

USER INFORMATION

1. The Guide to the International Patent Classification, which explains the layout, use of symbols, principles, rules and application of the Classification, appears in Volume 5 of this publication.
2. In order to assist the user, the text of the Classification is presented in such a way as to give some indication of the kind of changes it has undergone with respect to previous editions.
3. The following indications are used in this edition of the Classification:
 - (a) Text in italics means that the entry in question, in relation to the seventh edition, either
 - (i) is new, or
 - (ii) has been changed (in wording or in hierarchical position) so that the scope of one or more groups was affected.

The entry in italics is followed by an Arabic numeral 8 in square brackets (see under (b), below).

- (b) An Arabic numeral in square brackets (for example [4] or [7]), at the end of an entry, indicates the edition of the Classification where the entry was, in relation to the preceding edition, either
 - (i) new, or
 - (ii) changed (in wording or hierarchical position) so that the scope of one or more groups was affected.
- (c) One and the same entry may be followed by two or more Arabic numerals in square brackets (for example [4,7] or [2,4,6]).
- (d) The symbols of the seventh edition which do not appear in this publication have been either included in the advanced level of the eighth edition or deleted. Information relating to these symbols is available from the Internet version of the eighth edition (www.wipo.int/classification/ipc).

