

AMENDMENTS TO THE *GUIDELINES FOR REVISION OF THE IPC*

GUIDELINES FOR REVISION OF THE IPC

adopted by the Committee on Experts of the IPC Union at its thirty-seventh session and modified at its forty-fourth and forty-fifth sessions

27. ---

27bis. Places in the IPC always include their subdivisions. Therefore, when an interval of groups is indicated, the end of the interval should be identified by the hierarchically highest symbol that covers the last group of the interval and is compatible with the start of the interval.

Example: The title of H01L 31/078, “including different types of potential barriers provided for in two or more of groups H01L 31/061–H01L 31/075” correctly identifies the actual interval ending with H01L 31/077, since that group is a subgroup of H01L 31/075.

28. ---

30. Other preferred terms and expressions:

– The expression “arrangement of ...” should be used rather than alternative expressions such as “mounting or disposition of ...” when a group is intended to provide for things distinguished by a particular way of incorporating a part or detail. Example:

“Arrangement of motors in, or adjacent to, traction wheels” should be used rather than “Disposition of motor in, or adjacent to, traction wheel” (B60K 7/00)

– The broader expression ---

39. References from function-oriented to application-oriented places, and references out of residual places, should only be presented in the Definitions, under the heading “References relevant to classification”, and not in the schemes.

40. ---

109. There are two kinds of residual main groups:

– Main groups that are residual to an entire subclass have the standard title “Subject matter not provided for in other main groups of this subclass”. Such main groups should be placed at the end of the scheme and have the standard symbol 99/00 whenever possible. When this is not possible, for example when there are already classification main groups in the subclass with numbers higher than 99/00, the symbol 999/00 should be used.

- Main groups that are only residual to a part of a subclass, for example in subclasses with multi-part titles, have a specific title. Main groups of this kind should, if possible, be placed immediately after all the groups to which they are residual. The group numbering should be different from 99/00 or 999/00. For example, A01B 76/00, “Parts, details or accessories of agricultural machines or implements, not provided for in groups A01B 51/00–A01B 75/00”, is only residual to the second part of the A01B subclass title and is placed immediately after the groups related to that title part.

109bis. Residual main groups should not be subdivided and should not contain references.

110. – – –

Appendix II to Guidelines for Revision of the IPC*

GUIDELINES FOR THE ORDERING OF GROUPS

1. In parts of the IPC where a general priority rule is used the groups must by necessity be ordered in a way that ensures a useful and coherent content of each group. This usually requires careful analysis and testing.
2. In parts of the IPC where the common rule is used the ordering of groups has no immediate effect on classification. In those parts the main object should be to order the groups in a way that is logic, predictable and easy to navigate. This can often be achieved by following the general philosophy of the standardized sequence of groups used in schemes where first place priority is applied. This order starts with the most specialized or complex matter, for example groups for specially adapted matter and combination groups. Then follow groups for less specialized or complex matter, such as the basic types of the subject matter. Groups for general details are placed at the end of the schemes and residual places, if necessary, are placed last.
3. However, the most important principle is that groups for technically similar matter should be placed close to each other. If groups for similar matter are placed in sequence it is easy to improve the structure of a long scheme by adding a common parent group, if desirable. It also makes it easier for users to navigate the scheme. The following guidelines apply both to main groups and subgroups.
4. When adding new groups to an existing scheme the placement of the groups should be carefully considered. New groups should be placed in the best place and not routinely added at the end of the scheme, or where there happens to be a gap in the numbering. If there is no place for a new group in its best place, or if the existing ordering of groups is inadequate, a complete renumbering should be considered.
5. If the title of the hierarchically higher place is of multipart type, and each title part can be considered to stand alone without overlap with the other parts, groups relating to each title part should be placed together. The portions of the scheme that relate to the different title parts should be placed in the same order as the title parts.

* New text, intended to completely replace the existing Appendix II.

6. Groups that are residual to only a part of a scheme should be placed as the last group of that part of the scheme.

7. In schemes covering different categories of subject matter it should be considered whether groups relating to the same categories, for example products or processes, should be placed together. In some technical fields this might be useful, while in other fields it might be more useful to collect groups for similar technologies regardless of the category of subject matter. When categories are separated they should normally be arranged in this order:

Methods of use (of products)
Products (of manufacture)
Processes of making products
Apparatus for producing products
Materials used for making products

8. Highly specialized groups, for example particular application-type places, should be placed towards the top of the scheme and should not be mixed with groups for functional types of matter.

9. Groups for complex systems, such as combinations involving several subsystems, should be placed towards the top of the scheme.

10. Groups for different aspects of the same type of subject matter should be placed together, for example control aspects, electrical aspects, chemical aspects, material aspects, mechanical aspects, safety aspects and property aspects.

11. Groups for details that are only applicable with a particular type of matter should be placed together with other groups for that type of matter, for example as subgroups.

12. Groups for details of more general applicability should be placed towards the end of the scheme.

13. Groups that are given precedence should be placed above the groups from which precedence is given.

Appendix IV to Guidelines for Revision of the IPC:

7. When more than ten one-dot groups are created under a new main group, or when one-dot groups are otherwise added to an existing main group and the principle of paragraph 6, above, cannot be applied, the group numbers should as far as possible be chosen so that the intervals between the new groups are similar. The same applies when new subdivisions are inserted in an existing scheme. In the light of that, for the addition of further subdivisions, the numbering of each subdivision should be the rounded result of:

$$n_x = A + (x \cdot r)$$

where:

n_x is the subgroup number of the xth new group ($1 \leq x \leq N$)

A is the subgroup number of the group before the interval

B is the subgroup number of the group after the interval

$$r = (B - A) / (N + 1)$$

N is the number of desired subdivisions

For example:

(a) When adding two-dot: - - -

[Technical Annexes follow]