

ANNEX VIII

IPC REFORM IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

approved by the ad hoc IPC Reform Working Group

1. The implementation plan covers the years 2001-2004. The timing takes account of the requirements of the Strasbourg Agreement, according to which amendments to the Classification shall be notified to the competent authorities of the IPC Union six months before their entering into force. Given that the next edition of the IPC enters into force on January 1, 2005, it should be published by July 1, 2004, and last amendments to the current edition should be adopted by the Committee in early 2004.
2. The plan indicates timelines and milestones with regard to major activities which will be necessary to carry out for completion of IPC reform. Those activities could be divided in two parts, namely activities relating to the elaboration of IPC reform tasks, which is in the responsibility of the IPC Reform Working Group (IPC/REF) and the International Bureau (IB), and activities relating to the realization of the elaborated decisions in the IPC itself, which is in the responsibility of the IPC Revision Working Group (IPC/REV). The implementation plan also covers the IPC revision program carried out by the IPC Revision Working Group. A major part of decisions and recommendations of both Working Groups should be finally adopted by the Committee of Experts (IPC/CE).
3. The plan of elaboration of IPC reform tasks is shown in the following table.

Task No.	Task Title	Action	Timeline
2 [9]	IPC revision policy, revision procedure and criteria for accepting revision proposals	Detailed proposal by IB Discussion by IPC/REF Revised proposal by IB Discussion by IPC/REF and Task completion Adoption by IPC/CE	Q3/2001 Q4/2001 Q1/2002 Q2/2002 Q1/2003
3	Electronic data illustrating the contents of IPC entries	Guidelines for references in the IPC by Task Force Discussion by IPC/REF and Task completion Adoption by IPC/CE	Q3/2001 Q4/2001 Q1/2002
4	General principles of classification; multiple classification	Revised guidelines on obligatory classification by US Discussion by IPC/REF and Task completion Adoption by IPC/CE	Q3/2001 Q4/2001 Q1/2002

Task No.	Task Title	Action	Timeline
5	Hybrid systems	Guidelines on conversion of indexing schemes into classification schemes by Task Force Discussion by IPC/REF and Task completion Adoption by IPC/CE	Q3/2001 Q4/2001 Q1/2002
7	Duration of revision cycles	Proposal by IB Discussion by IPC/REF Revised proposal by IB Discussion by IPC/REF and Task completion Adoption by IPC/CE	Q3/2001 Q4/2001 Q1/2002 Q2/2002 Q1/2003
8	Principles of creation and maintenance of Master Classification Database	Request to SCIT for revision of Standard ST.8 by EP Proposal on reclassification procedure and propagation of IPC data by TO Discussion by IPC/REF Revised proposal by TO Discussion by IPC/REF and Task completion Adoption by IPC/CE Creation of Master Classification Database by EP	Q3/2001 Q3/2001 Q4/2001 Q1/2002 Q2/2002 Q1/2003 Q3/2003
10	Question/answer pamphlet on IPC	Draft pamphlet by IB Discussion by IPC/REF Revised draft pamphlet by IB Discussion by IPC/REF and Task completion Adoption by IPC/CE	Q1/2002 Q2/2002 Q3/2002 Q4/2002 Q1/2003
12	Study automated classification and indexing tools	CLAIMS project by IB Consideration by IPC/CE	2002-2003 Q1/2004
13	Computer-based IPC training tools	Report by IB Discussion by IPC/REF Report by IB Discussion by IPC/REF and Task completion Adoption by IPC/CE	Q3/2002 Q4/2002 Q3/2003 Q4/2003 Q1/2004
14	Contents of the core level of the IPC	Final distribution of IPC entries between the core and advanced level by EP Discussion by IPC/REF and Task completion	Q1/2003 Q2/2003

Task No.	Task Title	Action	Timeline
15	Simplified set of rules in the IPC	Completion of the standardized sequence of main groups by IPC/REF Adoption by IPC/CE Report on using the top-to-bottom precedence rule by TO Discussion by IPC/REF Consideration by IPC/CE	Q4/2001 Q1/2002 Q3/2002 Q4/2002 Q1/2003
16	French version of the advanced level	CLAIMS project by IB Consideration by IPC/CE	2002-2003 Q1/2004
17	Revision of the Guide to IPC	1 st draft proposal by IB Discussion by IPC/REF 2 nd draft proposal by IB Discussion by IPC/REF Final proposal by IB Discussion by IPC/REF and Task completion Adoption by IPC/CE	Q3/2001 Q4/2001 Q1/2002 Q2/2002 Q3/2002 Q4/2002 Q1/2003
18	IPC reform implementation plan	Revised draft by IB Discussion by IPC/REF and Task completion Adoption by IPC/CE	Q3/2001 Q4/2001 Q1/2002

4. The current IPC revision program includes 31 revision projects. It is expected that approximately a half of the projects could be completed by the IPC Revision Working Group in 2001 and the proposed amendments to the IPC adopted by the Committee of Experts in early 2002. The remaining projects will be completed in 2002. At its session, in early 2003, the Committee will finally adopt all amendments to the seventh edition of the IPC emanating from the revision projects.

5. The results of the elaboration of several reform tasks should be implemented in the Classification itself. Such an implementation should be carried out by the IPC Revision Working Group, as participation of technical experts of industrial property offices will be necessary. The following tasks will require specific amendments and additions to the IPC in the framework of the implementation of the reform results: Task No. 3 "Introduction of electronic data illustrating the contents of IPC entries," Task No. 5 "Review of the hybrid systems in the IPC," Task No. 14 "Determination of the most appropriate contents of the core level of the reformed IPC," and Task No. 15 "Feasibility of introducing a simplified set of rules in the IPC."

6. In the years 2001-2002, preparation of those specific changes to the IPC will be carried out by the IPC/REV in parallel with the consideration of remaining IPC revision projects. The year 2003 will be wholly available for these activities. As the procedure for the implementation of the reform results has not yet been elaborated and will be considered by the IPC/REV at its fifth session, in June 2001, it was not possible to indicate detailed timelines for conducting this work. Estimated figures are given below.

7. Under Task No. 3, the IPC/REV will deal with the preparation of classification definitions for subclasses of the IPC, on the basis of the agreed definition format. It is estimated that, by the year 2004, up to 100 subclasses could be provided with definitions.
8. Under Task No. 5, the IPC/REV should review indexing schemes in the IPC, on the basis of the principles of treatment of indexing schemes approved by the ad hoc IPC Reform Working Group. This work should be completed in respect of all indexing schemes which are present in the seventh edition of the IPC.
9. Under Task No. 14, the IPC/REV is instructed to carry out work on correcting references and notes as necessary in view of the division of the IPC into the core and advanced level. This work should be completed by the year 2004.
10. Under Task No. 15, the IPC/REV is requested to revise subclass indexes in the IPC according to the standardized sequence of main groups, for presenting rearranged subclass indexes in the electronic layer of the IPC. It is estimated that, by the year 2004, a large part of IPC subclasses could be provided with revised subclass indexes.
11. The International Bureau expects that, with regard to the work to be conducted under Tasks Nos. 3 and 15, the IPC Revision Working Group will be given authority of the final approval of prepared classification definitions and revised subclass indexes. The results of the work to be conducted under Tasks Nos. 5 and 14 should be submitted by the Revision Working Group to the Committee of Experts, for final adoption.
12. As indicated in paragraph 1, above, it is planned that last amendments to the current edition of the IPC will be adopted by the Committee of Experts in early 2004. This will still provide sufficient time for the preparatory prepublication work and for the publication on the Internet of the new IPC edition—IPC 2005—by July 1, 2004.

[Annex IX follows]