

## ANNEX III

## CHANGES TO THE GUIDE TO THE IPC

## INTERNATIONAL PATENT CLASSIFICATION

(Version 2011)

## GUIDE

## NOTES

41. Notes define or explain specific words, phrases or the scope of places, or indicate how subject matter is classified. Notes may be associated with sections, subsections, classes, subclasses or groups.

Examples:

F42 This class covers also means for practice or training which may have aspects of simulation, although simulators are generally covered by class G09.

B22F "Metallic powder" covers powders containing a substantial proportion of non-metallic material.

B01J 31/00 In this group, the presence of water is disregarded for classification purposes.

Notes apply only to the places concerned, and their subdivisions, and override any general guidance in case of conflict. For example, Note (1) following the title of subclass C08F overrides the Note following the title of section C.

Any information that is found in notes that are associated with the section, subsection, or class level of the Classification is also provided within subclass definitions (see paragraphs 45 to 47, below) that have their scope impacted by this information.

## SUBCLASSES

69. The scope of a subclass is defined by the following, taken together:
- The subclass title which describes, as precisely as is possible in a small number of words, the main characteristic of a portion of the whole body of knowledge covered by the Classification, this portion being the field of the subclass to which all its groups relate.
  - Any limiting references which follow the subclass title.. These references indicate certain parts of the field described by the title which are covered by other subclasses and are therefore excluded. These parts may constitute a substantial part of the field described by the title and, thus, the limiting references are in some respects as important as the title itself. For example, in subclass A47D – FURNITURE SPECIALLY ADAPTED FOR CHILDREN – a considerable part, namely school benches or desks, of the subject matter covered by the title is excluded in view of a reference to particular groups of subclass A47B, thus considerably altering the scope of subclass A47D.
  - Any limiting references which appear in groups of a subclass and which refer subject matter to another class or subclass also restrict the scope of the subclass in question. For example, in subclass B43K – IMPLEMENTS FOR WRITING OR DRAWING – writing points for indicating or recording apparatus are referred out of group 1/00 to group 15/16 of subclass G01D, thereby reducing the scope of the subject matter covered by the title of subclass B43K.
  - Any notes appearing under the subclass title or its class, subsection or section title. Such notes may define terms or expressions used in the title, or elsewhere, or clarify the relation between the subclass and other places.

Examples:

- (i) The Notes following the title of the subsection "ENGINES OR PUMPS", embracing classes F01 to F04, which notes define the terms or expressions used throughout the subsection.
- (ii) Note (1) following the title of subclass F01B, which defines its scope in relation to subclasses F01C to F01P.
- (iii) The Note following the title of section C which defines groups of elements.

The titles of subclasses sometimes do not embrace the titles of all main groups under them. However, the scope of a subclass should always be understood to include all subject matter specifically stated in the titles of its main groups.

#### MAIN GROUPS

71. The scope of a main group is to be interpreted only within the scope of its subclass (as indicated above). Subject to this, the scope of a main group is determined by its title as modified by any associated references or notes. For example, a group for "bearings" in a subclass whose title is limited to a particular apparatus must be read as covering only features of bearings peculiar to that apparatus, for example, the arrangement of bearings in the apparatus.

Attention is drawn to the fact that guidance headings are intended to be only informative and, as a rule, do not modify the scope of the groups covered by them. A more detailed explanation of the scope of a main group is provided by its classification definition where it is available.

[Annex IV follows]