WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION

SPECIAL UNION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL PATENT CLASSIFICATION

(IPC UNION)

IPC Catchword Index Master File Specification

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| April 20, 2015 | Collioud | 3.0 | CE47 approved | Accepted all tracked changes |
| August 25, 2015 | Collioud | 3.1 | Revised | Removed elements used to insert special characters (to be replaced by Unicode characters or images). |

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# Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide complementary details to the “IPC Master File specification” used as reference document and to its related XML Schemas:

* ipc\_catchwordindex\_3-1.xsd
  + inc-types\_3-1.xsd

It describes the structure and content of the International Patent Classification (IPC) Catchword Index (**CW**) file and documents information found in the corresponding XML schema or DTD.

The format of the CW file is XML i.e. primarily an exchange format aiming at easy interface between IT systems of different types.

# General description

See brief content description, time dependency and file naming convention in the IPC master file specification document.

# Scope of the CW file

## Relation between terms or expression to symbols or other terms of IPC

The CW file contains a list of embedded catchword entries for one language. Each catchword entry is composed of a catchword, an optional “see also” part (referring to another catchword) and an optional sequence of IPC Symbol (references). In connection with the Catchword Index “indication” refers to the textual description (terms or expressions) that provides information on the technical subject, content related to a CW entry.

## Source of CW entries

The CW file is based on the former official CW file. The official CW file is amended reflecting the changes in the IPC scheme.

# CW file structure

Each CW file consists of a list of “CW entries”. The main entries have an identifier generated from the indications of the subentries belonging to it. Each “CW entry” may contain, besides the indication, a reference or references to other “CW entry or entries”, a reference to IPC Symbols or Symbol ranges, and a list of CW entries. A list may contain only a single item. The hierarchy of CW entries has maximum 4 levels.

## IPCCatchwordIndex tag

This is the root tag in the CW file, embedding tag for a given language version of CW items with the following attributes:

### lang attribute

The two-letter language code of the CW identifiers and indications, see description of “IPC data language code” in “IPC Master File Specification”.

### edition attribute

The IPC Version associated to this file, indicates the date of entry into force of the corresponding IPC version.

Values: see description of “IPC Version” in “IPC Master File Specification”.

## CWEntry tag

Embedding tag for a CW item and all sub-items with the following attributes:

### id attribute

A unique identifier as CW*N* (e.g. CW249171388).

### remark attribute

Optional.

Generic remark to the current item.

## CWIndication tag

The indication of the CW item with no attributes.

## CWSee tag

A CW entry may contain a reference to other main entry or entries. The CWSee tag is the textual description of the reference.

## CWRef tag

A reference to other main entry or entries. The CWRef tag has one attribute:

### REFID attribute

Gives the id of the CW main entry referred to.

## CWIndication tag

Indicates that the text following the tag is the indication of the CW entry.

## CWReferences tag

Indicates that the list of references to IPC symbols and/or intervals the entry is referring to is to follow. This tag has no attribute. The references can be sref or mref (see below).

## sref tag

Tag for a reference for a single symbol in IPC with the following attributes:

### ref attribute:

The referenced symbol for the CW entry.

Values: An IPC Symbol, see description of “IPC Symbol” in “IPC Master File Specification”.

### asterisk attribute:

Denoting for chemical compounds whether compounds of the kind in question may be found in a number of other places in the same class.

Possible values:

Y: Yes

N: No

## mref tag

Tag for an interval in IPC (a range of symbols) with the following attributes:

### ref attribute:

The referenced interval's starting symbol for the catchword entry.

Values: An IPC Symbol, see description of “IPC Symbol” in “IPC Master File Specification”.

### endRef attribute:

The referenced interval's ending symbol for the catchword entry.

Values: An IPC Symbol, see description of “IPC Symbol” in “IPC Master File Specification”.

### asterisk attribute:

Denoting for chemical compounds whether compounds of the kind in question may be found in a number of other places in the same class.

Possible values:

Y: Yes

N: No

# CW fragment samples

## Simple CW entry

Abacuses are classified in G06C 1/00

<**CWEntry** id="CW249171209">

<**CWIndication**>ABACUSES</**CWIndication**>

<**CWReferences**>

<**sref** ref="G06C0001000000"/>

</**CWReferences**>

</**CWEntry**>

## CW entry with subentries and see also

Acids are classified in either C01 or C07. Other details can be found at the specific acids.

<**CWEntry** id="CW249171385">

<**CWIndication**>ACID(S)</**CWIndication**>

<**CWSee**>see also catchwords for the particular acid(s), e.g. AMINO, CARBOXYLIC, FATTY</**CWSee**>

<**CWEntry** id="CW249171386">

<**CWIndication**>inorganic ACID(S)</**CWIndication**>

<**CWReferences**>

<**sref** ref="C01"/>

</**CWReferences**>

</**CWEntry**>

<**CWEntry** id="CW249171388">

<**CWIndication**>organic ACID(S)</**CWIndication**>

<**CWReferences**>

<**sref** ref="C07"/>

</**CWReferences**>

</**CWEntry**>

</**CWEntry**>

End of document