

Special Union for the International Patent Classification (IPC Union) IPC Revision Working Group

Forty-Eighth Session
Geneva, November 7 to 11, 2022

REPORT

adopted by the Working Group

INTRODUCTION

1. The IPC Revision Working Group (hereinafter referred to as “the Working Group”) held its forty-eighth session in Geneva from November 7 to 11, 2022. The following members of the Working Group were represented at the session: Australia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America, the Eurasian Patent Organization (EAPO), the European Patent Office (EPO) (29). Hungary, Singapore and the European Law Students’ Association (ELSA International) were represented as observers. The list of participants appears as Annex I to this report.

2. The session was opened by Mr. K. Natsume, Assistant Director General, Infrastructure and Platforms Sector, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), who welcomed the participants.

OFFICERS

3. The Working Group unanimously elected Mr. J. Cowen (United Kingdom) as Chair and Ms. N. Beauchemin (Canada) as Vice-Chair for the IPC revision cycle of 2022 - 2023.

4. Mr. R. Marčok (WIPO) acted as Secretary of the session.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5. The Working Group unanimously adopted the revised agenda, which appears as Annex II to this report.

DISCUSSIONS, CONCLUSIONS AND DECISIONS

6. As decided by the Governing Bodies of WIPO at their tenth series of meetings held from September 24 to October 2, 1979 (see document AB/X/32, paragraphs 51 and 52), the report of this session reflects only the conclusions of the Working Group (decisions, recommendations, opinions, etc.) and does not, in particular, reflect the statements made by any participant, except where a reservation in relation to any specific conclusion of the Working Group was expressed or repeated after the conclusion was reached.

REPORT ON THE TWENTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE IP5 WG1-WORKING GROUP ON CLASSIFICATION

7. The Working Group noted an oral report by the EPO on behalf of the FiveIPOffices (hereinafter referred to as “the IP5 Offices”), on the twenty-third session of the IP5 Working Group on Classification (IP5 WG1).

8. It was noted that, during the twenty-third session of the IP5 WG1, the IP5 Offices agreed to promote five IP5 projects (F projects) to the IPC phase. The EPO, on behalf of the IP5 Offices, would post to the e-forum under project [CE 456](#), the updated lists of all ongoing IP5 projects and proposals (see Annex 41 to project file) in order to avoid overlap between the IPC revision requests and the IP5 ongoing revision activities.

9. The IP5 Offices also agreed to promote 12 P-proposals to the F-phase, so that the number of running F-projects in IP5 phase is now 14, with some projects impacting clearly emerging technologies, like F 174 (New breeds of vertebrates), F 179 (Cellular immunotherapy) and F 180 (Hydrogen and preparation thereof).

10. The IP5 Offices also adapted their working documents in order to tag projects targeting new emerging technologies with the prefix [NET].

IPC REVISION PROGRAM

11. The Working Group discussed 24 revision projects, namely: [C 505](#), [C 508](#), [C 509](#), [C 510](#), [C 511](#), [C 512](#), [C 513](#), [C 520](#), [C 522](#), [C 523](#), [C 524](#), [F 071](#), [F 082](#), [F 138](#), [F 141](#), [F 142](#), [F 143](#), [F 156](#), [F 157](#), [F 158](#), [F 160](#), [F 163](#), [F 164](#) and [F 165](#).

12. The Working Group approved 15 revision projects, one of which were completed with respect to scheme amendments and definition amendments, namely project [C 520](#), for which both the scheme and definition amendments would enter into force in IPC 2024.01, while two of which were completed with respect to scheme amendments only, namely projects [F 163](#) and [F 165](#), which would enter into force in IPC 2024.01. Meanwhile, eight out of 23 projects were completed with respect to definitions to be integrated into IPC 2023.01, namely projects [C 508](#), [C 509](#), [F 082](#), [F 138](#), [F 141](#), [F 142](#), [F 156](#) and [F 164](#), while scheme amendments had been completed by the Working Group in its previous sessions.

13. The Working Group agreed to create one new revision project, namely:

Chemistry: [C 525](#) (Rapporteur – EPO) originating from project [M 822](#)

14. The status of those projects and the list of future actions and deadlines are indicated in the corresponding projects on the e-forum. All decisions, observations and technical annexes are available in the “Working Group Decision” annexes of the corresponding projects on the e-forum.

IPC MAINTENANCE

15. The Working Group discussed 18 maintenance projects, namely: [M 621](#), [M 627](#), [M 633](#), [M 634](#), [M 812](#), [M 814](#), [M 815](#), [M 817](#), [M 818](#), [M 820](#), [M 821](#), [M 822](#), [M 823](#), [M 824](#), [M 825](#), [M 826](#), [M 827](#) and [M 828](#).

16. The Working Group completed ten maintenance projects with respect to either scheme or definition amendments, which would be integrated into IPC 2024.01, namely [M 621](#), [M 627](#), [M 633](#), [M 634](#), [M 814](#), [M 818](#), [M 821](#), [M 823](#), [M 824](#) and [M 826](#). The status of those projects and the list of future actions and deadlines are indicated in the corresponding projects on the e-forum. All decisions, observations and technical annexes are available in the “Working Group Decision” Annexes of the corresponding projects on the e-forum.

17. The Working Group agreed to create two new maintenance projects, namely:

T-independent: M 829 (Rapporteur - United Kingdom) – originating from project [M 633](#); and
M 830 (Rapporteur - United Kingdom) – originating from project [M 828](#).

STATUS OF REMOVAL OF NLRs WITHIN M 200 TO M 500 PROJECTS

18. Discussions were based on a status report prepared by the International Bureau concerning maintenance projects for removal of NLRs for the scheme of the IPC (see Annex 43 to project file [WG 191](#)).

19. The Working Group noted that, among the 14 active projects, agreement had been achieved for the following three projects during discussions on the e-forum and that these projects could be considered completed. The corresponding amendments to the scheme and definitions would thus be included in IPC 2024.01.

[M 247](#) Removal of NLRs in Subclass H03F (Rapporteur - United States of America)

[M 248](#) Removal of NLRs in Subclass H03G (Rapporteur - United States of America)

[M 265](#) Removal of NLRs in Subclass A21B (Rapporteur - Israel)

20. The Working Group agreed to invite comments on the relationship between groups E21B 33/035, E21B 33/038, E21B 43/01 and E21B 43/013 and on the references between those groups as discussed in Annex 9 to project [M 263](#). It was also agreed not to deal with the relationships of “ovens” and the like devices between subclass F24C and other places in the IPC in project [M 265](#). It was further agreed to split projects [M 268](#) and [M 269](#) into several projects in order to deal with the removal of the non-limiting references in one subclass per project.

21. The Working Group noted, with gratitude, that the United States of America volunteered to be Rapporteur for the removal of NLRs in subclass F15D, in project [M 270](#).

22. The Secretariat indicated that an updated table summarizing the status of the removal of NLRs from the scheme would be posted to project file [WG 191](#).

UPDATES ON IPC-RELATED IT SUPPORT

23. The Working Group noted a short presentation by the International Bureau on the IPC-related IT support and updates, in particular, on the transition plan to new WIPO Look and Feel of the IPC Official Publication.

24. The Working Group noted this is the second time the IPCPUB user interface is changed in three years. It was suggested that the transition to the new look and feel should also be an opportunity to improve IPC-related systems or add new features to them, e.g. to make the *Guide to the IPC* accessible in one click.

25. The International Bureau clarified that this initiative was an organization-wide decision made in 2022 that aimed, over a two-year period, at harmonizing the user experience of the website and web applications.

26. It was reminded that the project [CE 447](#) would remain available for possible comments on improvements of the IPC Internet Publication, preferably before the end of 2022.

NEXT SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP

27. The Working Group, having assessed the workload expected for its next session, agreed to devote Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning to the electrical field, Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning to the chemical field and Thursday afternoon and Friday to the mechanical field.

28. The Working Group noted the following tentative dates for its forty-ninth session:

April 24 to 28, 2023.

29. *This report was unanimously adopted by the Working Group by electronic means on December 6, 2022.*

[Annexes follow]