

| | | |
|-----|-------------------------------------|------|
| 3.1 | Preparation of the search report | IV-4 |
| 3.2 | Amended international search report | IV-4 |

Chapter V – Preclassification and IPC classification of international patent applications

V-1

| | | |
|-----|---|------------|
| 1. | Definitions | V-1 |
| 2. | Preclassification (for file routing and distribution) | V-1 |
| 2.1 | Incorrect preclassification | V-1 |
| 3. | IPC classification of the application | V-1 |
| 3.1 | Amended classification of late-published search reports | V-1 |
| 3.2 | IPC classification when the scope of the invention is not clear | V-1 |
| 3.3 | IPC classification in cases of a lack of unity of invention | V-1 |
| 3.4 | Verification of the IPC classification | V-1 |

Chapter VI – The state of the art at the search stage

VI-1

| | | |
|-----|---|-------------|
| 1. | General | VI-1 |
| 2. | State of the art – oral disclosure, etc. | VI-1 |
| 3. | Priority | VI-1 |
| 4. | Conflicting applications | VI-1 |
| 4.1 | Potentially conflicting European and international applications | VI-1 |
| 4.2 | National earlier rights | VI-2 |
| 5. | Date of reference for documents cited in the search report; filing and priority date | VI-2 |
| 5.1 | Verification of claimed priority date(s) | VI-2 |
| 5.2 | Intermediate documents | VI-2 |
| 5.3 | Doubts as to the validity of the priority claim; extension of the search | VI-2 |