

PLAN TO REMOVE NON-LIMITING REFERENCES (NLRs) FROM THE SCHEME OF THE IPC

1. Following a decision by the IPC Committee of Experts at its forty-sixth session to further accelerate the task of removal of non-limiting references (NLRs) from the scheme, project WG 301 was created covering 10 subclasses. Having reviewed the proposal by the International Bureau based on the analysis of the results of project WG 301, the Committee, at its forty-seventh session, adopted the following plan for carrying out the task.
2. Rapporteurs of definition projects should prepare a proposal for removal of NLRs for the subclass concerned for consideration by the IPC Revision Working Group.
3. As for revision and maintenance projects, bilateral agreement between the International Bureau and the Rapporteur should be reached on who prepares such a proposal for removal of NLRs. In case of unavailability of the Rapporteur, the International Bureau should prepare such a proposal for the subclass concerned for consideration by the Rapporteur of the project.
4. A new type of maintenance projects (M 200 to M 500) is created with volunteering offices, including the International Bureau, as Rapporteurs for those subclasses where there are no active revision, maintenance or definition projects.
5. The International Bureau prepares a list of the subclasses indicated in paragraph 3, above, and keeps the list up-to-date under project WG 191, from which the International Bureau and volunteering offices select to be Rapporteur(s).
6. The International Bureau should create new maintenance projects on the IPC e-forum (IEF) based on the selection of subclasses by offices, as well as by the International Bureau, and should set up corresponding deadlines for initial rapporteur proposals and a round of comments. Proposals and comments should be submitted exclusively to the IEF, i.e. they should not be discussed at the Working Group meetings.
7. Comments should, as far as possible, include only the indication of disagreement with proposals for individual references. Second round of comments should be requested by Rapporteurs on disagreed proposals for each of the references.
8. In case of disagreement, the references concerned should be removed from the scheme and included in the definitions under "Informative references", unless Rapporteurs are requested by offices to raise certain issues to the Working Group for approval.
9. The corresponding amendments to the scheme and the definitions collecting NLRs to be removed from the scheme should then be prepared by the Rapporteur and included in the proposal, to be integrated into the following IPC publications.
10. In case that a revision, a maintenance or a definition project is created within a subclass for which an M 200 to M 500 maintenance project already exists, the initial proposal, together with comments submitted in the framework of M 200 to M 500 project, should be forwarded to the project concerned. The Rapporteur should then follow the procedure indicated in paragraph 9, above. The corresponding M 200 to M 500 project should then be considered as suspended.

[End of Annex VII and of document]