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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
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SPECIAL UNION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL PATENT CLASSIFICATION
(IPC UNION)

IPC REVISION WORKING GROUP

Seventeenth Session
Geneva, June 4 to 8, 2007

REPORT

adopted by the Working Group

INTRODUCTION

1. The IPC Revision Working Group (hereinafter referred to as “the Working Group”) held its seventeenth session in Geneva from June 4 to 8, 2007. The following members of the Working Group were represented at the session: Brazil, Canada, China, Croatia, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Kingdom, United States of America, African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI), European Patent Office (EPO) (26). Ukraine was represented as observer. The list of participants appears as Annex I to this report.

2. The session was opened by Mr. F. Gurry, Deputy Director General, WIPO.

OFFICERS

3. The Working Group unanimously elected Mr. A. Bruun (Sweden) as Chair and Ms. O. Regev (Israel) as Vice-Chair for 2007.

4. Mr. A. Farassopoulos (WIPO) acted as Secretary of the session.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5. The Working Group unanimously adopted the 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 THIRTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE IPC COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

7. The Secretariat presented an oral report on the thirty-ninth session of the IPC Committee of Experts (hereinafter referred to as the “the Committee” (see document IPC/CE/39/7), in particular, that the Committee had examined the request of the Working Group to consider the possibility of partial reclassification in areas with rapid rate of growth needing revision when there is a lack of resources for reclassification in one office of the Advanced Level Subcommittee (hereinafter referred to as “the ALS”). The Committee restated its position that, when carrying out a revision of the IPC, the results of the corresponding reclassification of, at least, the PCT minimum patent documentation, should be available at the moment of entering into force of the revised scheme and that this practice was an important feature of the reformed IPC that could not “tolerate” any exceptions. Instead, the Working Group should examine other alternatives, like a smaller-scale revision project, on the condition that resources for reclassification would be available before entering into force of the revised scheme.

8. In view of the continuing high workload of the Working Group, the Committee had agreed to ask all its members to allocate sufficient resources to the IPC revision and maintenance work in order to achieve wider participation in this work and to allow the completion of these tasks before the entry into force of the next core level edition.

9. The Secretariat informed of the status report of the Master Classification Database (MCD) that had been presented to the Committee, in particular that the IPC-8 coverage in the MCD had approached 91%, with frontfile classification data received from 35 countries. The reclassification of 80% of patent families corresponding to the revised areas of the IPC 2007.01 version, sent by 10 offices, had been loaded in the MCD in the first week of 2007 and had been immediately available for searching in EPOQUE and esp@cenet.

10. Finally, the Working Group was informed that the Committee had underlined the importance of the quality evaluation of the MCD contents and had agreed to create a special Task Force for this purpose.

11. In view of the above decision of the Committee that revision of the IPC should be allowed only when resources for reclassification of the PCT minimum documentation could be available, the Working Group expressed its concerns that revision of the IPC, even when considered urgently necessary, could be delayed, without any limitation in time, because of lack of resources for reclassification in one office of the ALS.

REPORT ON THE THIRD SESSION OF THE IPC ADVANCED LEVEL SUBCOMMITTEE

12. The Working Group noted an oral report by the Secretariat on the third session of the ALS (see document IPC/ALS/3/10), in particular, that the ALS had completed revision and reclassification work on project A 006 and that it had fixed the date of entering into force of this revision as of October 1, 2007. The advanced level scheme of project A 003/C 434 had been adopted and the whole project (including the core level entries approved by the Working Group) had been planned to enter into force in the advanced level on January 1, 2008.

13. Concerning project A 007, the ALS had agreed to create a new subclass covering scanning probe technology and to request the Working Group to consider the core level part of this proposal at its current session, in the framework of project C 448.

14. The ALS had examined seven revision requests submitted by the EPO originated from Harmony projects. Three of them had been included in the advanced level revision program, whereas for the four remaining it had been decided that further discussion would be needed in the framework of the relevant Harmony projects.

15. Concerning the revision of CONOPS, a "cleaned" version removing outdated information would be prepared, allowing a more substantive discussion to take place, in the framework of project SC 022, at the next session of the ALS.

16. Although the scheme of project A 008 had been adopted during the session, its entering into force had been postponed until 2013, in view of the limited resources of Japan for reclassification.

17. The Working Group took note of the substantial delay between the adoption of project A 008 and its entering into force in the IPC, and expressed its concerns. It was recalled that one of the objectives of the IPC reform was to reduce substantial delays between the initiation of a revision project and its entering into force. Such delays should be avoided in the future so as to ensure the credibility of the reform.

18. The delegation of Japan stated that the IPC revision work was important for Japan. In the framework of project A 008, Japan is responsible for the reclassification of a very large amount of documents (approximately 30,000 documents). Since high priority had been given to the tasks of examination, resources for reclassification in this project are not fully available at this time and have held up this project.

19. It was noted that this fact should be brought to the attention of the Committee for consideration at its next session in February 2008. In the meantime, the Working Group invited its members to express their concerns by commenting on the relevant parts of CONOPS in the framework of project SC 022 (see paragraph 15, above).

REMOVAL OF REFERENCES FROM GUIDANCE HEADINGS AND OF INFORMATIVE REFERENCES FROM THE SCHEME

20. The Working Group noted that, following its invitation at the sixteenth session, the International Bureau had submitted a complete set of proposals relating to the removal of references from guidance headings and informative references from the scheme (see Annexes 2, 11 and 16 to project file M 031 and Annexes 2, 3 and 15 to project file M 032). Several compilation files had been prepared by the International Bureau containing the original rapporteur proposals and comments from offices.

21. Bearing in mind the recommendations agreed by the Working Group at its sixteenth session on a more efficient approach for carrying out these tasks, the Working Group decided to establish a Task Force for these specific two tasks and noted that the following offices volunteered (provisionally) to participate in the Task Force: Sweden, United Kingdom, United States of America, the African Intellectual Property Organization and the European Patent Office. The Working Group agreed that other members could join the Task Force at a later stage.

22. Following an invitation by the United States of America, a meeting of the Task Force would be held in the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Alexandria, on September 24 to 28, 2007. The Working Group expressed its gratitude to the United States of America for hosting the task force meeting.

23. In view of the considerable workload and the short time available before the Task Force meeting, the Working Group invited its members to submit their comments on the rapporteur proposals to the e-forum by end of July. The International Bureau, as Rapporteur of these two projects, would prepare consolidated proposals including comments from offices, where needed, before the Task Force meeting, in order to facilitate the discussion.

REGULAR MONITORING OF RESIDUAL MAIN GROUPS

24. Following a decision of the Working Group at its fifteenth session (see paragraphs 38 to 41 of document IPC/WG/15/4), the International Bureau had collected statistics on the use of the 99/00 residual groups, which had been submitted to the IPC e-forum (see Annex 5 to project file WG 151).

25. Whenever possible, remarks had been included in these statistics, for example to indicate an unusually high use of a group by an office and, in some cases (in particular in superresidual groups), to provide proposals for an alternative classification.

26. It was pointed out that main groups F23C 99/00 and A61Q 99/00 contained an excessive high number of documents. Main Group F23C 99/00 has attracted documents from main group F23C 11/00, which, although it had been deleted in the eighth edition of the IPC, is still in use in ECLA and FI, containing in these two schemes subgroups with specific subject matter. Sweden and the EPO volunteered to further investigate the high use of main groups F23C 99/00 and A61Q 99/00, respectively, and to submit their conclusions to the IPC e-forum (project WG 151).

27. The Working Group expressed its gratitude to the International Bureau for having collected these statistics. It was noted that this had been a useful exercise that should be continued in the future.

RENUMBERING OF PRE-REFORM RESIDUAL MAIN GROUPS

28. Discussions were based on a compilation of project file WG 111, and in particular on the latest rapporteur proposal of Annex 37 relating to residual main groups with references. The Working Group agreed to delete the following residual main groups and to transfer them to new approved standardized residual main groups: A47H 33/00, C07G 17/00 and H03F 21/00. It was also agreed to include the reference of deleted main group A47H 33/00 into the title of subclass A47H amended as proposed in Annex 39, and the references in the titles of deleted main groups C07G 17/00 and H03F 21/00 into the respective subclass titles according to the proposal of Annex 37 (see Technical Annexes 19 to 21 relating to project M 099).

29. The Working Group invited comments on the different solutions for residual main groups B21L 17/00 and B60F 5/00 as proposed in Annex 37 by the International Bureau and in Annex 39 by Sweden. The Working Group further invited Japan to explain the “future difficulties” they would expect if main group B62J 39/00 was replaced by a standardized residual main group.

30. The Working Group finally agreed to continue, at its next session, the consideration of residual main groups B01L 11/00, B61K 13/00, B67D 5/00 and C08H 5/00, together with the other remaining residual main groups having subgroups, and accepted an offer by the International Bureau to prepare a proposal by October 12, 2007. The Working Group also invited comments on this proposal by November 16, 2007.

31. The Secretariat informed the Working Group of its plan to post to the e-forum an updated version of Annex 35 to project file WG 111, which would summarize all decisions of the Working Group in respect of the introduction of new residual main groups and in respect of the renumbering of existing residual main groups.

REQUEST FOR REVISION OF THE CORE LEVEL OF THE IPC

32. The Working Group considered a request for revision of the core level, submitted by the United Kingdom, to include a new place in the IPC to cover “road pricing where vehicles are charged for travelling in particular areas” (see Annex 8 to project file WG 020).

33. It was agreed that there is currently no place in the IPC to cover this art, and therefore a new revision project (C 449) was created, with the United Kingdom as Rapporteur. However, there was no agreement on which subclass should cover this technology. Offices were invited to submit, to the IPC e-forum, patent document-examples that would be classified in this place to be created. In light of these document examples, comments were invited on which subclass should cover this technology. Finally, the Rapporteur was invited to submit a consolidated proposal to be discussed at the next session of the Working Group. The deadlines for these actions are included in Annex III to this report.

PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVING THE IPC

34. Following the procedure adopted at the twelfth session of the Working Group, proposals were submitted by the EPO to projects M 012 and M 013, concerning improvements in subclass C07D, and in class G10. In addition, new entries in the official catchword indexes were proposed for subclass G06Q.

Subclass C07D – The EPO proposal of Annex 1 to project file M 012 to delete Note (8) after the title of subclass C07D and to create a new note in main group C07D 521/00 was approved and appears as Technical Annex 14 to this report.

Subclass G06Q – In view of the existing entries in the English version of the Catchword Index for subclass G06Q and its main groups, the Working Group agreed to delete the annotation in the training example of project TE 308 (see Annex 12 to the project file) which relates to a future version of the Catchword Index, and requested the International Bureau to include the following terms in the English Catchword Index:

ADMINISTRATION	
electronic administration	G06Q 10/00
BUSINESS	
e-business	G06Q
COMMERCE	
e-commerce	G06Q 30/00
FINANCE	
electronic finance	G06Q 40/00
MANAGEMENT	
electronic management	G06Q 10/00
PAYMENT	
electronic payment	G06Q 20/00

It was furthermore agreed to create the following corresponding entries in the French Catchword Index:

ADMINISTRATION	
administration électronique	G06Q 10/00
COMMERCE	
commerce électronique	G06Q 30/00
FINANCE	
finance électronique	G06Q 40/00
GESTION	
gestion électronique	G06Q 10/00

PAIEMENT

paiement électronique

G06Q 20/00

Class G 10 – In view of the number of the proposed amendments and the amount of comments received, the proposal was considered in the framework of the new project M 110 (see paragraph 48, below).

35. Following a decision of the Working Group at its sixteenth session (see document IPC/WG/16/3, paragraph 25), Sweden submitted to project M 014 proposals to improve the titles of existing residual groups B27K 5/00, B60L 15/00, B61G 5/00, B63C 3/00, F22B 3/00 and F22D 7/00. The proposed titles of groups B61G 5/00, B63C 3/00, F22B 3/00 and F22D 7/00 were approved (see Technical Annexes 15 to 18, respectively). In addition, some further minor improvements were approved in subclasses F22B and F22D (see Technical Annexes 17 and 18, respectively).

36. Concerning main groups B27K 5/00 and B60L 15/00, it was decided that some additional discussion was needed, and projects M 700 and M 701, respectively, were created in that respect, with Sweden as Rapporteur. The International Bureau was requested to transfer to these new projects the relevant annexes of project M 014. The status of those projects and the list of future actions and deadlines are indicated in Annex III to this report. In addition, the following comments were invited:

– Project M 700: whether groups B27K 1/00 to B27K 5/00 covered “wood only” or also “other similar materials”, like fiber boards or particle boards, and if that were not the case, where these “other similar materials” were covered;

– Project M 701: whether there was a conflict between the scope of subclass B60L as indicated in its title, and the scope as indicated in its note, and in such case how it could be solved; whether a standardized residual group was needed in said subclass.

37. The Working Group invited the EPO to act as Rapporteur of a new maintenance project M 702, in order to address the question to which version of the Periodic Table of chemical elements the IPC refers, e.g., in several main groups of subclass C07F. The necessary information of the version used could be given in a new note following the title of Section C.

IPC CORE LEVEL REVISION PROGRAM

General

38. The Working Group discussed 15 pending IPC core level revision projects and approved amendments relating to those projects (see the Technical Annexes 1 to 13 to this report relating to revision projects). The status of those projects and the list of future actions and deadlines are indicated in Annex III to this report.

IPC Revision Projects

39. The Working Group made the following observations with respect to the IPC revision projects.

Project C 432 (chemical) – Discussions were based on Annex 41 to the project file containing an algorithm developed by the EPO, to be used for the reclassification work distribution among offices and the creation of working lists, based on the commitments of offices expressed at various Working Group and Committee of Experts sessions.

The Working Group noted the following deadlines:

- June 30, 2008, for the delivery of the final working lists by the EPO to the International Bureau;
- December 1, 2008, for the delivery of reclassification data by offices to the International Bureau; and
- December 15, 2008, for loading of reclassification data into the MCD.

The Working Group noted a table indicating the total number of families to be reclassified by each office as of May 15, 2007.

The Working Group expressed the opinion that publications without real documents, for example the “D0” publications of the United Kingdom, should not appear in the MCD. Therefore, they should not appear in the working lists. This should also be specified in CONOPS and the International Bureau was invited to submit a corresponding proposal to project SC 022, relating to CONOPS revision.

The Working Group took note of an initiative of the delegation of Brazil that had developed a system which could be used by offices to assist them in creating their working lists to be sent to the MCD.

The Working Group expressed its gratitude to the Brazilian delegation and noted that this system was currently hosted on a private server: <http://www.abrantes.proph.org>.

Offices were invited to consider whether local installations of this system could be possible or whether a centralized hosting would be preferred and to submit their comments to project QC 002.

Project C 434 (electrical) – The Working Group approved the remaining part of the French version (see Technical Annex 1F to this report) and the project was therefore completed. It was noted that, following the decision of the ALS at its third session, this project would enter into force in the advanced level of the IPC on January 1, 2008. The official core level would remain unchanged at this date and therefore the roll-up symbols in the validity file of the 2008.01 version would point to the groups of the 2006.01 version of the core level.

Project C 435 (electrical) – The remaining part of the proposed scheme was approved and appears in Technical Annex 2E of this report. A complete French version for the approved scheme would be prepared for the next session of the Working Group. The Rapporteur was invited to submit proposals for transfer notes and Definitions, and to check if additional references in the scheme and the Definitions, of related areas in the IPC were needed.

Project C 436 (chemical) – Discussions were based on Annex 15 to the project file containing a proposal based on ECLA, submitted by the Rapporteur, following the recommendation of the Working Group at its sixteenth session (see paragraph 30 of document IPC/WG/16/3). The Working Group discussed the problem of the reclassification of the PCT minimum documentation in view of the lack of resources in some offices and noted that the proposed solution would minimize reclassification since a large proportion of the PCT minimum documentation was already classified in ECLA. The EPO was requested to provide a table, similar to the one provided in Annex 42 to project file C 432, indicating the workload for the remaining reclassification for each office, before the next Working Group session. On the basis of this list, the reclassification problem should be discussed again at the next session of the Working Group.

It was decided to continue the revision work by approving the proposed groups with one, two and three dots, bearing in mind that following the proposed scheme would minimize the reclassification effort (see Technical Annex 3E to this report). The Rapporteur was requested to prepare definitions for the approved groups, in particular to include the term “CpG-motifs” in the glossary, and a concordance between the approved scheme and the remaining proposed groups, on the one hand, and the corresponding ECLA groups, on the other. Comments were invited on all approved groups and in particular on (see said Technical Annex 3E):

- whether the order of approved groups was in line with the Last Place Rule that applies in subclass C12N, in particular in view of the order of the corresponding ECLA groups;
- on the wording of the example in approved group C12N 15/113;
- on the correctness of the title approved for group C12N 15/115, in particular in relation to the use of the term “high”;
- whether the proposed group C12N 15/872 (see Annex 15 to the project file) is correctly placed under existing group C12N 15/87 or whether it should be placed elsewhere in the scheme and if that were the case, where; and
- the desirability and correctness of the proposed four-dot groups.

It was furthermore agreed that the proposed limited indexing scheme was not helpful since it concerned only one group.

Project C 438 (mechanical) – It was decided that no residual group was needed in subclass F21S.

Comments were invited on:

– the need of the second sentence in Note (3) after subclass F21L and F21S, and of the second and third sentences in Note (2) after subclass F21V, which were approved at the sixteenth session of the Working Group (see Technical Annexes 9E, 10E and 11E, respectively, to document IPC/WG/16/3); whether these notes cover completely the practice concerning the classification of non-electric lighting devices, as indicated in the deleted Note (1) of class F21;

– whether the addition of the term “electric” in main groups F21S 2/00 to F21S 10/00, as approved at the fifteenth session of the Working Group, was appropriate in view of the above said note (3) after subclass F21S; and

– whether original Note (3) after class F 21, including several informative references, was needed in view of their inclusion in the Definitions of the relevant subclasses of class F 21 (see project D 055).

Project C 439 (mechanical) – Discussions were based on the rapporteur proposal of Annex 24 to the project file. The proposal was approved, with some additions, and appears in Technical Annexes 4E to 6E to this report.

Comments were invited on:

– the correctness of the approved amendments to groups E01C 13/10 and E01H 4/00;

– the correctness of the removal of the references in groups F25C 3/02 and F25C 3/04; and

– whether other references were needed in groups E01C 13/10 and E01H 4/00.

Project C 440 (mechanical) – The latest rapporteur proposal was approved, with some modifications, and appears in Technical Annex 7 to this report. The French version was also approved and the project was therefore completed.

Project C 441 (mechanical) – Discussions were based on the latest rapporteur report of Annex 11 to the project file. It was decided that before proceeding to any amendment of notes in Class B 29 and in subclasses B29C, B29D and B32B, comments should be submitted on the following questions:

– Are there any circumstances when a layered product *per se* should be classified in subclasses B29C or B29D?

– Does Note (3)(b) after class B29 state anything beyond the normal rule for implicit scope, as described in paragraph 92 of the *Guide to the IPC*?

– Is there any intention of systematic multiple classification of methods for production of layered products in both B32B and other places in the same way as for products?

Project C 448 (electrical) – Following the Working Group’s recommendation to the ALS, at its sixteenth session, “to examine the option of collecting all technology covered by groups G12B 21/100 and G01N 13/10 in one place” (see paragraph 11 of document IPC/WG/16/3), it was noted that the ALS, at its third session, had agreed with the latest rapporteur proposal (see Annex 23 to project file A 007) for the creation of a new subclass covering “scanning probe technology”, that the ALS had requested the Working Group to consider the core level part of this proposal at its current session and that for this purpose, project C 448 had been created.

In view of the wide member participation in the discussion of project A 007, it was decided that the project was ready for approval. The totality of the proposed scheme by the Rapporteur (see Annex 3 to the project file) was approved, with some editorial amendments and after renumbering, and appears in Technical Annex 11E to this report.

Since the First Place Priority Rule should be applied in the new subclass G01Q, the Rapporteur was invited to draft a Note after the subclass title to that effect.

It was agreed that the references proposed by the Rapporteur in subclass G01Q were references to application places and should not appear in the scheme. Instead, the Rapporteur was invited to add these references to the relevant part of the subclass definitions.

Finally the Rapporteur was invited to propose an amendment to the title of main group G01N 13/00, in view of the deletion of group G01N 13/10 and of the creation of subclass G01Q, and to check the cross references to deleted groups G01N 13/10 and G12B 21/00.

Furthermore, comments were invited on (see said Technical Annex 11E):

- whether the title of approved group G01Q 10/00 adequately covers the subject matter intended, as expressed in the advanced level subdivisions proposed by Rapporteur (see Annex 23 to project file A 007);
- whether the full text should appear before the abbreviations in the main group titles, and if that were the case, whether the guidelines for drafting IPC schemes should be amended accordingly;
- whether the approved main groups G01Q 60/00, G01Q 65/00 and G01Q 70/00 appear in the correct place in view of the First Place Priority Rule that applies in this subclass; and
- whether the title of said group G01Q 70/00 should mention “general aspects” and whether “peculiar to” should be replaced by “specially adapted”.

UPDATING OF IPC TRAINING EXAMPLES

General

40. The Working Group noted an oral report by the Secretariat on the current status of the training example projects. It was noted that 86 examples had been finalized by the Working Group, and the International Bureau had completed the translation of all these approved training examples into French, based on which French-speaking offices were carrying out editorial checking. Fourteen examples had been considered completed in both languages.

41. Following the decision of the Committee, at its thirty-eighth session, that Rapporteurs of training example projects should provide the International Bureau with proposals on alternatives of multiple choices presented in the IPC tutorials, proposals had been received for 35 training examples. Rapporteurs of the remaining 51 projects were requested to submit their proposals to the e-forum by October 6, 2007.

IPC Training Example Project

42. Project TE 132 (chemical) – Discussions were based on the initial rapporteur proposal (see Annex 5 to the project file).

In view of the late submission of this proposal, the Working Group decided to postpone the detailed discussion of the project to its next session confirming its decision taken at its previous sessions that an example illustrating “Markush-type formulae” was necessary.

Comments were invited on the said rapporteur proposal by September 15, 2007, followed by a rapporteur report, by October 20, 2007.

It was pointed out that classifiers in the field of chemical compounds encountered problems with documents where an enormous number of identified compounds have to be classified separately in a large number of classification places, while the current paragraph 100 of the Guide did not provide sufficient guidance for those cases.

The Working Group therefore invited comments on the possible modification of paragraph 100 of the Guide, taking into account the practice in each office on the classification of chemical compounds expressed using general formulae which would lead to a large number of classification places assigned to a document.

The Rapporteur was requested to prepare then a report based on the comments to be submitted, relating to the modification of paragraph 100 of the Guide, for consideration by the Working Group at its next session. The comments and the report on paragraph 100 of the Guide should be submitted together with the comments and the report, respectively, on project TE 132.

IPC DEFINITIONS PROGRAM

43. The Working Group had before it, in particular, document IPC/WG/16/3 and compilations of the relevant definition project files. The decisions of the Working Group with respect to those projects, in particular new deadlines and appointment of offices for the preparation of French versions, are listed in Annex IV to this report. Further information with respect to some of those decisions is given in paragraph 46, below.

44. In view of the small number of remaining active definition projects in the chemical and electrical fields, the Working Group invited offices to volunteer as Rapporteurs for new definition projects in these fields, in particular for the prioritized subclasses G06K (D 167) and H03K (D 168) (see paragraph 22 of document IPC/WG/16/3).

45. It was agreed that Rapporteurs of any maintenance, revision, or definition projects should check, at the completion of the project, if the decisions taken therein could have an impact on completed or active definition projects and propose adequate amendments.

IPC Definition Projects

46. The Working Group made the following observations, in addition to the decisions set forth in Annex IV to this report, with respect to the cited IPC definition projects. All references to annexes in this paragraph refer to annexes of the corresponding project file, unless otherwise stated.

Project D 001 (chemical) – The Working Group agreed that no new residual group and no amendment of the definitions are needed in subclass A01N. However, a place should be identified, or created, to cover “methods of using live animals to control pests” and revision project C 450 was created with the EPO as Rapporteur for this purpose. The Secretariat was invited to transfer Annexes 35 to 38 to this new revision project.

Project D 002 (chemical) – The Working Group agreed that no new residual group and no amendment of the definitions were needed in subclass C07C.

Project D 039 (chemical) – The request submitted by Germany (see Annex 40) to modify the already approved definition was rejected and therefore the project was considered as completed. Any additional definitions for groups C12N 5/00 and 15/00 should be considered in the framework of revision project C 436.

Project D 051 (electrical) – The Working Group agreed that no new residual group and no amendment of the definitions were needed in subclass G01C.

Project D 054 (electrical) – The Working Group agreed to add “*per se*” to all limiting references in a main group definition which point to main groups lower in the scheme of subclass G06Q. The Working Group further agreed to remove the first paragraph in this section of main group G06Q 50/00, in the section “Special Rules of Classification” of main groups G06Q 50/00 and G06Q 10/00 to G06Q 30/00, and to repeat the second paragraph in this section of main group G06Q 50/00, into all sections “Special Rules of Classification” of

main groups G06Q 10/00 to G06Q 40/00. The Working Group approved the English version of Annex 31, subject to these and some additional editorial changes. The Secretariat was requested to examine the possibility of removing the text “within this group” from the title “Special Rules of Classification within this Group” in the definition template of main groups.

Project D 055 (mechanical) – The Working Group agreed that the proposed changes in Annex 75 were outside the scope of the definition project and should have been submitted to revision project C 438.

The Working Group reviewed the proposals for the definitions of all subclasses of class F 21 that are collectively under consideration in this project and took the following decisions:

- Subclass F21H: The Working Group approved the proposal of Annex 76.
- Subclass F21K: The Working Group approved the proposal of Annex 77 subject to moving the references in the section “Relationship Between Large Subject Matter Areas” to the appropriate subsection of section “References Relevant to Classification in this Subclass”.
- Subclass F21L: Discussions were based on Annex 68. The Working Group agreed that the expression “having light sources” at the end of the first line of the definition statement should be deleted and that the references to G02B 27/20 and G03B 15/02 should be moved to the subsection for references to application places. The Working Group further agreed that the note relating to the indexing subclasses F21W and F21Y should be moved to the section “Relationship between Large Subject Matter Areas”, and that the note in this section that was derived from former Note (1) of class F 21 should be reviewed taking into account the decisions in project C 438 relating to that note (see paragraph 39, above). The Rapporteur was invited to submit a consolidated proposal. Comments were invited on the proposal to be submitted.
- Subclass F21S: Discussions were based on Annex 79. The Working Group agreed that the expression “having light sources” should be removed from all three paragraphs of the definition statement, and that the third paragraph should be removed and added to the glossary entry for light sources of the definitions of subclasses F21L, F21S and F21V. The Working Group further agreed that the note relating to the indexing subclasses F21W and F21Y should be moved to the section “Relationship between Large Subject Matter Areas”, and that all informative references should be moved to the subsection for references to application places, with the exception of the references to B60Q, F 23, and F21V 35/00. The Rapporteur was invited to submit a consolidated proposal.
- Subclass F21V: Discussions were based on Annex 78. The Working Group agreed that the definition statement should be headed by the introductory phrase “Functional features or details of lighting devices or systems of lighting devices, e.g.:”. It was also agreed that the references listed in the section “References Relevant to Classification in this Subclass” should be moved to the subsection for application places, and that the titles of the groups should more comprehensively reflect the titles of these groups as they appear in the scheme. The Working Group further agreed that the note relating to the indexing

subclasses F21W and F21Y should be moved to the section “Relationship between Large Subject Matter Areas”, and that the note in this section which had been derived from former Note (1) of class F 21 should be amended according to the decisions in project C 438 relating to that note (see paragraph 39, above). The Rapporteur was invited to submit a consolidated proposal.

– Subclass F21W: The Working Group approved the proposal of Annex 71.

– Subclass F21Y: The Working Group approved the proposal of Annex 72 subject to replacing the entry in the Glossary with the corresponding entry in Annex 71 (subclass F21W).

Project D 056 (chemical) – The Working Group agreed that no new residual group and no amendment of the definitions were needed in subclass C07D.

Project D 058 (mechanical) – The Working Group invited the Rapporteur to prepare a new proposal taking into account the latest comments by Japan (see Annex 12),

Project D 065 (chemical) – The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 27.

Project D 073 (mechanical) – The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 9.

Project D 074 (mechanical) – The Working Group approved the English version of Annex 13 and instructed the Editorial Board to move the references to subclasses B22D and D06F to the subsection for application places.

Project D 075 (mechanical) – The Working Group approved the English version of Annex 12.

Project D 076 (mechanical) – Discussions were based on Annex 16. The Working Group invited the Rapporteur to review if the paragraph, in the definition statement, relating to methods for pretreatment would broaden the scope of the subclass too much, if the references to classes could be made more specific and to submit a consolidated proposal.

Project D 085 (electrical) – The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 13 subject to corrections according to the latest remark on the e-forum.

Project D 086 (electrical) – Following a request by the Rapporteur, the Working Group invited comments taking into account the latest comments by the United States of America and Germany (see Annexes 8 and 9).

Project D 087 (electrical) – The Working Group approved the English version of Annex 19 subject to some editorial changes.

Project D 088 (chemical) – The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 13.

Project D 089 (chemical) – The Working Group approved the English version of Annex 19.

Project D 092 (chemical) – The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 14.

Project D 093 (chemical) – The Working Group approved the English version of Annex 10 subject to some editorial changes and to replacing the reference to class D 06 with a reference to subclasses D06L to D06Q.

Project D 094 (chemical) – The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 11.

Project D 095 (chemical) – The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 12.

Project D 096 (chemical) – The Working Group agreed that the first paragraph of the definition statement should read “Methods of chemistry when specially adapted for organic chemistry and of general applicability in that field, in which the method itself is of interest rather than the product, e.g. such methods as:”, and that the line following the bulleted list of examples should be deleted. The Working Group further agreed to replace “inventive information” by “subject matter to be classified”, in the section “Relationship between Large Subject Matter Areas”, and approved the English version of Annex 21 subject to these changes.

Project D 097 (chemical) – The Working Group agreed that the first paragraph of the definition statement should read “Compounds containing saccharide radicals, sugars and their derivatives, e.g.:”, and that the examples of sugar derivatives should be grouped together in a bulleted list following this first paragraph. It was also agreed that the present second last paragraph should read “Processes for the preparation of the above compounds”, and that the last paragraph should be removed. The Working Group further agreed that “with the exception of polysaccharides,” should be included in the first paragraph of the section “Relationship between Large Subject Matter Areas” after “...saccharide radicals”, and approved Annex 11 subject to these and some additional editorial changes.

Project D 099 (chemical) – The Working Group agreed to amend the title of the reference to main group A62D 3/00 in view of the amended title of this group as adopted in project A 001, and to replace “is separated from the cleaned water” with “may be”, in the glossary entry for “sludge”. The Working Group approved Annex 14 subject to these changes.

Project D 100 (chemical) – The Working Group agreed to remove all occurrences of “(additives)” in the definition statement, and to include instead “as additives” before “in compositions...”. It was further agreed that many limiting references should be moved to the subsection for application places, and invited the Rapporteur to review these references accordingly and to submit a consolidated proposal.

Project D 112 (chemical) – The Working Group approved the English version of Annex 8 subject to some editorial changes.

Project D 113 (chemical) – The Working Group approved the English version of Annex 12 subject to some editorial changes.

Project D 114 (chemical) – The Working Group approved the English version of Annex 9 subject to some editorial changes.

Project D 115 (chemical) – The Working Group invited the Rapporteur to submit a new proposal taking into account the latest comments on the e-forum. Comments were invited on this new proposal to be submitted.

Project D 117 (chemical) – The Working Group invited the Rapporteur to submit a new proposal taking into account the latest comments on the e-forum. Comments were invited on this new proposal to be submitted.

Project D 118 (electrical) – The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 14, and agreed to remove “in general” from the title of the reference to H05K 9/00 in the approved English version (see Annex 11).

Project D 120 (electrical) – The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 12 subject to corrections according to the latest remark on the e-forum.

Project D 121 (electrical) – The Working Group approved the English version of Annex 14 subject to some editorial changes.

Project D 122 (electrical) – The Working Group agreed to delete “detectors for” in the reference to group G01T 1/28, to append “in general” to the reference to group H05H 1/24, and to move the first paragraph in the section “Special Rules of Classification” to the corresponding section of the definition of main group H01J 49/00. The Working Group further agreed to replace the reference to main group G01J 3/00 with a reference to group G01J 3/443, and the reference to main group G01N 21/00 with a reference to group G01N 21/66. The Working Group finally approved the English version of Annex 9 subject to these changes.

Project D 123 (electrical) – The Working Group approved the French version of Annex 11.

IPC SYSTEMATIC MAINTENANCE

General

47. The Working Group discussed eight pending IPC systematic maintenance projects and approved amendments relating to those projects (see the Technical Annexes to this report relating to maintenance projects). The status of those projects and the list of future actions and deadlines are indicated in Annex III to this report.

IPC Systematic Maintenance Projects

48. The Working Group made the following observations with respect to the IPC systematic maintenance projects.

Project M 100 – A01F (mechanical) – Discussions were based on Annex 3 to the project file containing an initial rapporteur proposal prepared by Sweden relating to comprehensive changes of subclass title, subclass index, group titles and references in subclass A01F, and Annexes 4 and 5 containing comments submitted by Japan and United States of America.

49. Having noted that considerable changes could be foreseen for this project, the Rapporteur was requested to submit a consolidated proposal, taking into account the comments already submitted and comments were invited on this consolidated proposal to be prepared. The Rapporteur would then prepare a rapporteur report for consideration by the Working Group at its next session.

Project M 101 – C07B (chemical) – Discussions were based on a proposal submitted by the Rapporteur (see Annex 9 to the project file). The Rapporteur was invited to conduct an investigation on the use of the residual group C07B 61/00 in view of the extremely high number of documents classified therein. The Working Group decided to invite its members to comment on the said rapporteur proposal, in particular on:

- whether the transfer of existing residual group C07B 61/00 to the proposed standard residual group C07B 99/00 would modify the classification practice for this group, in view of the Last Place Rule applying in subclass C07B;
- whether a new main group should be created to cover the subject matter covered currently by group C07B 61/02 and where it should be placed, in view of the Last Place Rule; and
- whether to delete Note (2) after the subclass title.

Project M 102 – F23G (mechanical) – Discussions were based on Annex 8 to project file M 102 containing a rapporteur proposal prepared by Sweden with comprehensive improvements in subclass F23G.

Comments were invited to on the said rapporteur proposal followed by a rapporteur report.

Projects M 104 to M 106 (chemical) – It was noted that there had been no progress in these projects due to the lack of resources in the Rapporteur's office. It was further noted, with appreciation, that Germany volunteered to take the lead in these projects as Rapporteur and to submit initial proposals.

Project M 107 – F04C (mechanical) – Having noted that few comments had been submitted to the initial rapporteur proposal and the complicated aspects being discussed in subclass F04C, the Working Group invited comments on the rapporteur proposal appearing in Annex 2 to project file M 107.

Project M 108 – D21F (mechanical) – The Working Group approved, with some amendments, the latest rapporteur proposal which appears Technical Annex 23E to this report. The corresponding French version was also approved (see Technical Annex 23F to this report). The project was therefore considered as completed. The International Bureau was requested to introduce the removed informative references into the relevant group definitions.

Project M 109 – A01K (mechanical) –The Working Group approved, with some amendments, the latest rapporteur proposal prepared by the EPO which appears in Annex 6 to the project file (see Technical Annex 24E to this report). It was noted that the Rapporteur would prepare the French version of the approved amendments for consideration by the Working Group at its next session.

Project M 110 – G10 (electrical) – The Working Group invited the Rapporteur to submit a new proposal taking into account the latest comments, and to include therein all subgroups of subclasses G10B, G10C, G10D, G10F, G10G and G10K. An offer of the EPO to become the Rapporteur for the definition projects D 126 to D 133 relating to class G10, was accepted.

50. The Working Group recalled its decision at its sixteenth session to create a revision project in order to widen the scope of subclass G10L to include “audio processing” (see paragraph 25 of document IPC/WG/16/3). It was noted that the ALS had considered this issue at its third session and had agreed “that this problem should be addressed in a way that involves minimal revision and reclassification of documents” (see page 5 of document IPC/ALS/3/10). Project C 451 was created therefor, with EPO as Rapporteur. The Rapporteur was invited to analyze where ECLA and FI converge in this area and to submit a proposal following the above recommendations of the ALS.

SYSTEMATIC INTRODUCTION OF GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATIONS IN THE IPC

51. Discussions were based on an informal paper submitted by Spain at the beginning of the session, containing a proposal to systematically introduce graphic illustrations in the IPC.

52. It was recalled that during the reform of the IPC it had been decided to include graphic illustrative material in the IPC. This had been reflected in paragraphs 49 to 51 of the *Guide to the IPC*. An important project had been accomplished which resulted in the introduction of chemical illustrating formulae in the electronic publication of the IPC. A few graphic illustrations have been introduced in subclasses F16D and F23B. Although Rapporteurs were requested to introduce graphic illustrations in the framework of revision or definitions projects, there has been no illustration submitted since then.

53. In its proposal, Spain pointed out that several offices, for example the Trilateral Offices, include in their internal classification schemes several illustrations that could be introduced in the IPC.

54. It was noted that graphic illustrations in the IPC should serve as examples and prior to their introduction in the IPC should be checked by technical experts.

55. In order to organize the collection of available illustrations in offices, project WG 171 was created on the IPC e-forum. The Working Group invited its members to submit to that project any graphic illustration available, by end of October 2007. These illustrations should be embedded in Word files, e.g., by subclass or class, to facilitate their submission to the e-forum. Each illustration should be accompanied by the relevant group symbol. The size of each file should not exceed one megabyte.

56. The International Bureau will then sort the submitted illustrations, identify any formatting or other practical problems. Based on this experience, the International Bureau will report at the next session of the Working Group on how to further proceed with this project, based also on the experience accumulated during the introduction of the chemical illustrating formulae.

STATUS OF THE WORK

57. The Chair stated that, on the agenda of this session, 14 definition projects were approved in English and 10 definition projects were completed in both English and French. In total, 83 definition projects have been completed so far. Annex IV to this report gave the status of each definition project on the program. He also indicated that four revision projects have been dealt with and completed in both languages, while three new revision projects were included in the program of the revision of the core level (see Annex III to this report for the status of each revision project).

58. The Chair stated that, at this session, the Working Group had continued an important work program of the implementation of the results of IPC reform and had achieved some progress in the completion of the relevant tasks of the IPC development program. In particular, the Working Group has considered and created some new residual main groups (see Task 5(a)) and has initiated work on the monitoring of 99/00 residual main groups (see Task 5(b)) and on the systematic maintenance of the IPC (see Task 2(b)).

NEXT SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP

59. The Working Group having assessed the workload expected for its next session (see paragraph 60, below), agreed to devote the first three days to the mechanical field, the fourth day to the electrical field and the last day to the chemical field. When convening the next session, the International Bureau was requested to consider, in consultation with the Chair, the possible need for an extension of the session, depending on the envisaged amount of work, and for the modification of the number of days devoted to any technical field.

60. The Working Group noted the following tentative dates for its eighteenth session:

November 26 to 30, 2007.

61. The Working Group unanimously adopted this report by electronic means on June 26, 2007.

[Annexes follow]