

# WIPO



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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION  
GENEVA

SPECIAL UNION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL PATENT CLASSIFICATION  
(IPC UNION)

## COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

**Thirty-Seventh Session**  
**Geneva, February 14 to 17, 2006**

IPC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR 2006 TO 2008

*Document prepared by the Secretariat*

1. At its thirteenth session, held in June 2005, the IPC Revision Working Group decided to prepare an IPC development program for the current revision period 2006 to 2008. This plan should include, in addition to the ordinary revision or maintenance work, tasks relating to the implementation of the reform or of other improvements in the IPC. It should set priorities, targets and milestones for these tasks and also for the regular work of the IPC Committee of Experts and of the Working Group (see document IPC/WG/13/5, paragraphs 41 and 42).

2. At its fourteenth session, held in November 2005, the Working Group approved such a development program and invited the Advanced Level Subcommittee to prepare a corresponding program for the tasks under its responsibility. The International Bureau was invited to combine the programs approved by the Subcommittee and by the Working Group into one proposal, which appears in the Annex to this document, to be submitted to the thirty-seventh session of the Committee of Experts for adoption (see document IPC/WG/14/3, paragraphs 35 and 36).

*3. The Committee of Experts is invited to adopt the IPC development program for 2006 to 2008.*

[Annex follows]

## ANNEX

IPC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (2006 – 2008)  
FOR THE IPC REVISION WORKING GROUP (WG)

Task No.	Task Title	Action	Timeline
Continuous tasks			
1	Elaboration of classification definitions		
1(a)	Develop a plan for completion of all subclass definitions	Prepare an updated list of priorities. Prepare a list of prioritized subclasses.	Q2/2006 Q4/2006
1(b)	Preparation of definitions	Complete definitions for additional 50 subclasses.	Q4/2008
2	Systematic maintenance of the IPC		
2(a)	Develop a plan for maintenance of all subclasses	Prepare an updated list of priorities. Start pilot projects.	Q2/2006
2(b)	Treatment of maintenance projects	Complete maintenance of 10 subclasses.	Q4/2007
3	Removal of informative references in IPC schemes	Remove informative references from the IPC schemes after completion of corresponding D-projects.	As needed
4	Removal of references from guidance headings		
4(a)	Develop a plan for removal of references from guidance headings in all subclasses	Develop plan.	Q2/2006
4(b)	Removal of references	Remove all references from guidance headings and relocate them in appropriate groups (i.e., limiting type) or in the electronic layer (i.e., informative type).	Q4/2007

Task No.	Task Title	Action	Timeline
5	Special Residual Subclasses and Residual Main Groups		
5(a)	Introduction of residual main groups in IPC schemes	Create residual main groups where appropriate.	Q1/2008
5(b)	Maintenance of special residual subclasses and main groups in IPC schemes	Develop a procedure. Periodical review of all residual subclasses and main groups for emerging technologies or classification problems.	Q2/2006 Continuous
Ad hoc tasks			
6	Treating revision projects	Treat core level projects and projects which are forwarded from the Advanced Level Subcommittee (ALS).	As needed
7	Update of IPC training examples	Update existing training examples following a revision project. Introduce a new training example when a new subclass is introduced or an existing one is extensively revised.	As needed
8	Correction of obvious errors or deficiencies in IPC schemes or definitions	The International Bureau (IB) will evaluate proposals for correcting obvious errors in IPC schemes or definitions and refer to ALS or WG, if appropriate. IB will correct evident clerical errors without further action.	As needed
9	Evaluate borderlines between the core and advanced level in schemes for problems with hierarchy, ease of use, and correctness of notes, examples or references	Evaluate and propose improvements to the schemes, notes, examples or references and refer task to ALS when appropriate.	As needed

Task No.	Task Title	Action	Timeline
10	IPC Guide or Handbook improvement	Evaluate proposals for new or revised principles or rules for the IPC and propose corresponding changes to the Guide. Update the Handbook to reflect any changes in the Guide and relevant Guidelines.	Q4/2007
11	Quality control of IPC classification	Develop a procedure for investigating significant discrepancies reported between classification symbols applied to members of simple patent families. Propose corrective actions as appropriate.	Q2/2007  Continuous
12	Preparation of the new IPC edition		Q1/2008

IPC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (2006 – 2008)  
FOR THE ADVANCED LEVEL (AL) SUBCOMMITTEE

Task No.	Task Title	Action	Timeline
Ad hoc tasks			
1	Evaluation of proposed AL revision projects	Evaluate all proposed advanced level revision projects, and other projects forwarded from the WG, requiring document reclassification. Determine the benefit and prioritize these projects according to resources available at the offices performing the reclassification work.	As needed
2	Treating accepted revision projects	Treat accepted revision projects in accordance with the priorities established in task 1.	As needed
3	Treating definitions	After completion of an AL revision project, prepare corresponding group definitions and subclass definitions if not available.	As needed

Task No.	Task Title	Action	Timeline
4	Correction of obvious errors or deficiencies in IPC AL schemes or definitions	The IB will evaluate proposals for correcting obvious errors in IPC schemes or definitions and refer to ALS, if appropriate, for their consideration. IB will correct evident clerical errors without further action.	As needed
5	Evaluate borderlines between core and advanced level in schemes	Evaluate borderlines between the core and advanced level in schemes for problems with hierarchy, ease of use, and correctness of notes, examples or references, in the framework of an AL revision project.	As needed
6	Preparation of new IPC versions	Publication of the new versions of the AL and of corresponding definitions on Internet, preparation of corresponding files.	Continuous

[End of Annex and of document]