

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

Fiftieth Session
Geneva, November 20 to 24, 2023

REPORT

adopted by the Working Group

INTRODUCTION

1. The IPC Revision Working Group (hereinafter referred to as “the Working Group”) held its fiftieth session in Geneva from November 20 to 24, 2023. The following members of the Working Group were represented at the session: Australia, Belarus, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, the European Patent Office (EPO) (28). Hungary and 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. Fushimi, Director, International Classifications and Standards Division, Infrastructure and Platforms Sector, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), who welcomed the participants.

OFFICERS

3. The Working Group unanimously elected Ms. A. Merle-Gamez (EPO) as Chair and elected Ms. N. Beauchemin (Canada) as Vice-Chair for the IPC revision cycle of 2023 - 2024.

4. Mrs. N. Xu (WIPO) acted as Secretary of the session.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5. The Working Group unanimously adopted the draft agenda with some amendments, 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 25TH SESSION OF THE IP5 WG1-WORKING GROUP ON CLASSIFICATION

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

8. The IP5 Offices agreed to promote eight IP5 projects (F projects) to the IPC phase, namely, projects [F 148](#), [F 180](#), [F 182](#), [F 184](#), [F 185](#), [F 186](#), [F 187](#) and [F 188](#). The Working Group was informed that project [F 186](#) was identified as a New Emerging Technology (NET)-related project, which deals with robots.

9. The IP5 Offices also agreed to promote one P proposal to the F-phase.

10. The USPTO, on behalf of the IP5 Offices, had posted to the e-forum under project [CE 456](#), the updated lists of all ongoing IP5 projects and proposals (see Annex 45 to project file) to avoid overlapping between the IPC revision requests and the IP5 ongoing revision activities.

REPORT OF THE EXPERT GROUP ON SEMICONDUCTOR TECHNOLOGY (EGST)

11. The Working Group noted an oral report by the EPO, the leading office of the EGST.

12. It was noted that during the ninth session of the EGST that took place in INPI (Brazil) in October 2023, the EGST discussed all pending issues concerning subclasses H10P and H10W, as well as issues with ongoing C-projects [C 514](#), [C 515](#) and [C 516](#) relating to subclasses H10D H10F and H10H.

13. The Working Group noted that the EGST agreed to launch a new project [C 519](#), with China as Rapporteur, dealing with the transfers- and RCL-related issues for main group H01L 25/00 and all its subgroups.

14. It was also noted that the EGST agreed on an updated [CE 481](#) Roadmap (v3.1), which is found in Annex 443 of [CE 481](#).

15. The Working Group joined the EGST in thanking Brazil for hosting the ninth session of the EGST.

IPC REVISION PROGRAM

16. The Working Group discussed 33 revision projects, namely: [C 510](#), [C 513](#), [C 514](#), [C 515](#), [C 516](#), [C 525](#), [C 526](#), [C 527](#), [C 528](#), [F 140](#), [F 148](#), [F 155](#), [F 157](#), [F 158](#), [F 160](#), [F 166](#), [F 168](#), [F 170](#), [F 171](#), [F 172](#), [F 174](#), [F 175](#), [F 176](#), [F 177](#), [F 178](#), [F 179](#), [F 180](#), [F 182](#), [F 184](#), [F 185](#), [F 186](#), [F 187](#) and [F 188](#).

17. The Working Group approved 18 revision projects, four of which were approved with respect to both scheme and definition amendments, namely projects [C 510](#), [F 168](#), [F 172](#) and [F 179](#), for which both the scheme and definition amendments would enter into force in IPC 2025.01, except for project [C 510](#), which definition amendments would enter into force in IPC 2024.01, while six out of 18 were approved with respect to scheme amendments only, namely projects [C 515](#), [C 528](#), [F 155](#), [F 157](#), [F 176](#), [F 177](#) and [F 178](#), which would enter into force in IPC 2025.01, and two projects [F 160](#) and [F 166](#), were approved with respect to both scheme and definition amendments based on the approved removal of non-limiting references from the scheme in subclasses B08B and B64F. Meanwhile, five out of 33 projects were completed with respect to definitions to be integrated into IPC 2024.01, namely projects, [C 513](#), [C 526](#), [F 158](#), [F 171](#) and [F 174](#), while scheme amendments had been completed by the Working Group at its previous sessions.

18. 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

19. The Working Group discussed ten maintenance projects, namely: [M 621](#), [M 627](#), [M 633](#), [M 634](#), [M 812](#), [M 818](#), [M 829](#), [M 831](#), [M 832](#) and [M 833](#).

20. The Working Group completed five maintenance projects, three of which definition amendments would be integrated into IPC 2024.01, namely projects [M 621](#), [M 627](#) and [M 634](#), while two of which scheme and definition amendments would be integrated into IPC 2025.01, namely projects [M 818](#) and [M 829](#).

21. The Working Group decided to suspend project [M 833](#), in view of its scope overlap with the ongoing project [M 831](#) dealing with the notes in the “secondary classification places” throughout the IPC.

22. 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.

23. The Working Group agreed to create four new revision projects, namely:

Chemistry: [M 834](#) (Rapporteur – Ireland) originating from project [F 168](#); and

[M 835](#) (Rapporteur – United States of America) originating from project [F 172](#);

T-independent: [M 836](#) (Rapporteur – EPO) originating from project [F 178](#); and

[M 837](#) (Rapporteur – United States of America) originating from project [M 621](#).

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

24. The Working Group discussed projects [WG 191](#), [M 269](#) and [M 273](#).

25. 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](#)).

26. The Working Group noted that among the 13 active projects, agreement had been achieved for the following eight 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 2025.01.

M 249	Removal of NLRs in subclass H03H (Rapporteur - United States of America)
M 252	Removal of NLRs in subclass H05H (Rapporteur - United States of America)
M 259	Removal of NLRs in subclass G05F (Rapporteur - United States of America)
M 262	Removal of NLRs in subclass A61B (Rapporteur - United States of America)
M 264	Removal of NLRs in subclass A61F (Rapporteur - United States of America)
M 268	Removal of NLRs in subclass F22B (Rapporteur - Sweden)
M 271	Removal of NLRs in subclass F22D (Rapporteur - Sweden)
M 272	Removal of NLRs in subclass F22G (Rapporteur - Sweden)

27. The Working Group further discussed and approved projects [M 269](#) (subclass F27B) and [M 273](#) (subclass F27D) and decided that the remaining issues concerning the F27D subclass title and subclass index in project [M 273](#) will be dealt with under project [F 184](#). Therefore, projects [M 269](#) and [M 273](#) could be considered completed. The corresponding amendments to the scheme and definitions would thus be included in IPC 2025.01.

28. The Working Group noted, with gratitude, that the United States of America volunteered to be Rapporteur for the removal of NLRs in subclasses A47F, A47K, B61H and B61K respectively in projects [M 278](#), [M 279](#), [M 280](#) and [M 281](#).

29. 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](#).

NEXT SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP

30. The Working Group, having assessed the workload expected for its next session, agreed to devote the first two and a half days to the electrical field, the following afternoon and the next morning to the chemical field and the last one and a half days to the mechanical field.

31. The Working Group noted the following tentative dates for its fifty-first session:

April 15 to 19, 2024.

*This report was unanimously adopted
by the Working Group by electronic
means on December 14, 2023.*

[Annexes follow]