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IPC REVISION WORKING GROUP

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PLAN TO REMOVE REFERENCES FROM GUIDANCE HEADINGS AND INFORMATIVE REFERENCES FROM THE SCHEME

Document prepared by the Secretariat

INTRODUCTION

1. At its thirty-seventh session, the IPC Committee of Experts discussed and adopted a document entitled “Guidelines for Revision of the IPC”, which is intended to provide a sufficient basis for the future revision process of the reformed IPC (see document IPC/CE/37/9, paragraphs 28 to 32, and in particular, Annex V to the document).
2. The Committee agreed that references should not be allowed in guidance headings, since guidance headings should not limit or modify the scope of the groups to which they relate. Therefore, existing references in guidance headings should be deleted and either be relocated to the groups where they are needed or be transformed into notes or be moved to the electronic layer in the case of informative references.
3. The Committee also agreed that informative references should only be present in the Definitions, under the heading “Informative References”, and not in the scheme, as they have no effect on the scope of the place where they stand. Furthermore, references from function-oriented places to application-oriented, and references out of residual places, should normally be present in the Definitions, under “References relevant to classification”, and not in the scheme.

4. It is also indicated in the Guide to the IPC that informative references are progressively being removed from the scheme and transferred to the electronic layer of the IPC, in Classification Definitions provided in corresponding places of the IPC.

5. The Committee agreed therefore on relevant tasks in the IPC Development Program for 2006 to 2008 for the IPC Revision Working Group (see document IPC/CE/37/9, paragraph 21, and in particular, Tasks No. 3 and No. 4 of Annex IV to this document).

Removal of References from Guidance Headings

6. It is proposed that this task be carried out by the International Bureau (IB) as Rapporteur, in the framework of Project M 031, which will be created on the IPC e-forum.

7. In respect to each subclass, the reference check should be carried out as follows:

(a) For each subclass, the Rapporteur should check all guidance headings within the subclass and whether any of them contains references.

(b) For those guidance headings containing references, the Rapporteur should determine which references should remain in the scheme (see paragraph 3, above).

(c) For references already existing in approved Definitions, the decisions on removing them or not from the scheme should be based on the definitions, unless there is disagreement, in which case the Rapporteur of the corresponding definition project should be consulted and the Working Group (WG) should take the final decision. The definitions and the scheme should then comply with that decision.

(d) In case of limiting references, the Rapporteur should decide whether they should be relocated in appropriate groups of the subclass or be transformed into notes, with modifications in wording as necessary.

(e) definitions of corresponding main groups should be created to collect the references to be removed from the scheme.

(f) After steps (a) to (e), the Rapporteur should delete the references from guidance headings, propose amendments to the scheme (including those corresponding to step (d), above) and send them to the WG for approval.

8. Attention should be drawn to subclasses, where amendments have been approved and where definition projects already exist. In step (e), the Rapporteur should check whether the proposed amendments have already been considered in the completed definition projects and make necessary additions to definitions. In case of substantial changes, step (c), above, should be considered. In case of active definition projects, the Rapporteurs concerned should check, whether the corresponding definitions have to be changed taking into account the proposed amendments.

9. It is proposed that the WG completes the reference check for Sections A and B by end of 2006, sections C, D and E by middle of 2007 and sections F, G and H by end of 2007.

Removal of Informative References from the IPC Scheme

10. It is proposed that this task be carried out by the IB as Rapporteur at the initial stage. At this stage the removal of references should be carried out in subclasses where definitions have been approved, in the framework of the D projects and following their numerical order, in the following way:

(a) Proposals with additional definitions, containing the removed references, should be submitted for the corresponding groups to the relevant definition projects.

(b) In case of disagreement with the original definitions or doubt, the procedure indicated in paragraph 7(c) should be followed.

(c) The corresponding amendments to the scheme should then be prepared by the Rapporteur and included in the proposal.

11. It is expected that such reference removal will be completed for about 60 subclasses with approved definitions by the end of 2007.

12. At a second stage it is proposed that Rapporteurs of definition projects, which will be active by the end of 2007, will include in their proposals for group definitions references that should be removed from the scheme. Once the project is completed, the IB will prepare the corresponding amendments to the scheme.

13. The Working Group is invited to consider and approve the plan to remove references from guidance headings and from the scheme.

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