CPC update
IPC Committee of Experts

22-23 February 2023
10 years in the CPC

From a bilateral initiative to a global international classification system
USPTO and EPO Work Toward Joint Patent Classification System

"In view of the significant benefit to stakeholders of developing a transparent and harmonized approach to a global classification system for patent documents; in order to make the search process more effective; and in the belief that cooperation between their two offices will facilitate progress in undertaking classification harmonization projects under the IP5 Common Hybrid Classification initiative, the USPTO and the EPO have agreed together to work toward the formation of a partnership to explore the development of a joint classification system based on the European Classification system (ECLA) that will incorporate the best classification practices of the two offices. This system would be aligned with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) classification standards and the International Patent Classification (IPC) structure. Accordingly, they have initiated discussions on governance and operational aspects of such a partnership.

The IP5 partner offices will be continually apprised of progress at appropriate IP5 forums. Stakeholders will receive regular updates on the substance and progress of classification partnership discussions between the two offices."

October 25, 2010
From 2 to 37 CPC offices: a growing CPC community

- There are now 37 offices in the CPC (including the EPO and USPTO)
  - Morocco and Bulgaria joined the CPC in 2021
  - Peru signed a CPC MoU with the EPO (April 2022)
  - Monaco and Belgium joined the CPC in July 2022
  - Italy joined the CPC in September 2022
  - Luxembourg joined the CPC in December 2022

- Out of these 37 offices, 22 are EPO member states
22 EPO member states (besides the EPO) and 1 validation state in CPC

Poland started exchanging CPC data with the EPO in May 2022
Some 2023 events where CPC will be presented:

- 10\textsuperscript{th} CPC Annual meeting with National Offices, 08-09 March 2023, will be virtual

- 10\textsuperscript{th} CPC Annual meeting with Industry users, 23 March 2023, will be virtual

- Patent Information Users Group (PIUG) 2023 Annual conference, 30 April – 03 May, 2023, will be at Alexandria, VA
CPC data coverage
### CPC coverage EPO core collection (1 January 2023)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Country Code</th>
<th>Total number of applications (source: EPODOC on 01/01/2023)</th>
<th>Number of applications classified in CPC by national office</th>
<th>% of applications classified in CPC</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EPO</td>
<td>EP</td>
<td>4,098,629</td>
<td>4,096,762</td>
<td>100,0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>AT</td>
<td>1,013,446</td>
<td>729,761</td>
<td>72,0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>BE</td>
<td>594,286</td>
<td>560,856</td>
<td>94,4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>CH</td>
<td>722,578</td>
<td>584,098</td>
<td>80,8%</td>
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<td>5,970,705</td>
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<td>GB</td>
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<td>The Netherlands</td>
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<td>ARIPO</td>
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<td>Australia</td>
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<td>OAPI</td>
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<tr>
<td>WIPO</td>
<td>WO</td>
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<td><strong>40,810,462</strong></td>
<td><strong>37,809,284</strong></td>
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CPC coverage EPO core collection in past 10 years:
CPC data sent by 22 CPC offices (1 January 2023)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Country Code</th>
<th>Total number of applications (source: EPODOC on 01/01/2023)</th>
<th>Overall number of publications classified in CPC (Family level)</th>
<th>Number of applications classified in CPC by national office on 01/01/2023</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Australia</td>
<td>AU</td>
<td>1,618,994</td>
<td>1,307,194</td>
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<td>Austria</td>
<td>AT</td>
<td>1,013,446</td>
<td>729,761</td>
<td>16,666</td>
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<td>Brazil</td>
<td>BR</td>
<td>828,858</td>
<td>590,581</td>
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<td>China</td>
<td>CN</td>
<td>33,630,811</td>
<td>12,595,182</td>
<td>8,922,361</td>
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<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>CZ</td>
<td>100,098</td>
<td>50,747</td>
<td>6,608</td>
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<td>Denmark</td>
<td>DK</td>
<td>454,847</td>
<td>320,096</td>
<td>2,991</td>
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<td>EAPO</td>
<td>EA</td>
<td>62,667</td>
<td>56,386</td>
<td>9,401</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>FI</td>
<td>200,657</td>
<td>123,621</td>
<td>16,602</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>GR</td>
<td>107,166</td>
<td>58,186</td>
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<td>Hungary</td>
<td>HU</td>
<td>151,927</td>
<td>107,772</td>
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<td>Israel</td>
<td>IL</td>
<td>155,566</td>
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<td>Korea</td>
<td>KR</td>
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<td>4,279,287</td>
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<td>Mexico</td>
<td>MX</td>
<td>331,189</td>
<td>303,839</td>
<td>1,600</td>
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<td>Norway</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>212,982</td>
<td>187,546</td>
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<td>Poland</td>
<td>PL</td>
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<td>Romania</td>
<td>RO</td>
<td>76,906</td>
<td>17,212</td>
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<td>Russian Fed.</td>
<td>RU</td>
<td>1,178,100</td>
<td>445,852</td>
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<td>Spain</td>
<td>ES</td>
<td>1,540,827</td>
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<td>42,443</td>
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<td>Sweden</td>
<td>SE</td>
<td>526,755</td>
<td>341,048</td>
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<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>CH</td>
<td>722,578</td>
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<td>United Kingdom</td>
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<td>194,524</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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<td><strong>25,385,313</strong></td>
<td><strong>13,786,734</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

68.7 million documents

EPO core collection
+ CPC data from other offices
+ Family propagation
+ 1.5 Million NPL documents

68.7 million documents are now classified in the CPC as of 1 January 2023
CPC data sent by National Offices in past 10 years:
CPC harmonisation and training
Harmonisation plan EPO-USPTO

• Bilateral agreement on classification practice

• ~800 USPTO technical and classification experts discuss with ~680 EPO Classification Quality Nominees (Class-QNs)

• Standardisation of classification practice.
Want to know more about CPC classification practice?

- CPC Scheme and Definitions
- CPC General and Advance training
- E-learning modules:
  - Using CPC in classification
  - Practical and strategic aspects of the CPC
- CPC essentials
- General training on Combination sets
- CPC Field-specific training material
- Recorded lectures on CPCinfo.org (European Patent Academy)

https://www.cooperativepatentclassification.org/Training
CPC Training went online!

Collective Training Events in 2023 (March – June 2023)
A61K33, B25B, C01G, C08F14, F28, G01C, G01P, H01P
Registration is open until 22 March 2023) via OS08-2023
(full url: https://www.epo.org/learning/training/details.html?eventid=16058)

Collective Training Events in 2022:
B64G, B65G, A61B 5/00, A24F, H02K, H01L33 (spring sessions)
CPC training on the CPC website

CPC Training

The EPO and the USPTO have jointly prepared CPC training material to support users in their learning process of the CPC classification system.

Use the links below to access the material:

- Introduction to the Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC)
- Using CPC in classification (basic level)
- Practical and strategic aspects of the CPC (for experienced users)

CPC Essentials

- Part A - introduction to CPC Essentials and patent classification systems
- Part B - CPC Scheme
- Part C - CPC Scheme Definitions

- CPC Field Specific training

Following this link, you can access the EPO learning platform (registration required, free of charge) where you can consult some CPC Field Specific lectures where CPC experts explain the classification practice in their respective fields of expertise.

https://www.cooperativepatentclassification.org/Training
USPTO updates on CPC Training

Customize unique technical expert training for each office (at USPTO or National Office location)

- General training
- Master level training
- Advanced training in specific technical field
- C-set training
- Computer Based Training (CBT) e-learning modules
- Field-Specific Training (FST) on CPC Scheme/Definitions
USPTO updates on CPC Training

Customize unique classification workshop for external stakeholders (at Regional Offices of the USPTO)

- General training
- Advanced training
- Field specific training on CPC Scheme/Definition
  - New Emerging Technologies
- C-set training
A dynamic CPC scheme

Keeping CPC updated with on-going technological developments
Adaptations of the CPC scheme are triggered by:
- EPO / USPTO / patent offices’ examiners
- Classification departments

CPC bilateral revision process:
CPC Release Schedule

- Four releases per year
- Announced under "Latest News" section on www.cpcinfo.org

Four CPC releases in 2023:
- 1 January 2023   CPC 2023.01
- 1 February 2023  CPC 2023.02
- 1 May 2023       CPC 2023.05
- 1 August 2023    CPC 2023.08
CPC revisions – pre-release area

Pre-release

In this area of the website, CPC related material such as scheme files, notices of changes, concordances, etc, will be published about one month before official entry into force of this material.

The publication of the pre-released material started on 6 May 2014 concerning the June 2014 CPC scheme version (2014-06).

The pre-release will normally happen on the first Tuesday of a given month (for example Tuesday 6 May 2014) for entry into force on the first day of the following month (for example 1 June 2014).

5 January 2021: 2021.02 pre-released material:

• 2021.02 CPC Scheme in PDF and in XML
• 2021.02 CPC to IPC concordance in PDF, XML and TXT
• Notices of Changes related to the “2021.02 CPC Scheme”:
  - CPC Notice of Changes 1036-MP0499 (various)
  - CPC Notice of Changes 1037-MP0501 (C09J)
Scheme Changes in 2021/2022:

- Number of created new symbols
- Number of deleted symbols

![Bar chart showing Scheme Changes in 2021/2022]
Definition Changes in 2021/2022:

- Number of new definitions
- Number of deleted definitions

Definition changes in 2021/2022

- New definition
- Deleted definition

No of definition changes

cpc releases

2021-01 2021-02 2021-05 2021-08 2022-01 2022-02 2022-05 2022-08
CPC Notices of Changes (NoC) 2013 – 2023:

2013-2023 CPC NoC Publication data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>RP</th>
<th>MP</th>
<th>DP</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013-2023</td>
<td>870</td>
<td>357</td>
<td>178</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Reclassification efforts at the USPTO and the EPO:

- After CPC revisions group inventories need to be reclassified accordingly; this constitutes the maintenance of the system, which is carried out by the USPTO, the EPO and other CPC offices.

- EPO’s and USPTO’s objective is to reclassify documents within a year past the publication date of their respective CPC releases.

- In past 10 years, the USPTO and the EPO reclassified more than 2.2M family documents.
What comes next?
More services to CPC offices and users
Thank you for your attention!

More info?

www.cpcinfo.org  
cpc@uspto.gov  cpc@epo.org