

AMENDMENTS TO THE GUIDELINES FOR REVISION OF THE IPC

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

2. *Deleted.*

37. Limiting references should always be presented both in the classification schemes and in the Definitions. There are two types of limiting references:

- **Scope-limitation references** exclude specified subject matter from the scope of a classification place, which subject matter would otherwise be covered by that place, and indicate the place(s) where this subject matter is classified.
- **Precedence references** are used when subject matter is classifiable in two places, or when different aspects of the subject matter are classifiable in two places, and it is desired that the subject matter should be classified in only one of those places.

37bis. Precedence references have different functions depending on the relationship between the affected places:

- 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.
- 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:

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 means the reference 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. It can therefore not be replaced by a reference saying “(chemical means 30/00)”, since this would be an informative reference. The function of the precedence reference from 10/00 to 30/00 is to exclude subject matter that would otherwise be classified in both places, i.e. combinations

of mechanical means and chemical means. A scope-limitation reference with the same function as the precedence reference from 10/00 to 30/00 would have to be worded "(mechanical means in combination with chemical means 30/00)".

38. Precedence references should only be used between places in the same subclass. As far as possible, scope-limitation references should be used instead of precedence references.

67. Revision of the IPC should as far as possible make use of the experiences and solutions of other existing classification schemes, such as CPC and FI.

122. When indicating the status of an entry during the working phase of a project, for example, when submitting a proposal, the following indications should be used:

- "N" for new entries;
- "C" for entries with modified file scope;
- "M" for groups or subclasses where changes do not impact the file scope;
- "D" for deleted entries;
- "U" for entries that are unchanged, but presented in order to show the hierarchy of the scheme to assist understanding.

In case of "N" or "C", the entry will get a new version indicator.

123. For the purpose of establishing the Revision Concordance List (RCL), the rapporteurs appointed for the revision projects concerned should, at the end of each revision project, submit a proposal indicating how subject matter will be transferred between places in the IPC as a result of the approved amendments. This data should include the following:

- for new places: an indication of the source of the subject matter covered;
- for existing places whose file scope has changed: indication of the source of subject matter added to the file scope of the place or the destination of subject matter removed from the file scope of the place, when the place works as a destination of subject matter, a transfer from this place to the same place should also be indicated;
- for deleted places: an indication of the destination of the original subject matter.

125. The inclusion of a group as source of subject matter in the RCL indicates that documents classified in that group only, excluding its subgroups, should be reclassified. When subject matter of several consecutive groups is transferred to one and the same place, the first and the last groups transferred should always be indicated, even when the last group is a subgroup of the first.

APPENDIX I

4. Notes stating general priority rules (referred to under 1(e)(ii) and 1(e)(iii), above) should be presented as follows:

(a) First place priority rule:

“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.”

(b) Last place priority rule:

“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.”

[Annex VI follows]