layer, and will incorporate facilities enabling downloading of amendments to the advanced level from the Internet. Various IPC explanatory and teaching material may be included on the CD-ROM.
8. *The Committee of Experts is invited to adopt the proposed plan of the publication of the eighth edition of the IPC and related material.*

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