

AMENDMENTS TO THE *GUIDE TO THE IPC*

**INTERNATIONAL PATENT CLASSIFICATION
(Version 2014)**

15. ---

(a) the supplementary information in the IPC which includes classification definitions, chemical formulae and graphic illustrations (see paragraphs 44 to 51, below);

(b) ---

28. ---

Two-dot subgroup: ---

Three-dot subgroup: 1/032 ••• of hard-magnetic materials

Four-dot subgroup: ---

39. ---

(b) **Precedence** – A reference --- of subclass A61M).

Precedence references have different functions depending on the relationship between the affected places:

(i) A precedence reference to a place which is a subset of the place where the reference stands has the same function as a scope-limitation reference.

(ii) A precedence reference to a place which is not a subset of the place where the reference stands serves as a classification rule for combination-type subject matter.

Example (hypothetic):

10/00 Mechanical means (20/00, 30/00 take precedence)

20/00 Hydraulic means

30/00 Chemical means

– The precedence reference from 10/00 to 20/00 has the same function as a scope-limitation reference saying "(hydraulic means 20/00)". Since hydraulic means are a type of mechanical it excludes a subset of the matter covered by 10/00 and places it in a different place.

– The precedence reference from 10/00 to 30/00 does not exclude chemical means *per se*, since chemical means *per se* are not covered by 10/00. Its function is to exclude subject matter that would otherwise be classified in both 10/00 and 30/00, i.e. combinations of mechanical means and chemical means. It has the same function as a scope-limitation reference saying "(mechanical means in combination with chemical means 30/00)".

(c) ---

Example: ---

eye surgery using laser	A61F 9/008
laser printers	B41J 2/44, B41J 2/455
laser heads for recording or reproducing	G11B 7/125

In the definitions, ---

40. ---

(f) Where two or ---.

Example: A01B 77/00 Machines for lifting and treating soil (biocides, pest repellants or attractants, plant growth regulators A01N 25/00-A01N 65/00; ---)

(g) ---

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION IN THE IPC

44. ---

Classification Definitions

45. Although the scope of classification places can be determined from classification titles with associated references and notes, which are present in the scheme of the Classification, it is recommended to use classification definitions for clarifying the exact boundaries of the subject matter appropriate for the classification place. Classification definitions provide supplementary information in respect of classification entries and serve for their clarification, but do not change the scope of classification entries.

Non-limiting References

48. Non-limiting references indicating the location of subject matter that could be of interest for searching are progressively being introduced into the classification definitions. They do not limit the scope of classification places with which they are associated and are intended only to facilitate the patent search.

63. The expression "per se" concerns only an item of subject matter itself as opposed to a combination of which that item is a part.

Examples: B22F 1/00 Special treatment of metallic powder; Metallic powders per se

- H04N 21/80 . Generation or processing of content or additional data by content creator independently of the distribution process;
Content per se

92bis. In all sections of the IPC, in the absence of an indication to the contrary, the Periodic System of chemical elements referred to is the one with eight groups as represented in the table below. For example, group C07F 3/00 "Compounds containing elements of Groups 2 or 12 of the Periodic System" refers to the elements of columns IIa and IIb.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
Period	IA	IIA	IIIB	IVB	VB	VIB	VII B	[-----VIII B-----]	IB	IIB	IIIA	IVA	VA	VIA	VIIA	VIIIA			
1	H																		He
2	Li	Be											B	C	N	O	F		Ne
3	Na	Mg											Al	Si	P	S	Cl		Ar
4	K	Ca	Sc	Ti	V	Cr	Mn	Fe	Co	Ni	Cu	Zn	Ga	Ge	As	Se	Br		Kr
5	Rb	Sr	Y	Zr	Nb	Mo	Tc	Ru	Rh	Pd	Ag	Cd	In	Sn	Sb	Te	I		Xe
6	Cs	Ba	Lanthanides	Hf	Ta	W	Re	Os	Ir	Pt	Au	Hg	Tl	Pb	Bi	Po	At		Rn
7	Fr	Ra	Actinides	Rf	Db	Sg	Bh	Hs	Mt	Ds	Rg	Cn		Fl		Lv			

Lanthanides	La	Ce	Pr	Nd	Pm	Sm	Eu	Gd	Tb	Dy	Ho	Er	Tm	Yb	Lu
Actinides	Ac	Th	Pa	U	Np	Pu	Am	Cm	Bk	Cf	Es	Fm	Md	No	Lr

99. ---

(d) ---

Example: In subclass A45B, groups 11/00 to 23/00 cover the various kinds of umbrellas, while group 25/00 covers details of umbrellas applicable to more than one kind of umbrella.

First Place Priority Rule

147. In some parts of the Classification, the first place priority rule is used. Where this rule applies, it is set out in a note of the type: "In this subclass / main group(s) / group(s), the first place priority rule is applied, i.e. at each hierarchical level, in the absence of an indication to the contrary, classification is made in the first appropriate place." For example, see the relevant notes in G03F 1/00 or H04W. According to this rule, a technical subject of the invention is classified by successively, at each indentation level, locating the first group covering any portion of the technical subject, until a subgroup is selected for classification at the deepest appropriate indentation level. When several particular technical subjects are disclosed in a patent document, the first place priority rule is separately applied to each of them.

Last Place Priority Rule

151. In some parts of the Classification the last place priority rule is used. Where this rule applies, it is set up in a note of the type: "In this subclass / main group(s) / group(s), the last place priority rule is applied, i.e. at each hierarchical level, in the absence of an indication to the contrary, classification is made in the last appropriate place." For example, see the relevant notes in A61K, C08G, C10M. According to this rule, a technical subject of the invention is classified by successively locating at each indentation level the last group covering any portion of the technical subject until a subgroup is selected for classification at the deepest appropriate indentation level. When several particular technical subjects are disclosed in a patent document, the last place priority rule is separately applied to each of them.

163. ---

For example (Section A):

A99Z 99/00 Subject matter not otherwise provided for in this section.

Each of the special residual subclasses has the following standard note:

"This subclass covers subject matter that (a) is not provided for, but is most closely related to, the subject matter covered by the subclasses of this section, and (b) is not explicitly covered by any subclass of another section."

[Annex V follows]