

ANNEX XI/ANNEXE XI

GLOSSARY OF TERMS FOR THE REFORMED IPC

Addition to the State of the Art – the difference between the subject matter in question and the **state of the art**.

Aspect – a particular perspective from which technical information, particularly invention information, may be viewed, and according to which the invention information may be classified.

The ‘**Categories of Subject Matter**’ delineated below represents possible ‘aspects’ of invention information

Apparatus – a category of subject matter which is a machine or device, described in terms of its functional capabilities or structural features, that is used

- to make a product of manufacture or composition of matter, or
- to carry out a non-manufacturing process.

Basic Subject Matter of a Subclass – the fundamental subject matter covered by a subclass title and its definition.

Borderline (Line) – A clearly stated boundary between classification places.

Categories of Subject Matter – principal divisions of invention information, represented by

- methods of using product
- products (articles of manufacture)
- processes of making product
- apparatus used to make product, and
- materials from which product is made.

These categories are determined contextually. As examples, (1) a product of a process of manufacture can itself be a material from which a different product is made; (2) a process of making a product can simultaneously be a process of using a material to make the product.

General Top-Down Order of Priority – a practice in which subject matter is classified in a particular group in a subclass scheme by:

- determining the topmost appearing main group in the scheme which provides for the subject matter,
- determining, under the main group, the topmost appearing parallel (coordinate) subgroup in its one-dot subgroups that provides for the subject matter, and
- repeating the methodology of the previous step through successive levels of subgroups until the topmost appearing appropriate coordinate subgroup in the deepest (greatest number of dots) appropriate subgroup level is determined.

See the entry for **Inclusive Nature of Groups**, which is the classification principle that permits successful application of this concept.

Genus – a grouping of embodiments within a category of subject matter which share a common limitation.

A **subgenus** (i.e., **species**) is a subgrouping within a genus.

An **ultimate species** is the most specific embodiment within a genus, i.e., an embodiment with no explicit variables. This expression is primarily used in the chemical arts.

Considering “inorganic compounds” as a genus, “inorganic salts” or “sodium salts” would be a “subgenus” or “species”, and “sodium chloride” would be an “ultimate species”.

Group Branch (Array) – a segment of a subclass consisting of

- a particular main group or subgroup, and
- all the subgroups indented under it.

Invention Information (in a patent document) – all novel and unobvious subject matter in its total disclosure (for example, description, drawings, claims) that represents an addition to the state of the art in the context of the state of the art (for example, a solution to a stated problem). “Invention information” should usually be determined using the claims of the patent document for guidance.

Parallel (Coordinate) Group – one of plural groups in a subclass scheme that (1) depend from the same immediate classification place (i.e., ‘parent’ subclass, main group, or subgroup) and (2) have the same **hierarchical (indentation) level**.

Note that all main groups in the same subclass are parallel (coordinate) with each other.

Species – see **Genus**.

Subgenus – see **Genus**.

The state of the art – the collection of all technical “things” that have already been placed within public knowledge.

Ultimate Species – see **Genus**.

[Annex XII follows/
L'annexe XII suit]