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(IPC UNION)**

COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

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TREATMENT OF THE HYBRID SYSTEMS IN THE IPC

Document prepared by the Secretariat

1. The IPC reform program included Task No. 5 entitled “Review of the Hybrid Systems in the IPC” which was considered by the ad hoc IPC Reform Working Group. In the framework of this Task, the Working Group has elaborated principles of treatment of the hybrid systems and guidelines relating to the creation of indexing schemes and conversion of indexing schemes into classification schemes.
2. At its thirtieth session, held in February 2001, the IPC Committee of Experts adopted the principles of treatment of the hybrid systems elaborated by the ad hoc IPC Reform Working Group (see document IPC/CE/30/11, paragraph 36), and at its thirty-first session, held in February/March 2002, the Committee adopted the Guidelines for Creation of indexing Schemes in the Reformed IPC and agreed to consider Task No. 5 completed (see document IPC/CE/31/8, paragraphs 21 and 22, and Annex III).
3. On the basis of the adopted principles of treatment of the hybrid systems, the IPC Revision Working Group is carrying out consideration of individual hybrid systems and elaboration of recommendations relating to each hybrid system in the IPC. At its ninth session, held in June 2003, the Working Group completed consideration of the hybrid systems including separate indexing schemes, subject to the ongoing discussions of the conversion of indexing schemes in subclass B21B, F16H and G06F into classification schemes.

4. The Annex to this document contains excerpts of the reports of the IPC Revision Working Group relating to recommendations of the Working Group with regard to separate indexing schemes in the IPC. This Annex also contains a cumulative table showing all separate indexing schemes in the IPC and the recommendations made by the Working Group.

5. The IPC Revision Working Group will complete consideration of the hybrid systems including double-purpose schemes at its tenth session to be held in November/December 2003. Following this, recommendations of the Working Group with regard to the double-purpose schemes will be forwarded to the thirty-fourth session of the Committee of Experts.

6. *The Committee of Experts is invited to adopt the recommendations made by the IPC Revision Working Group.*

[Annex follows]

ANNEX

**RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE IPC REVISION WORKING GROUP
WITH REGARD TO SEPARATE INDEXING SYSTEMS IN THE IPC**

CONVERSION OF INDEXING SCHEMES TO CLASSIFICATION SCHEMES

Excerpt from document IPC/WG/7/7

“27. Discussions were based on document IPC/WG/7/4 containing the results of pilot projects on converting indexing schemes to classification schemes, which were reported by Germany, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the EPO and on a paper distributed at the session, containing comments by the United States of America on the proposals submitted.

“28. The Working Group discussed individually the pilot projects and arrived at the following conclusions on each one of them:

“Subclass A 61 K – It was confirmed that the indexing codes A 61 K 121:00 to 123:00 should be abolished. Sweden would submit a modified proposal relating to the indexing scheme A 61 K 101:00 to 103:00 in compliance with the Guidelines for the Conversion of Existing IPC Indexing Schemes into Classification Schemes (see document IPC/WG/6/3, Annex V).

“Subclass C 02 F – It was confirmed that the indexing scheme C 02 F 101:00 to 103:00 should be retained in the advanced level of the reformed IPC. Comments from the United States of America should be taken into account during future revision of this scheme in the framework of the revision of the advanced level.

“Subclass C 04 B – It was confirmed that the indexing scheme C 04 B 101:00 should be abolished and that the indexing schemes C 04 B 103:00 and 111:00 should be retained. It was noted that the notes to be introduced for using the existing double-purpose entries for classification of additional information should be simplified and their detailed explanation should be introduced in the classification definition for subclass C 04 B. It was further noted that the EPO would submit a modified proposal on these notes, citing examples illustrating the use of the notes.

“29. It was agreed that future proposals for the treatment of hybrid systems should follow the said Guidelines for the Conversion of Existing IPC Indexing Schemes into Classification Schemes and the recommendations of the ad hoc IPC Reform Working Group (see document IPC/WG/6/5, Annex G). In order to provide more guidance in this work, the Working Group approved a procedure for the treatment of hybrid systems in the IPC (see Annex H to this report).”

Separate Indexing Schemes

Excerpt from document IPC/WG/8/8

“49. The Working Group agreed to retain the indexing scheme A01D 101:00, in view of its potential high use, but to limit its applicability to main group A01D 34/00 since the similar EEC code applied internally at the EPO was limited to this main group.

“50. The Working Group agreed to abolish the indexing scheme A01D 151:00, in view of its low use and since the information indicated by the indexing scheme could be reflected by the use of main group A01D 34/00 for additional classification.

“51. The Working Group agreed to retain the indexing scheme A61K 101:00, 103:00 in view of its potential usefulness.

“52. The Working Group agreed to abolish the indexing scheme B62D 151:00 to 155:00, in view of its low use and because its conversion into a classification scheme was not needed in light of Note (1) following group B62D 6/00.

“53. In light of the Guidelines for the Conversion of Existing IPC Indexing Schemes Into Classification Schemes, the Working Group agreed to convert the indexing scheme F16H 101:00 to 109:00 into a classification scheme. Having considered the Rapporteur’s proposal to this effect (see Annex 6 to project file IPC/H 031/02), the Working Group decided to delete the indexing codes F16H 101:00 to 109:00 and to create the classification groups F16H 61/66, 61/662, 61/664 and 61/70 which would be used for the classification of invention and additional information (see the said Annex 6). Comments were invited, by March 15, 2003, on the desirability of the creation of the proposed group F16H 61/68, in light of its intended scope, and of subgroups of the said group. The EPO was requested to submit a rapporteur report on this matter, by May 1, 2003.

“54. The Working Group agreed to abolish the indexing scheme G10L 101:00 in view of its low use and the impossibility of its conversion to a classification scheme.

“55. The Working Group confirmed the recommendations by the ad hoc IPC Reform Working Group to retain the following indexing schemes: B62D 101:00 to 137:00, C10N, C22C 101:00 to 121:00, F23C 101:00, H01R 101:00 to 107:00 and H04N 101:00.

“56. The Working Group confirmed the recommendations by the ad hoc IPC Reform Working Group to abolish the following indexing schemes: A01D 103:00, A63B 101:00 to 103:00, B65D 101:00, B65D 111:00 to 113:00, E04B 101:00, E04B 103:00, G01B 101:00 to 121:00, G06F 101:00 and H01L 101:00. The Working group agreed that, in light of the Guidelines for the Conversion of Existing IPC Indexing Schemes into Classification Schemes, the conversion of those indexing schemes was not possible.

“57. With regard to the indexing scheme G06F 151:00 to 171:00, the Working Group agreed to abolish the indexing codes G06F 163:00 to 171:00, but felt that the inclusion of the indexing codes G06F 151:00 to 161:00 into the classification scheme of subclass G06F was possible. The EPO was invited to investigate whether such an inclusion could be made in time for the publication of the next edition of the IPC and to submit the results of the study by March 1, 2003. Comments on the study were requested by April 15, 2003, and the rapporteur report from the EPO by May 15, 2003.

“58. The distribution of work relating to separate indexing schemes is shown in Annex I to this report, where project numbers are indicated for each scheme. Offices were requested to submit initial proposals by March 1, 2003. Comments on the proposals were invited by April 1, 2003, and the rapporteur reports by May 1, 2003.”

Separate Indexing Schemes

Excerpt from document IPC/WG/9/8

“41. The Working Group agreed to abolish the indexing scheme A61B 101:00 in view of its very low use.

“42. The Working Group agreed to abolish the indexing schemes A61F 101:00 to 105:00 and 111:00 to 113:00 in view of their very low use. It was further agreed to delete the precedence references in groups A61F 13/471 and 13/472 since these references had been introduced in order to promote the use of indexing codes 111:00 and 113:00.

“43. The Working Group agreed to retain the indexing scheme B03D 101:00, 103:00 in view of its significant use and the fact that it conforms to the Guidelines for Creation of Indexing Schemes.

“44. The Working Group agreed to abolish the indexing scheme B09C 101:00 in view of its very low use.

“45. The Working Group agreed to convert the indexing scheme B21B 108:00 to a classification scheme by approving seven two-dot subgroups of group B21B 1/081 (to appear as Annex 7 to the project file) since these new groups could be used to classify invention information. In view of the possible overlap between the approved new groups, comments were invited on the way to indicate precedence between the subgroups of B21B 1/081 (first place rule or precedence references) or on whether multiple classification was preferable.

“46. The Working Group agreed to retain the indexing scheme B23K 101:00, 103:00 in view of its sufficient use and its importance as a search tool.

“47. The Working Group confirmed the recommendation of the ad hoc IPC Reform Working Group to retain the indexing subclass B29L. The deletion of code B29L 9:00 was considered, in view of amended Note 2 after subclass B29C (see revision project C278 and Technical Annex 8 to document IPC/CE/32/12). It was however agreed to retain the whole of the indexing scheme, and to reconsider this question during the next revision period.

“48. Concerning the indexing scheme B42D 201:00 to 227:00, the Working Group confirmed the recommendation of the ad hoc IPC Reform Working Group to abolish it. It was further agreed that there was a need to subdivide group B42D 15/10 in view of its high file size but the titles of indexing codes B42D 101:00 to 121:00 were not appropriate for a classification scheme and could in such case create an overlap with subclass G06K. Therefore, the Working Group agreed to retain the indexing scheme B42D 101:00 to 121:00. An advanced level revision project concerning subdivision of group B42D 15/10 should be initiated and should take priority for consideration during the next revision period.

“49. The Working Group agreed to retain the indexing scheme of subclass C12R in view of its usefulness in many subclasses of class C 12.

“50. In response to the request made at the previous session of the Working Group to consider the creation of group F16H 61/68 (see document IPC/WG/8/8, paragraph 53), this group and four subgroups were approved (see Annex 12 to project file H 031) with some amendments. The International Bureau was invited to post the amended scheme to the e-forum by July 15, 2003. The indexing codes F16H 107:00 and 109:00 were not used in the classification scheme and the Working Group agreed to abolish them.

“51. In the framework of project H 034, the Working Group considered the inclusion of indexing codes G06F 151:00 to 161:00 into the classification scheme. It was agreed that the codes 151:00 to 157:00 would be covered by groups of subclass G06Q, which was created at the present session of the Working Group, and therefore these codes should be deleted. The EPO was invited to investigate whether codes 159:00 and 161:00 could be incorporated in the classification scheme of main group G06F 19/00 and to present a proposal for the next session of the Working Group.

“52. The Working Group confirmed the recommendation of the ad hoc IPC Reform Working Group to retain the following indexing schemes: A61L 101:00, B29K, C09K 101:00-123:00, D06M 101:00, E01D 101:00, F16L 101:00, F21W, F21Y.

“53. The Working Group confirmed the recommendation by the ad hoc IPC Reform Working Group to abolish the following indexing schemes: B01D 101:00, B01D 111:00 to 119:00, B01D 131:00 to 141:00, B01D 151:00 to 161:00, B01D 171:00 to 187:00, B01J 101:00 to 105:00, B08B 101:00, B42D 201:00 to 227:00, B60C 101:00 to 125:00, B60T 101:00 to 105:00, C07K 101:00 to 123:00, C07M, C22K, F16D 101:00 to 113:00 and F16F 101:00 to 103:00.

“54. The Working Group agreed that, in light of the Guidelines for Conversion of Existing IPC Indexing Schemes into Classification Schemes, the conversion of those schemes was not possible.

“55. Annex I to this report gives a list of all separate indexing schemes with the recommendations by the ad hoc IPC Reform Working Group and the decisions by the IPC Revision Working Group.”

TREATMENT OF SEPARATE INDEXING SCHEMES IN THE IPC

Excerpt from document IPC/WG/9/8, Annex I

“The following table shows all separate indexing schemes in the IPC, decisions made by the ad hoc IPC Reform Working Group, offices-rapporteurs responsible for the preparation of the proposals relating to each indexing scheme and decisions made by the IPC Revision Working Group.”

Indexing Scheme	Decision by IPC/REF	Rapporteur	Decision by IPC/WG	Project
A01D 101:00, 103:00	Abolish	SE	Retain 101:00 Abolish 103:00	H 001
A01N 151:00	Retain	SE	Abolish	H 002
A61B 101:00	Retain	IE	Abolish	H 039
A61F 101:00 – 105:00	Retain	IE	Abolish	H 040
A61F 111:00, 113:00	Retain	IE	Abolish	H 040
A61K 101:00, 103:00	Abolish	SE	Retain	H 003
A61K 121:00, 123:00	Abolish/Convert	SE	Abolish	H 003
A61L 101:00	Retain	IE	Retain	H 041
A63B 101:00, 103:00	Abolish	GB	Abolish	H 004
B01D 101:00	Abolish	EP	Abolish	H 042
B01D 111:00 – 119:00	Abolish	EP	Abolish	H 042
B01D 131:00 – 141:00	Abolish	EP	Abolish	H 042
B01D 151:00 – 161:00	Abolish	EP	Abolish	H 042
B01D 171:00 – 187:00	Abolish	EP	Abolish	H 042
B01J 101:00 – 105:00	Abolish	GB	Abolish	H 005
B03D 101:00, 103:00	Abolish	SE	Retain	H 043
B08B 101:00	Abolish	SE	Abolish	H 044
B09C 101:00	Retain/Clarify	GB	Abolish	H 045
B21B 108:00	Retain	JP	Convert	H 046
B23K 101:00, 103:00	Abolish	EP	Retain	H 047
B29K	Retain	GB	Retain	H 048
B29L	Retain	GB	Retain	H 049
B42D 101:00 – 121:00	Retain/Convert	DE	Retain	H 050
B42D 201:00 – 227:00	Abolish	DE	Abolish	H 050
B60C 101:00 – 125:00	Abolish	JP	Abolish	H 051
B60T 101:00 – 105:00	Abolish	JP	Abolish	H 052
B62D 101:00 – 137:00	Retain	DE	Retain	H 006
B62D 151:00 – 155:00	Retain	DE	Abolish	H 006
B65D 101:00	Abolish	SE	Abolish	H 008
B65D 111:00, 113:00	Abolish	SE	Abolish	H 008

Indexing Scheme	Decision by IPC/REF	Rapporteur	Decision by IPC/WG	Project
C02F 101:00	Retain	GB	Retain	H 009
C02F 103:00	Retain	GB	Retain	H 009
C04B 101:00	Abolish	EP	Abolish	H 012
C04B 103:00	Retain	EP	Retain	H 012
C04B 111:00	Retain	EP	Retain	H 012
C07K 101:00 – 123:00	Abolish	JP	Abolish	H 053
C07M	Abolish	IE	Abolish	H 015
C08G 101:00	Retain/Convert, transfer to C08J	EP		H 017
C09K 101:00 – 109:00	Retain	GB	Retain	H 054
C10N	Retain	SE	Retain	H 022
C12R	Abolish	IE	Retain	H 024
C22C 101:00 – 121:00	Retain	EP	Retain	H 028
C22K	Abolish	EP	Abolish	H 055
D06M 101:00	Retain	EP	Retain	H 056
E01D 101:00	Retain	SE	Retain	H 057
E04B 101:00	Abolish	DE	Abolish	H 030
E04B 103:00	Abolish	DE	Abolish	H 030
F16D 101:00 – 113:00	Abolish	EP	Abolish	H 058
F16F 101:00, 103:00	Abolish	JP	Abolish	H 059
F16H 101:00 – 109:00	Retain	EP	Convert partly	H 031
F16L 101:00	Retain	SE	Retain	H 060
F21W	Retain	DE	Retain	H 061
F21Y	Retain	DE	Retain	H 062
F23C 101:00	Retain	SE	Retain	H 032
G01B 101:00 – 121:00	Abolish	DE	Abolish	H 033
G06F 101:00	Abolish	EP	Abolish	H 034
G06F 151:00 – 171:00	Abolish	EP	Abolish/ Convert partly	H 034
G10L 101:00	Retain	IB	Abolish	H 035
H01L 101:00	Abolish	RU	Abolish	H 036
H01R 101:00 – 107:00	Retain	NO	Retain	H 037
H04N 101:00	Retain	EP	Retain	H 038

[End of Annex and of document]