

ANNEX IV

IPC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (2006-2008)
FOR THE IPC REVISION WORKING GROUP (IPC/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 an 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

Task No.	Task Title	Action	Timeline
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
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		As needed
6(a)	Treating projects submitted by offices	Collect and evaluate revision projects for the core level, determine their priority and timetable for their elaboration.	As needed
6(b)	Treating projects forwarded from the Advanced Level Subcommittee (ALS)	Treat projects which are forwarded from the (ALS).	As needed
7	Updating of IPC training examples	Updating 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

Task No.	Task Title	Action	Timeline
9	Evaluate borderlines between the core and advanced levels 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 tasks to ALS when appropriate.	As needed
10	Updating of the Guide and IPC-related documents	Evaluate proposals for new or revised principles or rules for the IPC and propose corresponding changes to the Guide and to IPC-related documents.	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 edition of the core level of the IPC		Q1/2008

IPC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (2006-2008)
FOR THE ADVANCED LEVEL SUBCOMMITTEE (ALS)

Task No.	Task Title	Action	Timeline
Ad hoc tasks			
1	Evaluation of proposed advanced level (AL) revision projects	Evaluate all proposed advanced level revision projects, and other projects forwarded from the WG. 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

Task No.	Task Title	Action	Timeline
3	Treating definitions	After completion of an AL revision project, prepare corresponding group definitions and subclass definitions if not available.	As needed
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	Preparation of new versions of the advanced level	Preparation of the new versions of the AL and of corresponding definitions.	As needed
6	Monitoring reclassification	Ensure that the PCT minimum documentation is reclassified on time after completion of revision projects.	Continuous
7	Updating of CONOPS	Evaluate whether the procedures described in CONOPS work in a satisfactory way and propose improvements if necessary.	Continuous

[Annex V follows]