

# WIPO



IPC/WG/11/2

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**WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION**

GENEVA

**SPECIAL UNION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL PATENT CLASSIFICATION  
(IPC UNION)**

**IPC REVISION WORKING GROUP**

**Eleventh Session  
Geneva, June 14 to 24, 2004**

REQUESTS FOR REVISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL  
PATENT CLASSIFICATION (IPC)

*Document prepared by the Secretariat*

1. This document contains IPC revision requests received by the International Bureau, as indicated below:

<u>Annex</u>	<u>Subclass</u>	<u>Requesting Office</u>
I	B21K, B60L, C11D, E01D, G01G, H02K	GB
II	A01F, D21H	SE
III	A62D	EP

2. *The Working Group is invited to consider the revision requests contained in Annexes I, II and III to this document for inclusion in the IPC revision program.*

[Annexes follow]

## ANNEX I

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**UK Patent Office****Date: 12 March 2004**

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**Problems in certain IPC schemes, uncovered by Definition Projects, Rearrangement Projects, etc.**

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Over the last few months, we have taken note of a number of deficiencies in certain schemes in the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the IPC that were uncovered by our work on a number of projects, notably definition and rearrangement projects, but also our by work on elimination of the term “preceding groups”.

With the postponement of the entering into force of IPC8, and the continuing validity of IPC7 for an extra year, we have more time to introduce refinements into the IPC. It seems to us that tackling these deficiencies would be desirable and a good use of the extra year.

We can mention 2 fairly minor points first, which should not be difficult to resolve, and then some more substantial points. The more substantial points may need a Revision project or a Maintenance project, and cover both the core level and the advanced level. If the WG agree that one or more Revision project(s) are needed, we could volunteer to be Rapporteur on some of them.

**Minor points**

- **B21K 21/00** (“Making hollow articles not covered by a single subgroup of groups 1/00 to 19/00”)

It is almost certain in our view that the main groups should also feature here. It is also unclear whether this group is purely residual or whether it is also a combinations group. Main group 21/00 is the only group that specifically mentions hollow articles, and relates to hollow articles not covered elsewhere. Any one of groups 1/00 to 19/02 could include documents where the article made happens to be hollow, and we are not sure whether the intention of 21/00 is to double-classify these articles there too. To keep options open, we suggest changing the title to “*Making hollow articles not covered by any one of groups 1/00 to 19/02*”.

- **E01D 18/00** (correct the spelling of “aqueduct” - the spelling is correct in the Catchword Index by the way)

**More substantial points**

- **B60L 7/00 and H02K 49/00** (electrodynamic brakes and dynamo-electric brakes)  
See definition project D015. We feel that the above items relate to the same thing, even though they are classified in very different places. There is confusion here which needs to be sorted out. This may well need a Revision project.

- **C11D 17/00** (“Detergent materials characterised by their shape or physical properties”) See rearrangement project R105. We feel that the title of 17/00 is probably a mistake. This title only mentions detergents, but probably includes special shapes etc. of soaps. A quick search in WPI, EPODOC and JAPIO revealed that there are 3,201 documents in C11D 17/- that mention the word “soap+”. Subgroups 17/08 (“Liquid soap”) and 17/00K (“Solid transparent soap ... [in ECLA]) specifically provide for soaps. There is also no group elsewhere in C11D that mentions special shape or physical properties of soaps (except for 13/14 which relates to the process of shaping), so classifiers have had nowhere appropriate to classify such disclosures. There appears to be a strong case for amending the title of 17/00 to “*Detergent materials or soaps characterised by ...*” We are not sure that a Revision project is needed here; perhaps the decision is an easy one. There is no reverse reference to C11D 17/00, so no complicating factors exist.

- **E01D - dismantling of bridges** See definition project D031. We think this subject matter should be covered by E01D, not by E04G 23/08. We did a statistical analysis on EPODOC and found that 45 documents are concerned with this or similar subject matter, and that most of these documents have been placed in E01D (specifically 22/00, 21/00 and some groups in 15/00 and 19/00). We also note that ECLA specifically provides for this subject matter in E01D 22/00, using a multi-part title that is not present in the IPC.

We have to point out that E01D 22/00 and 21/00, as presently worded, provide for “erecting, assembling, repairing or strengthening bridges”, which are the complete opposite of dismantling of bridges. Since these groups are those most used for classifying dismantling subject matter, it follows that this subject matter is currently classified in inappropriate groups, at least some of the time, because of the unavailability of appropriate groups. Our feeling is that a second part should be added to the title of 22/00, reading “Methods or apparatus for dismantling bridges”, consistent with the wording of the title in ECLA; we do not think this needs Revision project.

- **G01G 9/00 and 19/00** (weighing apparatus or methods not otherwise provided for) This arose from the work on “preceding”. There is clear overlap between these main groups in G01G. Both these groups are residual groups, but 19/00 is has an unclear limitation to “special purposes”, followed by a large number of subgroups specifying particular types of special purpose. Apart from what is covered in the subgroups of 19/00, what constitutes a special purpose? We suspect that there is no clarity or consistency in the way that documents are distributed between these 2 main groups. (There are 1071 documents in G01G 9/00 and 1277 documents in G01G 19/00, according to EPODOC, so the problem is not a minor one). Probably a Revision project is needed here.

Martin Price

[Annex II follows]

## ANNEX II

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# Swedish Patent and Registration Office

Request for revision of the IPC

March 12th, 2004

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## Request for revision of the IPC - A01F subclass title

### Background

A01F has a three-part subclass title. During discussions of rearrangement project R004 it was realised that the first part of the title, "**Processing of harvested produce**", was much too wide and covered far more than the scope of the main groups of the subclass. "Processing of harvested produce" also covers subject matter that is explicitly covered by several other subclasses, for example A01D, A23B, A23F, A23L, A23N, A24B, A47J, B02B and B02C. No references, or only inadequate references, point to these places.

In view of that it was agreed (see Annexes 3 and 4 of the R004 project file) that a residual main group should not be introduced, but that the title of the subclass should be corrected.

File size and activity in the subclass is not relevant, since the proposed modification is not intended to result in a change of scope.

### Solution

The title should be modified to better reflect the contents of the main groups. The subject matter of all main groups except 25/00 is inadequately reflected by the existing subclass title, or not reflected at all. Therefore the first two parts of the title must be completely replaced. The third part of the title is adequate as it is.

In order to accurately cover all main groups it is necessary to replace the first two of the existing parts of the title with four new parts. In order to put more emphasis on more active and numerically important parts of the scope, it is proposed to place the parts relating to threshing and baling at the beginning of the title. It is anyway impossible to exactly reflect the order of main groups in the subclass title, since the numbering hardly follows a logical sequence. With the proposed title the reference to A23N 23/08 can be deleted, since there is then no conflict in scope.

**Proposal:**

**A01F**      *Threshing; Baling of hay, straw or the like; Stationary apparatus or hand tools for bundling of hay, straw or the like; Cutting of hay, straw or the like; Devices for storing agricultural or horticultural produce*

**Definitions**

With the new title the borderlines of the subclass should be much clarified, so the need for definitions is perhaps not so big. However, Sweden would be willing to make an initial proposal if it is desired to have definitions for A01F at this point.

Anders Bruun

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# Swedish Patent and Registration Office

Request for revision of the IPC

March 12th, 2004

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## Request for revision of the IPC - D21H 17/71 and its subgroups

### Background

D21H 17/00 covers "non-fibrous materials added to pulp" and "paper impregnating materials". Groups 17/01 - 17/70 are only intended for single materials, while 17/71 - 17/74 are intended for mixtures. Invention information concerning mixtures of such materials can only be identified very imprecisely (organic/inorganic) by its obligatory classification in groups D21H 17/71 - 17/74. As a consequence only relatively useless information can be identified by obligatory classification and the most important parts of the invention information can only be identified by non-obligatory classification.

Groups 17/71 - 17/74 are not used in a consistent way at different offices. Some offices apparently instead classify the ingredients of a mixture separately - according to statistical analysis this particularly seems to be the case at EPO and JPO, where the number of ECLA and FI classifications in 17/72 - 17/74 is very low compared to the international average.

During hybrid project H029 it was proposed to delete the mixtures groups 17/71 - 17/74 and replace them with the "standard" rules that have been introduced where double usage indexing was used in similar situations. This found some support, but it was decided that such a modification would be beyond the scope of a hybrid project, so the groups were retained. However, IPC/WG/9 invited Sweden to submit a revision request (see IPC/WG/9/8, paragraph 40).

### Solution

The attached proposal essentially consists in deleting the "mixtures" groups and instead treating this main group in the standard way, using the approved standard notes.

Anders Bruun

**Proposal:**

D21H

- |   |                                  |  |
|---|----------------------------------|--|
| C | Note (1) after<br>17/00          | In this group, in the absence of an indication to the contrary, a material is classified in the last appropriate place.  |
| N | Note (2) after<br>17/00          | A mixture of two or more materials is classified in the last appropriate place in groups 17/00 to 17/63 that provides for at least one of these materials.   |
| N | Note (3) after<br>17/00          | Any part of a mixture which is not identified by the classification according to note (2), and which itself is determined to be novel and non-obvious, must also be classified in the last appropriate place in groups 17/00 to 17/63. The part can be either a single material or a mixture in itself.  |
| N | Note (4) after<br>17/00          | A part of a mixture which is not identified by the classification according to note (2) or (3), and which is considered to represent information of interest for search, may also be classified in the last appropriate place in groups 17/00 to 17/63. This can for example be the case when it is considered of interest to enable searching of mixtures using a combination of classification symbols. Such non-obligatory classifications should be given as "additional information". |
| D | 17/71                            | (covered by 17/00)   |
| D | Notes (1) and<br>(2) after 17/71 |  |
| D | 17/72                            | (covered by 17/00)   |
| D | 17/73                            | (covered by 17/00)   |
| D | 17/74                            | (covered by 17/00)   |

[Annex III follows]

## ANNEX III

Europäisches  
PatentamtEuropean  
Patent OfficeOffice européen  
des brevets

Principal Directorate Tools / Documentation

**Revision Request**

Project:

Subclass: A62D

26 April 2004

## 1. Comments

In the light of Harmony Project T001, the Trilateral Offices agreed on a more precise wording for main-group A62D3/00, which better reflects the technical content of this main-group (no IPC7 subgroups).

Taking into account that the introduction of IPC8 has been postponed for one year, we propose the WG would consider the same change for IPC7 as well.

## 2. Proposal

*A62D3/00 Processes for making harmful chemical substances harmless,  
or less harmful, by effecting a chemical change in the substances*

Paul Daeleman

[End of Annex III and of document]