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Rapporteur Report

Project: C430

Subclass: A62D

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Purpose of this new Revision project: clarification of the title of A62D and its main group 3/00 and of the borderlines of this subclass and main group with other places in the IPC.

1. Scope of A62D and its main group A62D3/00

* The current first part of the two-part title of subclass A62D covers several different types of subject matter and actually is a three part title on its own. One has tried probably to be as short as possible, but this was not beneficial to an easy understanding.

The three types are:

A. *Chemical means for extinguishing fires* (covered by main group A62D1/00)

B. *Chemical means for combating harmful chemical agents* (covered by main group A62D3/00)

C. *Chemical means for protecting against harmful chemical agents* (covered by main group A62D5/00).

* From the complete title of A62D, it is clear we are dealing here with a chemically oriented subclass. So subject matter to be classified in main group 3/00 relates clearly to chemical aspects of treating harmful agents. Toxicity of a compound is due/inherent to its chemical structure. Making such toxic compounds harmless chemically can only mean changing this chemical structure. This can be done by chemical, physico-chemical or even physical methods as long as the molecular structure is changed and as a consequence the toxicity of the compound.

In other words, physical methods with a physical result, e.g. resulting in a simple encapsulation is not covered.

* The compounds considered here are harmful to living organisms, e.g. humans. They are not harmful to apparatus. For an apparatus to perform a specific chemical change as such, it is not relevant whether the compound is toxic to organisms or not. Therefore only exceptionally apparatus might have to be considered as being "specially adapted" in the context of A62D3/00.

* In Harmony Project T001, all these considerations lead the Trilateral Offices to reformulate the title of A62D3/00 as formulated in annex 1 to this project file (and in the proposal jointed to this R Report).

It should be clear that this proposal for a change in wording is not intended to result in a change of scope and thus – at least theoretically – should not result in a reclassification of documents.

2. Relationship with other places in IPC

* Some confusion may exist because of the existence of internal DEKLA subgroups at the DPMA and in ECLA at the EPO for documents relating to non-chemical treatment of harmful agents. With non-chemical treatment we mean here that the molecular structure of the compound is not changed and thus the toxic characteristics are not altered.

Examples of such “non-chemical” groups are:

- in DEKLA: *A62D3/00B2 Deponierung (Dumping)*
- in ECLA: *A62D3/00C Removal of residual PCB's from transformers*
or

used oils by physical methods] (#)

The reason for creating such groups was not so much the misinterpretation of the scope of main group A62D3/00, but rather the:

- (presumed) lack of a better place in IPC
and/or
- concern to have documents relating to harmful agents in one place.

* Either in the scheme or in the Definition layer (or both) a number of references seem to be highly desirable. A first try to list such references follows. R invites Offices to check this list and to comment on its correctness and completeness. After having received these comments, R will prepare an elaborated proposal, i.e. - scheme
- definition layer.

R invites the IB to create a new D-project for A62D3/00 on the e-forum.

Limiting references:

Chemical or biological purification of smoke or fumes, e.g. flue gas
B01D53/34

Reclamation of contaminated soil
B09C1/00

Treatment of waste water, sewage or sludge, and of harmful agents contained therein
C02F

Consuming waste by combustion *F23G*

Treatment of radioactively-contaminated waste
G21F9/00

Processes using enzymes or micro-organisms to purify a pre-existing compound or composition
C12S

Informative references:

Disinfection or sterilising methods specially adapted for refuse
A61L11/00

*Disposal of solid waste, destroying solid waste or transforming solid waste
into something useful or harmless*

B09B

*Waste or refuse as compounding ingredient for glass, cement, mortar,
concrete, artificial stone or ceramics*

C03, C04B

Destructive distillation

C10B53/00

Obtaining metals from residues or scrap

C22B

(#) This group has been deleted from ECLA now (visible soon), the documents being reclassified to C10G groups.

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