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**WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA PROPRIÉTÉ INTELLECTUELLE**

GENEVA/GENÈVE

**COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS OF THE IPC UNION
COMITÉ D'EXPERTS DE L'UNION DE L'IPC**

IPC REFORM PROJECT FILE/DOSSIER DE PROJET DE RÉFORME DE LA CIB

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF THE HYBRID SYSTEMS IN THE IPC
SUJET : RÉEXAMEN DES SYSTÈMES HYBRIDES DANS LA CIB

ANNEX/ ANNEXE	CONTENT/CONTENU		SEE/VOIR R 5/99	ORIGIN/ ORIGINE	DATE
1	Background material	Information à l'appui		IB	30.03.99
2	Comments	Commentaires		SE	13.04.99
3	Comments	Commentaires		US	15.04.99
4	Comments	Commentaires		DE	04.05.99
5	Comments	Commentaires		GB	04.05.99
6	Rapporteur report	Rapport du rapporteur		IB	10.05.99
7	Decision by IPC/REF/1 and follow-up	Décision du IPC/REF/1 et suite	Rev.1	IB	28.05.99
8	Comments	Commentaires	Rev.1	EP	15.09.99
9	Discussion paper	Document de discussion	Rev.1	EP	15.09.99
10	Comments	Commentaires	Rev.1	SE	20.09.99
11	Project coordinator report	Rapport du coordinateur de projet	Rev.1	EP	14.10.99
12	Comments	Commentaires	Rev.1	GB	25.10.99
13	Decision by IPC/REF/2 and follow-up	Décision de l'IPC/REF/2 et suite	Rev.2	IB	22.11.99
14	Recommendations by the Trilateral Offices	Recommandations des offices de la coopération trilatérale	Rev.2	EP	14.03.00
15	Recommendations by the Task Force	Recommandations du groupe spécial	Rev.2	IB	21.03.00
16	Rapporteur report	Rapport du rapporteur	Rev.2	EP	27.03.00

ANNEX/ ANNEXE	CONTENT/CONTENU		SEE/VOIR R 5/99	ORIGIN/ ORIGINE	DATE
17	Decision by IPC/REF/3 and follow-up	Décision de l'IPC/REF/3 et suite	Rev.3	IB	05.05.00
18	Statistics	Statistiques	Rev.3	EP	30.06.00
19	Comments	Commentaires	Rev.3	SE	03.07.00
20	Comments	Commentaires	Rev.3	US	25.08.00
21	Comments	Commentaires	Rev.3	GB	30.08.00
22	Explanatory paper	Document explicatif	Rev.3	EP	25.08.00
23	Study	Étude	Rev.4	EP	13.10.00
24	Study	Étude	Rev.4	GB	24.10.00
25	Rapporteur report	Rapport du rapporteur	Rev.4	EP	24.10.00

ANNEX 23/ANNEXE 23

Hybrid systems Task Force - Analysis of Indexing System B62DB62D 101:00 - 137:00

Indexing scheme used in group B62D6/00 only (excluding its subgroups), relating to driving conditions sensed and responded to (for automatically controlling steering).

This scheme is used to cover systems which are responsive to more than one condition or to conditions not covered by the subgroups of 6/00. These subgroups cover systems responsive to only one single condition.

Our experts are satisfied with the current system and think that it can be continued.

On the other hand a transfer to multiple classification could also be possible along the following lines:

Some of the indexing codes have a wording overlapping with the subgroups of 6/00 (e.g. 101:00, - 6/02 or 111:00 - 6/04). Assuming that modern systems would often be responsive to several conditions, we believe that integration of the indexing codes as subgroups under 6/00 and deletion of the term "only" in some of the subgroups, would, together with multiple classification and the use of the additional ("other information useful for search") type classification, achieve the same effect. If the subdivision appears to be too fine, some of the less used codes could be deleted.

B62D151:00 - 155:00

Indexing scheme used in group B62D6/00 and its subgroups. This scheme is used below 10%, but very related to the previous one, so we can treat it here as well.

Codes 153:00 and 155:00 correspond to groups 5/04 and 11/02, respectively. Since the codes only specify what is controlled, and not an invention in the field, of course only the additional classification ("other information useful for search") should be used. Code 151:00 does not seem to have a corresponding classification, but there are only 13 documents coded. So deletion could be envisaged.

The big majority of the documents are apparently indexed by the JPO. It would be valuable to transfer the system in such a way that the information already coded remains accessible, so that the work invested mainly by the JPO is not lost. Since for users outside the JPO, the search possibilities for these documents are limited (only abstracts in english language), this would be a benefit for all offices.

H.Wongel



Conc.: Hybrid Systems Task Force

Investigation of IPC7 indexing scheme D06M101:00

Present situation

1. Subclass D06M relates to the treatment of fibres and the like (not provided for elsewhere in D06). Existing classification entries relate merely to treating processes and treating substances, while the indexing entries (D06M101), introduced since IPC5, relate to the nature of the fibres treated.

2. According to the statistics presented by EP in its letter of 30-6-2000, about 15 % of the classified documents have received such indexing codes.

For use in ECLA, as usual, these indexing codes were transferred into N06M101 codes with the same wordings and hierarchy as the corresponding IPC codes. More than 20% of the EPODOC in file documents classified in D06M (published since 1990) have received N06M101 codes.

Evaluation of the present situation

3. Not for all documents classified in D06M, the nature of the treated fibres is a decisive feature. When it is, it is important to be able to retrieve the relevant documents easily.

So, even if only a fraction of the documents is indexed, this hybrid system is considered to be very useful.

4. The classification resp. indexing codes give information of a different type: the treating process or treating agent resp. the nature of the treated fibres. It is important for a number of searches to be able to retrieve this "complementary" information. Whether this complementary information can be found by using a classification and an indexing code or by using two classification codes is of minor importance if at all.

Conclusion

5. The IPC entries represented by the indexing codes of the series D06M should be kept as they are considered useful to the search. There should however be no major objections to transform them into classification entries.

Transfer proposal

6. The transformation of the D06M101 indexing schedule could be done with a minimum of changes to IPC7 in the following way:

- a. delete the notes after D06M11/00, 13/00, etc. referring to the indexing codes
- b. delete or replace the guide heading before D06M101:00
- c. delete the notes before D06M101:00.
- d. change the numbers of the indexing codes in an appropriate way, e.g. into those of the 50/00 series
- e. add a new note - to replace the notes mentioned in point a. - after the subclass title.

This note could read e.g.: *(n) In this subclass, classification is also made in group D06M50/00, if the treatment relate to fibres, threads,... of a specific chemical constitution.*

A general note after the subclass title seems to be preferable over a note after each main group concerned. Certain groups like 14/00 could have to be excluded.

7. A formally more elegant but also more work consuming alternative to point 6, would be to restructure the whole subclass, possibly with new guide headings, to come to a sequence of groups like:

- groups relating to the treatment of fibres, threads,.... (10/00, 11/00, 13/00, 15/00, 16/00, 23/00)
- new main group replacing the indexing codes
- graft polymerisation group (now 14/00)
- multi layer group (now 17/00)
- feather group (now 19/00).

This would result in a more logical structure of the subclass but also in the reclassification of a number of documents.

P. Daeleman

[Annex 24 follows/
L'annexe 24 suit]

ANNEX 24/ANNEXE 24

UK Patent Office
Date: 24 October 2000

Indexing task force

Study of C04B 111:00 and subgroups thereof**Introduction**

C04B 111 is an indexing scheme relating to the function, property or use of mortars, concrete or artificial stone. Apart from the other indexing main groups, the rest of the subclass relates to the composition of the cement.

Subclass	Docs indexed	Docs classified	%
C04B111	1500	7900	19,0

Above is an extract from the statistics kindly provided by EPO. It shows that this indexing scheme is relatively heavily used.

Analysis

This scheme is probably well used because the rest of the subclass gives no similar information such that the indexing cuts across the classification in a different direction.

Although it is possible that this sort of functional information could feature in a main claim, it is more likely that it could feature in an appendant claim or in significant description. The nature of the information in covering different aspects such as function and property are such that one or two assignments are usual, but rarely would application of this indexing be burdensome especially when compared to the significant retrieval benefits.

Because of the essentially non-inventive indexing nature of the information, it is not envisaged that this schedule could easily or desirably be converted to classification. It is therefore recommended that it remain as indexing in the advanced level of IPC.

The opinion of our expert is that it does not take much effort to index here and that the scheme would be much more effective if universally applied, at least by major Offices.

Jim Calvert

[Annex 25 follows/
L'annexe 25 suit]

ANNEX 25/ANNEXE 25

IPC Reform - Hybrid Systems Task Force

At IPC/REF/3, it was agreed that EP would supply statistics on the use of (independent) indexing schemes in the IPC, and comments were invited on these statistics.

Comments were received from US, GB and SE.

US agree in principle with EP's conclusions and propose to delete all indexing schemes with a usage under 10%. They propose a standardized protest procedure for Offices not agreeing with deletion of a specific scheme.

SE have some doubts about the statistical figures due to the subject matter covered by the indexing codes which might be relevant for only a part of the documents classified in the respective classification ranges, and concludes that the real figures might be higher than stated by the EPO. SE propose to look at indexing schemes individually in order to determine the way of action.

GB propose to keep (or transform) schemes with a usage above 20%, to look individually at schemes between 10% and 20%, and to delete schemes with a usage below 10%, unless special circumstances, as described by SE, would apply.

According to GB, there should not be a rigid cut-off point and it is proposed to also investigate the schemes with about 9% usage.

In a summary of the status of the work, the IB proposed to distribute the indexing schemes above 10% among the task force members for investigation and invited comments on these investigations.

EP investigated the schemes D06M and B62D101-137:00 and 151-155:00.

According to these investigations, both schemes are considered valuable by the experts working in these technical fields, but transfer to classification is considered possible:

- The B62D codes be transferred to classification entries for multiple classification by integrating them under existing main groups in B62D, and possibly creating some new subgroups for covering some of the aspects currently covered by the indexing scheme.
- If the D06M codes were to be transferred to classification, a new main group would have to be created.

US submitted a general paper proposing criteria for selecting an action (transfer to classification / keep as indexing) along the following lines:

- If the features covered by the indexing scheme fit into the structure of the corresponding classification scheme and relate to invention information, the indexing codes should be transferred to classification.

- If these features relate to aspects different from the aspects covered by the classification scheme and relate to other information (useful for search), the indexing scheme should be kept.

Although the distinction between invention information and other information does not appear to be so much related to the schemes but more to individual documents, Rapporteur agrees with US that the guidelines proposed would be in line with the investigations of EP:

- The B62D codes could be transferred (enabling multiple classification), since they fit under the existing main group 6/00
- The D06M indexing scheme could be kept, since a transfer would require introduction of a new main group, covering aspects not covered in the present D06M classification scheme.

Rapporteur proposes to discuss the US criteria for selecting the appropriate action at the task force meeting, and to elaborate a draft proposal as a basis for discussion at IPC/REF/4. It seems that some of SE's reservations would be automatically addressed by such a procedure. As shown in the B62D151-155:00 example in EP's investigation, the decision for a transfer to classification could easily be taken even for some schemes with low usage, when the criteria proposed by US are applied.

H.Wongel

[End of Annex 25 and of document/
Fin de l'annexe 25 et du document]