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COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

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UPDATING OF IPC TRAINING EXAMPLES

Document prepared by the Secretariat

1.   At its thirty-second session, held in February 2003, the Committee of Experts of the IPC Union underlined the importance of IPC training examples for teaching the staff of industrial property offices and instructed the IPC Revision Working Group to create a Task Force on updating and revising IPC training examples (see document IPC/CE/32/12, paragraph 69).

2.   For this purpose, the Working Group established the Task Force on IPC Training Examples (see document IPC/WG/9/8, paragraphs 66 to 71). The Working Group agreed that the work of updating the training examples should rapidly proceed so as to achieve the aim of consideration of all training examples by the end of 2005.

3.   At present, six sessions of the Task Force have been held, during which the collection of all existing training examples was reviewed, according to the revision changes introduced in the IPC during the seventh revision period and taking into account the modified rules for classifying introduced in the process of IPC reform.

4.   As a result, 12 existing examples were withdrawn because they dealt mainly with outdated technologies and were not helpful as training material. The remaining existing examples were updated and revised according to the said changes. Twenty-two new examples were added in order to better illustrate the new rules and principles resulting from IPC reform, for example, the new definition of invention information or the new presentation and use of indexing codes.

5.   The Working Group, at its fourteenth session, held in November 2005, formally approved 69 training examples which had been completed by the Task Force. Remaining projects will be considered at the fifteenth session of the Working Group in June 2006. Any project not completed by that time will be withdrawn.

6.   The collection of the formally approved IPC training examples, after consideration by the Editorial Board, was made available to offices in compiled Word and PDF files in January 2006. Once the process of the preparation of the French version is completed, the two language collections will be published on the IPC website by the second quarter of 2006.

7.   As it had already been decided by the IPC Committee of Experts at its thirty-third session, the formally approved IPC training examples will be published in the form of Internet-based interactive IPC tutorials. The tutorials will contain two separate sets of training examples – one for the core and one for the advanced level of the IPC. The International Bureau will introduce the training examples to the IPC tutorials gradually, beginning by the end of 2005. During this introduction period, access to the tutorials will be limited to offices. Once the complete collection in both languages is fully introduced, the tutorials will be published on the IPC website.

8.   Examples to be approved at the fifteenth session of the Working Group will be added to both the compiled files and the tutorials mentioned in paragraphs 6 and 7, above.

9.   The Working Group agreed that the IPC training examples should be afterwards updated and revised in a continuous manner, for example, whenever a revision project involves the creation of a new subclass, or an extensive revision of an existing one, a training example should be created, or updated if one exists already, in order that IPC training examples would reflect up-to-date technologies.

10.   The Working Group noted the difficulty in finding training examples with identical family members in the three languages (English, French and German) and proposed using "artificial examples" as an alternative. It was confirmed that the examples would be available in English and French (see document WG/14/3, paragraphs 22 to 27).

> *11.   The Committee is invited to approve the actions and recommendations of the Revision Working Group concerning the updating and publication of IPC training examples.*

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