

STANDARD ST.8*

STANDARD RECORDING OF INTERNATIONAL PATENT CLASSIFICATION (IPC) SYMBOLS ON MACHINE-READABLE RECORDS

Editorial Note by the International Bureau

The Standards and Documentation Working Group (SDWG) of the Standing Committee on Information Technologies (SCIT) adopted this revision of Standard ST.8 at its fifth session on November 11, 2004. This revision of Standard ST.8 incorporates changes made necessary by the IPC reform initiative.

Industrial property offices are asked to implement this new version of Standard ST.8 for all patent documents with a publication date from January 1, 2006, onwards. For patent documents published prior to that date, the previous version of the Standard should continue to be used.

The previous version of Standard ST.8, valid until December 31, 2005, is reproduced as an Annex to the new Standard ST.8.

* See WIPO *Handbook on Industrial Property Information and Documentation*, pages 3.8.0 to 3.8.5

STANDARD ST.8STANDARD RECORDING OF INTERNATIONAL PATENT CLASSIFICATION (IPC)
SYMBOLS ON MACHINE-READABLE RECORDS

*Revision adopted by the SCIT Standards and Documentation Working Group
at its fifth session on November 11, 2004*

INTRODUCTION

1. This recording convention provides that symbols of the International Patent Classification (IPC) should be presented on machine-readable records for the exchange of information in machine-readable form in a fixed-length field in 50 positions, each part of the Int. Cl. symbol being recorded in specific positions and in the manner prescribed.
2. The examples given are intended to clarify the text and should not be considered as comprehensive.

RECORDING

3. For the recording of IPC symbols on machine-readable records a field of 50 positions should be allotted for each symbol, the 50 positions of the field to be used as follows:

| <i>Position(s)</i> | <i>Content</i> | <i>Values</i> |
|--------------------|---|----------------------|
| 1 | Section | A,...,H |
| 2,3 | Class | 01,...,99 |
| 4 | Subclass | A,...,Z |
| 5 to 8 | Main Group (right aligned) | 1,...,9999, blank |
| 9 | Separating character | / ("Slash") |
| 10 to 15 | Subgroup (left aligned) | 00,...,999999, blank |
| 16 to 19 | For future use | 4 blanks |
| 20 to 27 | Version indicator | YYYYMMDD date format |
| 28 | Classification level | C,A,S |
| 29 | First or later position of symbol | F,L |
| 30 | Classification value (inventive or non-inventive) | I,N |
| 31 to 38 | Action date | YYYYMMDD date format |
| 39 | Original or reclassified data | B,R,V,D |
| 40 | Source of classification data | H,M,G |
| 41-42 | Generating office | AA,...,ZZ (ST.3) |
| 43-50 | For future use | 8 blanks |

4. Unused positions in the IPC classification fields Group (positions 5-8) and Subgroup (positions 10-15) should be left blank. The only other positions that may be left blank are the ones reserved for "future use". All other positions must be assigned one of the acceptable "values" listed in the table of paragraph 3. Any zero appearing in the symbols should be recorded.
5. Considering the numerals appearing after the separating character, the most significant digit (including the case where it is zero, e.g., subgroup 02) should be in position 10. Any unused positions should be left blank.
6. Representation of the indicators

Positions 1 to 19: Recording of the parts of the IPC symbols

IPC symbols are defined in Part 5 of the WIPO *Handbook on Industrial Property Information and Documentation* and in the latest version of the Guide to the IPC.

Positions 20 to 27: Version indicator

Although in the paper publications a version indicator may contain four or six digits, the version indicator in machine-readable records contains eight digits, namely YYYYMMDD with Y for year, M for month and D for day.

Position 28 : Classification level

Offices are expected to classify each subject matter only in one level (core or advanced). However, both levels need to be completely represented in the master classification database and thus a level indicator is needed. The level indicator is also useful for indicating situations where an office does not classify in either the core or the advanced level classification, i.e., when an office only assigns classifications to the subclass level. The level indicator enables to make the difference between core, advanced and subclass levels. The letters C (Core), A (Advanced) and S (Subclass) are used for this one-digit field.

Position 29: First or later position of symbols

The position of the first invention information classification can be recognized by this field. The letters F and L are used for first and later position, respectively.

Position 30: Classification value (inventive or non-inventive)

The difference between invention information and other information is important for the retrieval of the information. The letters I and N are used for the invention and non-invention information, respectively.

Positions 31-38: Action date

The date of assigning the classification symbol (action date) is represented by eight digits, namely YYYYMMDD. This date can be used to check if a classification needs to be reviewed after revision of the scheme, e.g., in case of creating new subdivisions.

Position 39: Original and reclassified data

Original data is the first data allotted to the document. In case of a publishing office assigning classification symbols at the core level, another office may also assign symbols at the advanced level as original data.

Reclassified data is data changed due to a change in the classification schemes.

Various data is data changed due to an incidental reclassification of an individual document, such as the correction of a mistake.

Deleted data is data which has to be deleted from the Master Classification Database, due to a change in allocation of classification symbols to a document.

The indication of the different types of data is marked by the letters B for the basic or original data, R for reclassified data, V for various incidental changes, and D for data to be deleted.

Position 40: Source of classification data

The following sources of classification data are foreseen:

- Intellectual classification by persons, value H for human generated data.
- Machine classification by the propagation of earlier intellectual classification through the use of common priorities in the patent application. The value M is used in this case and will facilitate later corrections.
- Classification symbols generated by software using automatic analysis of the content of the patent document. The letter G is used to indicate this source of generated data.

Positions 41-42: Generating Office

Since part of the original data in the advanced level and the reclassified data can be delivered by offices other than the publishing office, the information source of such data is recorded by a field of two characters. The country or office code CC, as defined by WIPO Standard ST.3, must be used.

7. Recording of complete IPC symbols

The full classification symbol must always be used when recording it on machine-readable records. The IPC section, class and subclass should be provided for each group or subgroup classification, even if previously provided with another group or subgroup classification in the same document.

See paragraph 2 of WIPO Standard ST.10/C for the recommended presentation of IPC classifications on machine displays or in printed documents.

8. A schematic representation of the contents of the 50 positions is as follows:

| Section | Class | | | Subclass | Main Group | | | | Separating character | Subgroup | | | | | Blanks | | | | | |
|---------|-------|---|---|----------|------------|---|---|---|----------------------|----------|---|----|----|----|--------|----|----|----|----|----|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Version indicator | | | | | | | | Classification level | First or later position of a symbol | Classification value | Action date | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | | | | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Original or reclassified data | Source of classification data | Generating office | | Blanks | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|----|--------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Example

One sample representation of IPC classification symbols assigned on June 1st 2007 and their indicators is:

Int. Cl. (2006)

| | | |
|----------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| B28B 5/00 (2006.01) | classification in advanced level | invention information |
| B28B 1/29 (2007.04) | classification in advanced level | invention information |
| H05B 3/10 | classification in core level | non-invention information |

According to this Standard, this example would be recorded on machine-readable records as follows:

Record 1:

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| B | 2 | 8 | B | | | | 5 | / | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 |
| 2 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | A | F | I | 2 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 1 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 |
| B | H | E | P | | | | | | | | |

Record 2:

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| B | 2 | 8 | B | | | | 1 | / | 2 | 9 | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 |
| 2 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 1 | A | L | I | 2 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 1 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 |
| B | H | E | P | | | | | | | | |

Record 3:

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| H | 0 | 5 | B | | | | 3 | / | 1 | 0 | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 |
| 2 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | C | L | N | 2 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 1 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 |
| B | H | E | P | | | | | | | | |