

## ANNEX III

**INTERNATIONAL PATENT CLASSIFICATION****GUIDE (version 2011)**

10bis. Following the reform of the IPC (see paragraphs 11 to 13, below), for the editions that were in force from January 1, 2006, to December 31, 2010, the Classification was divided into core and advanced levels. Each edition of the core level was indicated by the year of entry into force of that edition. IPC-2006 was in force from January 1, 2006, to December 31, 2008, and IPC-2009 entered into force on January 1, 2009. Each new version of the advanced level of the IPC was indicated by the year and the month of the entry into force of that version, for example, IPC-2008.01. From January 1, 2011, onwards, the division of the Classification into core and advanced levels was discontinued and each new version of the IPC is indicated by the year and the month of the entry into force of that version, for example, IPC-2011.01.

14. *However, in view of the complications to maintain two independent levels with different revision procedures and publication cycles, the IPC Union decided, in 2009, to discontinue the publication of separate levels of the IPC. In order to satisfy the needs of the users of the core level, it was decided that these users could classify the patent documents they publish using main groups (see paragraph 22, below) of the Classification.*

19. The Classification represents the whole body of knowledge which may be regarded as proper to the field of patents for invention, divided into eight sections. Sections are the highest level of hierarchy of the Classification.

- (a) **Section Symbol** – Each section is designated by one of the capital letters A through H.
- (b) **Section Title** – The section title is to be considered as a very broad indication of the contents of the section. The eight sections are entitled as follows:
  - A HUMAN NECESSITIES
  - B PERFORMING OPERATIONS; TRANSPORTING
  - C CHEMISTRY; METALLURGY
  - D TEXTILES; PAPER
  - E FIXED CONSTRUCTIONS
  - F MECHANICAL ENGINEERING; LIGHTING; HEATING; WEAPONS; BLASTING
  - G PHYSICS
  - H ELECTRICITY
- (c) *[Deleted]*
- (d) **Subsection** – Within sections, informative headings may form subsections, which are titles without classification symbols.

Example: Section A (HUMAN NECESSITIES) contains the following subsections:  
 AGRICULTURE  
 FOODSTUFFS; TOBACCO  
 PERSONAL OR DOMESTIC ARTICLES  
 HEALTH; AMUSEMENT

**III. HIERARCHICAL STRUCTURE OF THE CLASSIFICATION**

*Principle of hierarchy; The option of classifying in main groups only*

29. *[Deleted]*

### The option of classifying in main groups only

30. Industrial property offices that do not have sufficient expertise for classifying to a detailed level have the option to classify in main groups only.

32. *[Deleted]*

### Use and Interpretation of References

40. Some points of detail concerning the use and interpretation of references:

- (a) A reference is usually placed at the end of the title to which it belongs. If the title consists of two or more parts, the reference is placed after the last part to which it relates. Exceptionally, a reference does not relate to all parts preceding it, but in such cases this is evident from the context.

Example: A47C CHAIRS (seats specially adapted for vehicles B60N 2/00); SOFAS; BEDS (upholstery in general B68G)

- (b) A reference following the title of a subclass or group relates to all the hierarchically inferior places.

(c) *[Deleted]*

(d) *[Deleted]*

- (e) Where a group is quoted, it is usually the most relevant group but not necessarily the only relevant group. In particular, groups hierarchically related to a group quoted should also be borne in mind.

- (f) Where two or more items of subject matter are referred to the same place, they are separated by a comma, the classification symbols of that place being given only at the end of that reference.

Example: A01M 21/00 Apparatus for destruction of unwanted vegetation, e.g. weeds (biocides, plant growth regulators A01N 25/00)

- (g) References relating to different items of subject matter referred to different places are separated by a semicolon and are to be read independently.

Example: A01K 1/00 Housing animals; Equipment therefor (building construction, features of buildings E04; ventilating buildings F24F)

An exception is where a substantial part of their wording is the same; in this case, the common wording is given once and the different symbols are separated by a comma.

Example: A01H 3/00 Processes for modifying phenotypes (4/00 takes precedence; influencing the growth of plants without producing new plants, non-chemically A01G 7/00, chemically A01N 25/00 to 65/00)

### Chemical Compounds

93. When the subject of the invention concerns a chemical compound per se (organic, inorganic or macromolecular), it is classified in section C according to its chemical structure. When it also concerns a specific field of use, it is also classified in the place provided for that field of use, if such field of use constitutes an essential technical characteristic of the subject. However, when the chemical compound is known and the subject of the invention concerns only the application of the compound, it is classified in the place covering the field of use as invention information while the chemical structure may also be classified in the place for the chemical compound per se.

### Chemical Mixtures or Compositions

94. When the subject of the invention concerns a chemical mixture or composition per se, it is classified in a place according to its chemical composition if such a place exists, for example, C03C (glass), C04B (cements, ceramics), C08L (compositions of organic macromolecular compounds), C22C (alloys). If such a place does not exist, it is classified according to its use or application. If the use or application also constitutes an essential technical characteristic of the subject of the invention, a mixture or composition is classified according to both its chemical

composition and its use or application. However, when the chemical mixture or composition is known and the subject of the invention concerns only its use, it is classified in the place covering the field of use as invention information while the mixture or composition may also be classified in the place for the chemical mixture or composition per se.

107 [Deleted]

## HYBRID SYSTEMS; INDEXING SCHEMES

108. In specific areas of the Classification, hybrid systems have been introduced in order to improve the effectiveness of the Classification.

158. The version indicator of the IPC has to be placed in round brackets after the abbreviation "Int.Cl.", if the document is classified, at least partly, in main groups only. Most offices classify a given document in either the full IPC or main groups only (see Examples (a) and (b) in paragraph 161, below). When classifying in the full IPC, the version indicator of each IPC symbol (see paragraph 42(b), above), is placed in round brackets after the symbol. It should however be noted that all version indicators earlier than (2006.01) should be replaced by (2006.01).

159. When classifying in main groups only, IPC symbols are printed or displayed in regular font style (i.e., non-italics), and when classifying in the full IPC, IPC symbols are printed or displayed in italics.

161. Sample representations of IPC classification symbols and indicators are given below for the same document when classified in the full IPC, in main groups only or both in the full IPC and in main groups.

(a) When classified in the full IPC:

Int.Cl.  
**B28B 5/00** (2006.01)  
**H04H 20/12** (2008.01)  
*H01H 33/65* (2009.01)

Where:

**B28B 5/00** indicates invention information (bold font style) classified in the full IPC (italics font style);

**H04H 20/12** indicates invention information (bold font style) classified in the full IPC (italics font style);

*H01H 33/65* indicates additional information (regular font style, i.e., non-bold) classified in the full IPC (italics font style).

(b) When classified in main groups only:

Int. Cl. (2011.01)  
**B28B 5/00**  
**H04H 20/00**  
H01H 33/00

Where:

**B28B 5/00** indicates invention information (bold font style) classified in main groups only (regular font style, i.e., non-italics);

**H04H 20/00** indicates invention information (bold font style) classified in main groups only (regular font style, i.e., non-italics);

H01H 33/00 indicates additional information (regular font style, i.e., non-bold) classified in main groups only (regular font style, i.e., non-italics).

- (c) When invention information is classified in the full IPC and additional information in main groups only:

Int. Cl. (2011.01)  
**B28B 5/00** (2006.01)  
**H04H 20/12** (2008.01)  
H01H 33/00

Where:

<b>B28B 5/00</b>	indicates invention information (bold font style) classified in the full IPC (italics font style);
<b>H04H 20/12</b>	indicates invention information (bold font style) classified in the full IPC (italics font style);
H01H 33/00	indicates additional information (regular font style, i.e., non-bold) classified in main groups only (regular font style, i.e., non-italics).

174. If the chosen group includes a precedence reference to another group, for example, if the chosen group is in the form “7/16 ..... (7/12 takes precedence)”, it may be necessary to search the group taking precedence as well as the chosen group, i.e., in the example the group 7/12 as well as 7/16, since documents including in addition to the subject of group 7/16 that of group 7/12 will be classified in the latter. If, on the other hand, the subject in question includes that of group 7/12 as well as that of group 7/16, it is not generally necessary to search group 7/16.

Example: C08F 2/04 Polymerisation in solution (C08F 2/32 takes precedence)  
C08F 2/32 Polymerisation in water-in-oil emulsions

Polymerisation characterised by taking place in a particular solvent may be found in either of these places, and therefore it should be necessary to search in both these places; however, if the polymerisation in question cannot take place in a water-in-oil emulsion it should not be necessary to search C08F 2/32.

177. In the areas of the IPC, where multiple classification or indexing is applied, it is recommended to use for searching first a combination of classification symbols or classification symbols and indexing codes associated therewith so as to make a search query more specific. For obtaining complete search results, the search query could be broadened afterwards by using the most pertinent classification symbols alone.

185. Attention is drawn to the definitions of certain words and expressions which are set forth earlier in the Guide, for example, in paragraphs 53 to 65, above.

[Annex IV follows]