

**IPC HYBRID SYSTEM PROJECT FILES/
DOSSIERS DE PROJET DE SYSTÈME HYBRIDE DE LA CIB**

**CHEMICAL FIELD/
DOMAINE DE LA CHIMIE**



IPC/H 009/02

ORIGINAL: English/French

DATE: October 30, 2002

**WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA PROPRIÉTÉ INTELLECTUELLE**

GENEVA/GENÈVE

COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS OF THE IPC UNION
COMITÉ D'EXPERTS DE L'UNION DE L'IPC

IPC HYBRID SYSTEM PROJECT FILE/DOSSIER DE PROJET DE SYSTÈME HYBRIDE DE LA CIB

PROPOSAL BY: PROPOSITION DE :	GB	HYBRID SYSTEM OF IPC AREA: SYSTÈME HYBRIDE DU DOMAINE DE LA CIB :	C02F
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ANNEX/ ANNEXE	CONTENT/CONTENU	ORIGIN/ ORIGINE	DATE
1	Rapporteur proposal / Proposition du rapporteur	GB	10.02
2	Comments / Observations	US	10.02
3	Comments / Observations	EP	10.02
4	Rapporteur report / Rapport du rapporteur	GB	10.02

RAPPORTEUR : GB

TECHNICAL FIELD/DOMAINE TECHNIQUE :

C

UK Patent Office

Date: 3 October 2002

Rapporteur Report on Project H009, Subclass C02F

The Report of the Seventh Session of the IPC/WG (paragraph 28) recommends that the indexing scheme C02F 101:00 to 103:00 should be retained in the advanced level of the reformed IPC. We support this decision, and as a result we propose no changes to this recently-introduced indexing scheme.

Martin Price

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Project: H009/02

Subclass – C02F

Date: October 3, 2002

**US comments on UK proposal (Annex 1- October 3, 2002) on the indexing scheme of C02F
101:00 to 103:00:**

US supports the UK proposal.

Project: H009/02 Subclass: C02F

Conc.: Separate indexing schemes C02F101:00 and C02F103:00

EP agrees with R proposal not to change this indexing system.

UK Patent Office

Date: 24 October 2002

Rapporteur Report on Project H009, Subclass C02F

The Report of the Seventh Session of the IPC/WG (paragraph 28) recommended that the indexing scheme C02F 101:00 to 103:00 should be retained in the advanced level of the reformed IPC. GB support this decision, and proposed (in Annex 1) no changes to this indexing scheme.

US and EP fully support the proposal (Annexes 2 and 3), and accordingly R suggests that no changes should be made to this indexing scheme.

Martin Price



IPC/H 010/02
ORIGINAL: English/French
DATE: October 22, 2002

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA PROPRIÉTÉ INTELLECTUELLE
GENEVA/GENÈVE

COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS OF THE IPC UNION
COMITÉ D'EXPERTS DE L'UNION DE L'IPC

IPC HYBRID SYSTEM PROJECT FILE/DOSSIER DE PROJET DE SYSTÈME HYBRIDE DE LA CIB

PROPOSAL BY: PROPOSITION DE :	EP	HYBRID SYSTEM OF IPC AREA: SYSTÈME HYBRIDE DU DOMAINE DE LA CIB :	C02F
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ANNEX/ ANNEXE	CONTENT/CONTENU	ORIGIN/ ORIGINE	DATE
1	Comments / Observations	EP	09.02
2	Proposal / Proposition	EP	09.02
3	Comments / Observations	GB	09.02
4	Comments / Observations	DE	09.02
5	Comments / Observations	RU	10.02
6	Comments / Observations	US	10.02
7	Rapporteur report / Rapport du rapporteur	EP	10.02
8	Rapporteur proposal / Proposition du rapporteur	EP	10.02

RAPPORTEUR : EP TECHNICAL FIELD/DOMAINE TECHNIQUE : C

Project: H010/02 Subclass: C02F

Re.: IPC/WG/7/7, par.29-31

Conc.: Double purpose indexing scheme used in main group C02F9/00

1. Purpose of the indexing system

Since IPC7, main group C02F9/00, relating to the multistep treatment of water, waste water or sewage, was subdivided together with the introduction of the double purpose use of entries for identifying the individual steps.

2. Multiple classification alternative

According to the decisions of the Reform WG, this double purpose use of the classification symbols has to be abolished, without changing the general existing classification philosophy.

To avoid that a systematic classification of all single steps of the multistep treatments - some steps being very common in the art - would result in the overpopulation of a number of groups, some guidance for searchers and classifiers, on how to apply the multiple classification for multistep processes seems to be advisable.

The principle of the joined proposal is to extend the idea, already expressed in existing note (2) after the title of C02F9/00, to omit conventional steps (see proposal).

Project: H010/02 Subclass: C02F

Re.: IPC/WG/7/7, par.29-31

Notes after title of
C02F9/00

Notes

(1) This group covers ----- >

<----- last appropriate place

D < delete existing notes (4) and (5) >

N New note (4)

(4) When classifying in this group, classification is also made in one or more of groups 1/00 to 1/56 or 1/66 to 7/00 to identify the individual steps of the multistep treatment, with the exception of steps that are conventional or that are already fully identified by the title of the chosen multistep treatment subgroup.

UK Patent Office

Date: 18 September 2002

Comments on Project H010 , Subclass C02F

We support the Rapporteur's proposal, but would propose a minor change in wording to the new Note (4) to improve clarity. We propose:

(4) When classifying ... steps of the treatment, with the exception of *(i) steps that are conventional and (ii) steps that are already fully identified in the title of the multistep treatment involved.*

Martin Price

DEUTSCHES PATENT- UND MARKENAMT German Patent and Trade Mark Office	Class/Subcl.: C02F
	Date : 26.09.2002
DE - Comments — H010	

Conc.: Double purpose indexing scheme used in main group C02F9/00

In general we welcome the Rapporteur's proposal, but we would prefer the wording of Note (4) proposed by UK, because this wording seems to be more definite.

FEDERAL INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY

RU comments	
Project : H 010	Date: 7.10.2002
Class/Subclass : C02F	

Re: IPC WG/7/7

We support the Rapporteur's proposal, in particular the note (4), but we fear the term "conventional" may be interpreted in different ways.

The overwhelming majority of all multistep treatment processes consist of the steps that all can be regarded as "conventional" if just to view them as such, no matter whether these steps, in the technical sense, may represent some addition to the state of the art.

In other words, why not consider, e.g., the adsorption stage of some multistep treatment conventional (even if it represents some useful information to be classified), if "adsorption" as such is, in fact, a well-known process?

Therefore, just to avoid arguments about the real meaning of the term "conventional" we propose the standard expression that it seems to us does work well and *reflect the real classifier's needs* best in most cases:

N New note (4)

*(4) When classifying in this group, classification is also made in one or more of groups 1/00 to 1/56 or 1/66 to 7/00 to identify the individual steps of the multistep treatment, **if they are of interest**, with the exception of steps that are already fully identified by the title of the chosen multistep treatment subgroup.*

M.Sobolev,

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Project: H010/02

Subclass – C02F

Date: October 3, 2002

US comments on EP proposal (Annex 1- August 29, 2002) on the double purpose indexing scheme of C02F:

US supports most of the EP proposal.

At IPC/REF/7, comments were invited on developing standardized wording for “multiple classification-type” notes. Once a “standardized” wording for these types of notes is approved, the wording of the proposed new note (4) may need to be modified. However, we would like to make a wording suggestion until the standardized wording is developed.

“(4) When classifying in this group.....to identify the individual steps of a multistep treatment when these steps are considered invention information or are of interest.”

Project: H010/02 Subclass: C02F

Conc.: Double purpose indexing scheme used in main group C02F9/00

- * Comments were received from the GB, DE, RU and US Offices. All commenting Offices support the proposal but propose to amend R proposed new wording of note (4) after C02F9/00.
- * These comments remind R of the long discussions of the Revision WG, held during several of its sessions, resulting in the wording of the present IPC7 note (4), a.o. including the term "conventional". That is the only reason why R kept this term in his proposal. Notwithstanding this, R agrees that this term leaves a lot of room for interpretation and thus this term is not repeated in the new proposal.
- * R agrees with US that in similar cases, similar, i.e. standardised, notes should be used. Awaiting such a standardised note, R reworded his proposal, trying to find a version which might be acceptable to most (if not all) Offices. As it is obvious that invention information has to be classified, this aspect is not added in the proposal (see the joined R proposal).

Paul Daeleman

Project: H010/02 Subclass: C02F

Notes after title of
C02F9/00

Notes

(1) This group covers ----- >

<----- last appropriate place

D < delete existing notes (4) and (5) >

N New note (4)

(4) When classifying in this group, classification is also made in one or more of groups 1/00 to 1/56 or 1/66 to 7/00 to identify individual steps of the multistep treatment, which are of particular interest with the exception of steps that are already fully identified in the title of the chosen multistep treatment subgroup involved.



IPC/H 011/02

ORIGINAL: English/French

DATE: October 23, 2002

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COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS OF THE IPC UNION
COMITÉ D'EXPERTS DE L'UNION DE L'IPC

IPC HYBRID SYSTEM PROJECT FILE/DOSSIER DE PROJET DE SYSTÈME HYBRIDE DE LA CIB

PROPOSAL BY: PROPOSITION DE :	DE	HYBRID SYSTEM OF IPC AREA: SYSTÈME HYBRIDE DU DOMAINE DE LA CIB :	C03C
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ANNEX/ ANNEXE	CONTENT/CONTENU	ORIGIN/ ORIGINE	DATE
1	Rapporteur proposal / Proposition du rapporteur	DE	10.02
2	Comments / Observations	US	10.02
3	Comments / Observations	EP	10.02

RAPPORTEUR : DE

TECHNICAL FIELD/DOMAINE TECHNIQUE :

C

DEUTSCHES PATENT- UND MARKENAMT German Patent and Trade Mark Office	Class/Subcl.: C 03 C 25/24
	Date : 02.10.2002
DE - Proposal — H011/02	

Re.: IPC/WG/7/7, par.28

The recommendations of IPC/WG/7/7, Annex H, forbids introducing additional rules or classification approaches besides those already existing in the current IPC. This could be done in exceptional cases where absolutely necessary.

Our expert believes that C 03 C 25/24 to 25/40 is such an exceptional case, because some guidance has to be given to searchers and classifiers, on how to apply multiple classification for mixtures.

Many or most patent applications in this subgroup deal with sizing compositions for fibres. The sizes used are compositions prepared from water as the main component of the composition, a polymeric binder, a coupling agent and further inorganic or organic size constituents. Even though water is the main component (up to 90 weight percent) in the composition, the sizes result in an organic coating. Only few sizes are non-aqueous and consist solely of organic compounds. Moreover many patent applications tend to be directed to new additives or minor (organic or inorganic) components in a sizing or coating composition and not to the polymeric binder per se. If so, searching for the polymeric binder or the macromolecular constituent of highest proportion is not usually very effective; however we have no classification entries for "additives, minor inorganic or organic components or compounding ingredients" in this subgroup. Therefore, from the point of view of search efficiency and classification, we prefer the introduction of a new note before group 25/24 to improve clarity and make classification more precise. A similar note already exists in the IPC, for example in C 09 D, note (2), where this set of notes for coating compositions appears to be very useful and helpful on classification of compositions or mixtures.

Our proposal for a new note (2) before group C 03 C 25/24:

<Delete existing note (2) and replace with the following note>

- C (2) In groups 25/24 to 25/40, the expression "coatings containing organic materials" covers mixtures or compositions of different organic and inorganic compounds or constituents.

In these groups compositions are classified according to all of the essential or characterizing macromolecular constituents.

Compositions based on natural macromolecular compounds, e.g. starch, polysaccharides or derivatives thereof, are classified in group 25/26.

Compositions based on bituminous materials or on fats and waxes are classified in group 25/24.

If the presence of inorganic or non-macromolecular compounding ingredients is of interest, classification is (also) made for these compounds, e.g. for organo-metallic coupling agents in 25/38, for specific solvents, fillers, dyes or pigments, surfactants, biocides, etc. in 25/24.

Aspects relating to the physical nature of the organic coating compositions or to the effects produced, if clearly and explicitly stated, are (also) classified in group 25/24 or 25/26, e.g. a fibre with a coating of a thermotropic liquid crystalline polymer or a fibre-coating with the capacity to absorb water.

D <Delete existing note (3) completely>

D <Delete vertical line 25/24 to 25/44>

In view of the new wording of note (2), we believe that the existing note (1) referring to the last place rule becomes redundant. Therefore we propose to delete note (1).

D <Delete existing note (1) completely>

Examples of patent documents supporting the new note (2) are already given in IPC/WG/7/4, Annex VIII.

Angelika Eva Zettler

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Project: H011/02

Subclass – C03C

Date: October 7, 2002

US comments on DE proposal (Annex 1- October 7, 2002) on the double-purpose indexing scheme of C03C 25/24:

The DE proposal may and probably does have merit. However, US hesitates to support changes to already existing rules, especially deleting the last place rule, as a part of this task (IPC/WG/7/7, par. 28). This rule change would appear to influence the existing classifications on the patent documents in this C03C 25/24 area. In order to make such a change, it would seem necessary to review the patent documents already in this area, and this would be more properly done via a revision project, subclass maintenance, etc, not during this conversion process.

Project: H011 **Subclass: C03C**

Subj.: Conversion of double-purpose indexing codes used in group C03C25/24

* In general we agree with the DE proposal for replacing the actual double purpose use of groups C03C25/24 to C03C25/44 by a system of multiple classification as defined by the proposed notes.

We have the feeling however that these notes give only general guidance and that some further information - preferably including examples - in the definition layer would be necessary. DE proposal of 28/05/2002 is a very good document that could be used as a starting point for the formulation of such additional information.

* We also agree with US that we should be reluctant in changing rules in the context of a H-project. We are instructed indeed in converting the double-purpose indexing schemes, without changing the classification philosophy.

We should however not lose contact with everyday practice. So if we add/change notes to reflect the pragmatic way in which classifiers are using IPC7 in this field at the moment, practically we do not add new rules but we formulate unwritten rules and thus the present philosophy is not really changed.

Coming to the Last Place Rule (LPR) issue: IPC7 for C03C25/24 is somewhat ambiguous, because the same groups have to be used for classification of individual ingredients as well as of mixtures of ingredients. The preliminary discussions for this project revealed that IPC7 does not give clear and sufficient information about what has to be considered as "inorganic-" or "organic coatings". Because of all that, some "unwritten rules" were followed in practice, which seem to be very similarly applied both by the DE and EP Offices.

One of these unwritten rules says that the LPR is not applied systematically, but only in restricted cases, i.e. when classifying individual ingredients.

Therefore, EP agrees with US that the LPR can not be deleted as such, but also with DE that the actual LPR should be deleted, i.e. that we need a "reformulated LPR". We prefer to replace the existing LPR partly by the following references:

C 25/24 ----- materials (C03C25/48 takes precedence)

C 25/42 ----- materials (C03C25/48 takes precedence)

In this way the LPR can be limited to group C03C25/24 (range C03C25/26-C03C25/40).



IPC/H 012/02
ORIGINAL: English/French
DATE: November 1, 2002

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COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS OF THE IPC UNION
COMITÉ D'EXPERTS DE L'UNION DE L'IPC

IPC HYBRID SYSTEM PROJECT FILE/DOSSIER DE PROJET DE SYSTÈME HYBRIDE DE LA CIB

PROPOSAL BY: PROPOSITION DE :	EP	HYBRID SYSTEM OF IPC AREA: SYSTÈME HYBRIDE DU DOMAINE DE LA CIB :	C04B
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ANNEX/ ANNEXE	CONTENT/CONTENU	ORIGIN/ ORIGINE	DATE
1	Comments / Observations	EP	09.02
2	Proposal / Proposition	EP	09.02
3	Comments / Observations	GB	09.02
4	Rapporteur proposal / Proposition du rapporteur	EP	09.02
5	Comments / Observations	JP	10.02
6	Comments / Observations	DE	10.02
7	Comments / Observations	US	10.02
8	Comments / Observations	JP	10.02
9	Rapporteur report / Rapport du rapporteur	EP	10.02
10	Rapporteur proposal / Proposition du rapporteur	EP	10.02
11	Comments / Observations	JP	11.02

RAPPORTEUR : EP TECHNICAL FIELD/DOMAINE TECHNIQUE : C

Project: H012/02 **Subclass:** C04B

Re.: IPC/WG/7/7, par. 28-31

Conc.: Double purpose indexing scheme of subclass C04B (*)

1. Introduction and historical background

The indexing system under discussion relates to what could be called, the non-ceramic part of subclass C04B.

Up to IPC3 a different scheme for this part was used which scheme however was felt to be unsuited to fulfill the needs for classification of patents in this technical field. For that reason EP introduced a revision request resulting in the present classification and indexing system of IPC7.

The general philosophy is rather straight forward:

1) the scheme had two parts: the first one relating to **individual ingredients** (binders, fillers or active ingredients), the second one to **mixtures** of two or more of these ingredients (mortars, concretes, compositions for artificial stone)

2) classification is to be made in the first part, if the invention relates to an individual ingredient, in the second part if it relates to a mixture. In the case of such a mixture (1) classification is also made for a single ingredient if of interest and (2) the individual ingredients in the mixtures can be identified by the double purpose codes.

Guidance is given by the notes after the subclass title.

Main reason for the introduction of this system was the fact that in this area very often the same ingredients appear again, but in different combinations in the mixtures. The use of the indexing codes should allow to avoid the overpopulation of groups for single ingredients and yet make the identification of such ingredients possible.

In the past 17 years it has become clear that this possibility has only been used sparingly, and when it was used, very often it was done in an (formally) incorrect way, e.g. by non- linking or incorrectly linking the codes. In other words, the indexing system was not a real success and thus was not able to fulfill its primary task properly. Indeed, when using IPC for searching in C04B, the indexing codes are hardly of any use because of their inconsistent and incomplete application.

2. Multiple classification alternative

According to the decisions of the Reform WG, the double purpose use of classification symbols has to be abolished, without changing the general existing classification philosophy of the subclass concerned. So Offices could agree or not with the principle of the C04B classification philosophy as explained above, but this matter should not be discussed in the context of this conversion project.

To replace the indexing system by an alternative where all technical information of interest can be retrieved in a smooth way, some guidance has to be given to searchers and classifiers, on how to apply multiple classification for mixtures. For, it should be avoided that a systematic classification

of all ingredients of the mixtures - many of them being very common - would result in the overpopulation of a number of groups, making these groups unmanageable for search.

The new approach of multiple classification should therefore be based on the principle that only those ingredients of the mixtures receive an extra classification symbol, which are of special interest because:

- (1) they are the actual "heart" of the invention or
- (2) because they characterise the mixture of the invention more than the others, e.g, because they are the origin of the "problem -solution" aspect of the invention.

These items will be discussed in more detail in the definition project for C04B (with real examples), but here are already some (theoretical) examples:

* There is claimed a Portland cement mortar mixture, containing besides a number of common ingredients like fillers (sand, limestone, perlite) and active ingredients such as superplasticisers (sulfonate products) and thickeners (cellulosic compound), a special ingredient (salt) added to avoid the corrosion of the glass fibres in the cement matrix. As a mixture based on Portland cement is claimed, classification should be made in C04B28/04. Classification in all of the entries for the single ingredients would increase the size of these groups in an unacceptable way. Classification in C04B22/08 (salt) however should also be done as after reading the whole document it will become clear that this is the key ingredient. Classification in C04B14/42 for the glass fibres should also be done, to identify the origin of the problem solved by the addition of the salt.

* In a resin bonded mixture, containing common fillers like sand and limestone, barite might be added as weighting agent to obtain a heavy artificial stone: classification should be made in C04B26/02 and C04B14/36.

3. R proposal

The basis or first step for such an alternative multi classification system is already present in IPC7: note 3 after the subclass title. This note alone however is not considered to be sufficient to guide searchers and classifiers.

Therefore, EP propose, in accordance with the decisions of the Revision WG at its 7th session:

- 1) to add some simple examples to note (3) (see the joined proposal),
- 2) to explain in full detail in the definition layer how to apply the principle of multiple classification, illustrated with a number of real examples (see project D036)

(* As the WG already took a decision about the future of the separate indexing schemes in subclass C04B (see IPC/WG/7/7, Annex 1, p.2) these schemes are not commented in this paper anymore.

Paul Daeleman

Project: H012/02 Subclass: C04B

Re.: IPC/WG/7/7, par. 29-31

Notes after
subclass title

C < change note (3) after subclass title: >

(3) When classification is made in groups C04B26/00 to C04B32/00 for compositions of mortars, concrete or artificial stone, classification is also made in one or more of groups 7/00 to 24/00, if a cement, filler or active ingredient is of interest, e.g. a well defined portland cement mortar mixture containing an unusual clay additive besides traditional ingredients is classified in C04B28/04 and C04B14/10

D < Delete Notes (4) and (5) after subclass title >

D < Delete vertical lines (7/00 - 28/36)>

UK Patent Office

Date: 18 September 2002

Comments on Project H012 , Subclass C04B

We support the Rapporteur proposal.

Martin Price

Project: H012/02 Subclass: C04B

Re.: - IPC/WG/7/7, par. 29-31
- EP proposal of August 2002 (project H012)

< As double purpose codes are also used in group C04B35/66, EP proposal of August 2002, has to be completed as follows:>

Notes before
group 35/66

D < delete existing notes >

N Notes:

- (1) *When classification is made in group C04B35/66, classification is also made in one or more of the other subgroups of C04B35/00, if individual constituents of the monolithic refractory is of interest, e.g. in C04B35/12 for a ceramic constituent based on chromium oxide*
- (2) *When classification is made in group C04B35/66 for a refractory mortar containing an hydraulic cement, e.g. aluminous cement, classification is also made in one or more of groups C04B7/00 to C04B24/00 or C04B28/00, if a cement, filler, active ingredient, or a mixture of these is of interest, e.g. in C04B24/00 for an organic retarder for the hydraulic cement*

Japan Patent Office

October 03 , 2002

Project:H012

Subclass:C04B

**JP Comments on Rapporteur Proposal Dated August 28, 2002
(Annex 1 & 2)**

JP supports the proposed change to note of Annex 2 for the multiple classification.

Regarding “2. Multiple classification alternative” of Annex 1, we agree with the EP opinion. We also acknowledge the matter EP pointed. The classification for the ingredients being particularly important to the inventions should be differentiated from that for other ingredients by any means.

DEUTSCHES PATENT- UND MARKENAMT German Patent and Trade Mark Office	Class/Subcl.: C 04 B
	Date : 07.10.2002
DE - Comments — H 012/02	

Re: EP proposal of 28.08.02 (Annex 2) and
EP proposal of 16.09.02 (Annex 4)

1. We agree with the philosophy and approach of the Rapporteur's proposal presented in Annex 1. But we would propose some changes to the wording of the new Note (3) of Annex 2 to improve clarity. We think that in the given example the wording "unusual clay additive" is unprecise and confusing, because clay is normally used as a filler and not as an additive. Clay as an additive or active ingredient, i.e. clay as a processing aid or property improver, should be classified in C 04 B 22/00, whereas clay as a filler is classified in 14/10.

Therefore we would suggest the following modified wording of Note (3)

C (3) When classification is made in groups C 04 B 26/00 to 32/00 for compositions of mortars, concrete or artificial stone, **additional** classification is made in one or more of groups 7/00 to 24/00, if an **inorganic binder**, filler or active ingredient is of interest, e.g. a well defined Portland cement mixture containing **clay as an essential or characterizing filler** is classified in C 04 B 28/04 and also in C 04 B 14/10.

2. We support the wording of the new Notes (1) and (2) before group 35/66 proposed by EP in Annex 4 and have no further comment on the proposal.

Angelika Eva Zettler

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Project: H012/02

Subclass – C04B

Date: October 3, 2002

US comments on EP proposal (Annexes 1 and 4) on the double purpose indexing scheme of subclass C04B:

US supports EP's proposal (Annex 1) to change note (3) and delete notes (4) and (5) after the subclass title.

However, the new wording proposed for note (3) appears to slightly change the scope of the existing note. It includes C04B 32/00 in the range of groups where the existing notes (3) and (4) only include up to 30/00.

US also supports EP's proposal (Annex 4) for deleting the existing notes before 35/66 and adding a new note or notes. It would appear that only one note would be needed if note (1) was reworded as "...if individual constituents of the monolithic refractory or refractory mortar *are* of interest..." We would also suggest that "is" should be "are" in the third line of note (1) since "are" refers back to "constituents". If keeping the notes separate is found to be easier, that is acceptable to US.

At IPC/REF/7, comments were invited on developing standardized wording for "multiple classification-type" notes. Once a "standardized" wording for these types of notes is approved, the wording of the proposed notes above may need to be modified.

Japan Patent Office

October 9 , 2002

Project:H012

Subclass:C04B

JP Comments on Rapporteur Proposal Dated September 16, 2002

On the proposed additional notes of C04B35/66, we find that the proposed Note (1) does not comply with any existing rules of the IPC while Note (2) is consistent with one of them. Moreover, the additional classification of the subgroups under C04B35/00 accompanying a classification to C04B35/66 has never been done before.

We think this proposal is not preferable for the conversion project of indexing codes. The new rules would impose examiners the additional burden to classify and reclassify the documents. Introduction of such new rules should be handled in the revision project.

Project: H012/02 **Subclass:** C04B

Conc.: Double purpose indexing scheme of subclass C04B

1. Introduction

* In the initial proposal (annex 2 to the project file) R only considered the notes, relating to the double purpose codes, which are found after the subclass title, omitting similar notes before C04B35/66. (Hereinafter referred to as Proposal I).

* In annex 4, R presented an additional proposal relating to group C04B35/66 (Hereinafter referred to as Proposal II).

* Comments were received from the GB, JP (2x), DE and US Offices.

2. Concerning Proposal I:

* GB and JP agree with the proposal as it is.

* DE also agree, but suggest some clarification of the wording.

R. agrees with the DE reasoning, but prefers to keep the term "cement" because of the wording of the existing guide heading before group C04B7/00.

* US raise some other pertinent remarks.

R agrees that Including group C04B32/00 in the reformulated note may look like a change in scope compared with the existing note (and formally it is of course). Adding this group however is merely the correction of an omission of the past. Indeed there are no technical reasons to treat this group differently from the other "mixture groups".

3. Concerning Proposal II:

* DE agree.

* US agree, but believe the two notes can be united.

* JP has more fundamental objections as this Office presume new rules are introduced with the proposed new notes.

* R. opinion:

1) It is surely not R intention to introduce new rules or a new classification philosophy for mixtures covered by group C04B35/66. The proposed notes reflect the practice in the EP Office since the introduction of the "new" C04B35/00 scheme of IPC6.

Indeed, while the majority of C04B35 entries give (more or less) precise information about the composition, group C04B35/66 only give information about the way the ceramic composition is used: not as a discrete article but as a monolithic layer, e.g for coating kiln walls. That is why the indexing system was introduced, which we now want to replace by a system of multiple classification, to give information about the actual composition, if of interest. So in the opinion of R, there is no difference in purpose between Proposal I and II.

2) As two different types of ceramic compositions can be used for monolithic refractories, R prefer to keep the two proposed notes separated for clarity. Documents relating to refractories containing an hydraulic binder (mostly of the alumina type) might contain information of interest for the "cement part" of the subclass and thus note (2) does not introduce a new rule.

4. General remark

R agrees with US that, once a standardised multiple classification type note will be adopted, the notes adopted in the light of the Hybrid Projects might need to be reconsidered. It should be kept in mind however that different technical fields might need different approaches.

5. Conclusion: in the joined consolidated proposal, the initial proposal I is repeated amended in the light of the DE comments, combined with the initial proposal II after correction as suggested by US.

Paul Daeleman

H012ep04r

Project: H012/02 Subclass: C04B

< Proposal I >

Notes after
subclass title

C < change note (3) after subclass title: >

(3) *When classification is made in groups C04B26/00 to C04B32/00 for compositions of mortars, concrete or artificial stone, classification is also made in one or more of groups 7/00 to 24/00, if a cement, filler or active ingredient is of interest, e.g. a well defined portland cement mortar mixture containing clay as an essential or characterising filler is classified in C04B28/04 and also in C04B14/10*

D < Delete Notes (4) and (5) after subclass title >

D < Delete vertical lines (7/00 - 28/36)>

< Proposal II >

Notes before
group 35/66

D < delete existing notes >

N Notes:

(1) *When classification is made in group C04B35/66, classification is also made in one or more of the other subgroups of C04B35/00, if individual constituents of the monolithic refractory are of interest, e.g. in C04B35/12 for a ceramic constituent based on chromium oxide*

(2) *When classification is made in group C04B35/66 for a refractory mortar containing an hydraulic cement, e.g. aluminous cement, classification is also made in one or more of groups C04B7/00 to C04B24/00 or C04B28/00, if a cement, filler, active ingredient, or a mixture of these is of interest, e.g. in C04B24/00 for an organic retarder for the hydraulic cement*

Japan Patent Office

November 1, 2002

Project: H012

Subclass: C04B

JP Comments on Rapporteur Report Dated October 18, 2002

Concerning the proposals of Annex 4, though Rapporteur affirms that they do not introduce the new philosophy as the Note (1), JPO has not found it anywhere in the existing IPC 7 yet. We also believe that the “new” rule would raise a couple of problems with the classification practice.

Reclassification

The problem is that the new rule would impose examiners the additional burden not only to classify the documents but also to reclassify them. If the proposed wording “if individual constituents ... are of interest” indicates as a non-obligatory classification explicitly, we could avoid the burden to classify or reclassify the JP documents according to the proposed rule. If it is defined as an obligatory classification, it should be deleted following to the Guideline 7 of IPC/REF/6/2 Annex V titled “Guidelines for the Conversion of Existing IPC Indexing Schemes into Classification Schemes.”

Distinction between Existing and Additional Symbols.

The proposed rule also causes a problem for search. Allocation of additional classification symbols increases the documents to be classified into groups C04B 35/00 - 35/599 and decreases the efficiency of search, although in the existing rule we distinguish indexing codes from classification symbols.

It is also noted that we will hardly define whether the symbol is assigned by the existing rule or the proposed one since:

- a) In existing rule, two symbols are allocated as inventive information into one document (e.g. Claim 1 may be classified in the place for “refractory brick” while Claim 2 in “monolithic refractory”);
- b) We cannot see the difference between a general additional classification (not being accompanied with C04B 35/66) and the proposed additional classification (e.g. for an invention of “sliding nozzle” which also has the useful information about a composition of ceramics, a group under C04B 35/00 is given as additional classification).

We propose to define that the Note (1) is non-obligatory and to discuss the introduction of the new rule in view of the computer search.



IPC/H 013/02
ORIGINAL: English/French
DATE: October 22, 2002

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA PROPRIÉTÉ INTELLECTUELLE
GENEVA/GENÈVE

COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS OF THE IPC UNION
COMITÉ D'EXPERTS DE L'UNION DE L'IPC

IPC HYBRID SYSTEM PROJECT FILE/DOSSIER DE PROJET DE SYSTÈME HYBRIDE DE LA CIB

PROPOSAL BY: PROPOSITION DE :	EP	HYBRID SYSTEM OF IPC AREA: SYSTÈME HYBRIDE DU DOMAINE DE LA CIB :	C05
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ANNEX/ ANNEXE	CONTENT/CONTENU	ORIGIN/ ORIGINE	DATE
1	Comments / Observations	EP	09.02
2	Proposal / Proposition	EP	09.02
3	Comments / Observations	GB	09.02
4	Comments / Observations	US	10.02
5	Rapporteur report / Rapport du rapporteur	EP	10.02

RAPPORTEUR : EP TECHNICAL FIELD/DOMAINE TECHNIQUE : C

Project: H013/02 **Class:** C05

Re.: IPC/WG/7/7, par.29-31

Conc.: Double purpose indexing scheme of Class C05

1. Purpose of the indexing system in C05

Class C05 relates to fertilisers and the manufacture thereof.

In the present situation (IPC7), two notes are governing the way of classifying / indexing in this class:

- i) for a **single ingredient** a kind of a ' first place rule' for the classification applies, based on the chemical elements present in that ingredient (see note (1) after the title of C05),
- ii) for **mixtures** of different fertilisers or for mixtures of fertilisers with non-fertilisers, the double purpose symbols are used as indexing codes to identify the ingredients of the mixtures (see note (2) after C05).

Class C05 has some specific groups for such mixtures, e.g. C05B21/00 for mixtures of phosphatic fertilisers, as well as subclass C05G (partially) relating to mixtures of fertilizers covered by the other subclasses of C05. However mixtures can also be found in other groups, e.g a mixture of nitrates in C05C5/00.

2. Multiple classification alternative

According to the decisions of the Reform WG, this double purpose use of the classification symbols has to be abolished, without changing the general existing classification philosophy of the class. To reach this goal, i.e. to replace the indexing system by an alternative where all technical information of interest can be retrieved in a smooth way, some guidance has to be given to searchers and classifiers, on how to apply multiple classification for mixtures. For, it should be avoided that a systematic classification of all ingredients of the mixtures - some being very common - would result in the overpopulation of a number of groups, making these groups unmanageable for search.

The new approach of multiple classification should therefore be based on the principle that only those ingredients receive an extra classification symbol, which are not mentioned yet in the title of the (mixture) group used and which are of interest to characterise (part of) the mixture.

3. General principle of the joined proposal:

Thus, the proposed new note should reflect the following general idea of multiple classification for mixtures of fertilisers or mixtures of fertilisers with non-fertilizers:

- referring to the first paragraph of point 2 above, the replacement of the indexing system by a multiple classification system, should not lead to the application of a different "main classification" for the mixture as such
- when classifying mixtures, classification should be made:
 - - first of all, disregarding the relative importance of the different ingredients, in the most appropriate entry for such a **mixture** (e.g. in subclass C05G for mixtures of fertilisers covered individually by different subclasses of class C05 or for mixtures of fertilizers with non fertilizers, or in C05C5/00 for mixtures of ingredients covered by this main group only),
 - - secondly for each **individual ingredient** according to note (1) after the C05 title, in so far the presence of this ingredient is not yet indicated by the title of the group chosen for classifying the mixture as such and in so far this ingredient is not an obvious one for the type of mixture under consideration.

Paul Daeleman

Project: H013/02 **Class: C05**

Re.: IPC/WG/7/7, par.29-31

D <Delete note (2) after class title>

N <New note (2) after class title>

Notes

- (1) An ingredient in a ----- in C but not in D.
- (2) In this class, classification of mixtures of ingredients is made for:
 - the **mixture** as a whole in the most appropriate place, taking into
 account note (1) above if appropriate, e.g in the mixture groups C05B21/00,
 C05C13/00,C05F15/00 and C05G1/00 for mixtures of fertilizers or in group
 C05G3/00 for mixtures of fertilizers and non- fertilizers.
 - the single **ingredients** of the mixture in accordance with note (1) above,
 except for those ingredients which are already mentioned in the title of
 the group chosen for classifying the mixture as a whole or for those used
 commonly in the art.
- If however all ingredients of interest of the mixture are covered by one
 single main group of subclasses C05B, C05C, C05D or C05F, abstraction
 made of the mixtures main groups, classification is made in this
 main group only .

D < Delete all vertical lines of class C05 >

UK Patent Office**Date: 19 September 2002**

Comments on Project H013 , Class C05

We agree with the philosophy and approach of the Rapporteur's proposal. A multiple classification scheme based only on ingredients of interest, excluding commonly-used ingredients, is the only sensible way forward in this subclass.

We would propose some changes to the wording of the new Note (2) to improve clarity, including splitting off the last paragraph to make a new Note (3), while not changing the intended meaning of the Rapporteur's proposal. We would suggest the following Notes (2) and (3):

Note (2) In this class, classification of mixtures of ingredients is made for:

(i) the **mixture as a whole** in the most appropriate place, taking into account Note (1) if appropriate, e.g. in the mixture groups C05B 21/00, C05C 13/00, C05D 11/00, C05F 15/00, C05G 1/00 or C05G 3/00 (in the case of mixtures of fertilisers and non-fertilisers); and

(ii) the **single ingredients** of the mixture in accordance with Note (1) above, with the exception of those ingredients which are already mentioned in the title of the group chosen for classifying the mixture as a whole, and also with the exception of ingredients that are used commonly in the art.

Note (3) If all the ingredients of interest in the mixture are covered in a single main group in any of subclasses C05B, C05C, C05D or C05F, classification is made in this single main group only.

Martin Price

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Project: H013/02

Class – C05

Date: October 3, 2002

US comments on EP proposal (Annex 2- August 29, 2002) on the double purpose indexing scheme of C05:

US interprets the existing notes (1) and (2) in C05 to say:

Classify the mixture of fertilisers or a single fertilizer in the first place it can go in C05 based on ingredients or chemical elements in the mixture or single fertiliser. After that is done, additional classifications may be added according to other ingredients in the mixture of fertilisers or single fertilizer.

US thinks that the proposed note by EP might be adding additional rules to the existing notes. In particular, we are concerned that the third bullet of EP's note is possibly introducing a change in the scope of the existing notes. It appears that this bullet is limiting the number of classifications that may be given a mixture or its individual ingredients. Is EP stating that even when subgroups directed to a mixture or its ingredients are available for classification that the classifications should only be made in the main group? US thinks classifications should be made at the subgroup level if an appropriate subgroup exists. We apologize if we have misinterpreted what EP is proposing.

At IPC/REF/7, comments were invited on developing standardized wording for "multiple classification-type" notes. Once a "standardized" wording for these types of notes is approved, the wording of the proposed notes may need to be modified.

Project: H013/02 **Class: C05**

Conc.: Double purpose indexing scheme of Class C05

* On the EP proposal for the reformulated note (2) after the class title of C05, relating to the multiple classification of mixtures of fertilizers, comments were received from the GB and US Offices.

* GB agree with the EP proposal, but suggest some changes to improve clarity (and correct a mistake: C05D11/00 added). R agrees with this amended version.

* US raise two interesting points:

1) the use of a standardised multiple classification note: R agrees, that once such a general standardised note is adopted, the notes adopted in the Hybrid Projects should be reconsidered if appropriate. It should be kept in mind however that in different fields the technical situation can be different and thus might need a (slightly) different wording of the note.

2) Referring to (main-)groups in IPC:

It was most certainly not R intention to change the classification philosophy in C05. If in the proposed note, reference is made to main groups only, this reference obviously has to be interpreted as it should in IPC (see par. 27 and 28 of the guide to the IPC), i.e. as applicable to all hierarchical inferior places as well.

So no subgroups of interest are excluded by the proposed notes.

* **Conclusion:** R proposes to adopt the GB version for the new notes (see annex 3 to the project file)

Paul Daeleman



IPC/H 014/02

ORIGINAL: English/French

DATE: October 14, 2002

**WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
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COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS OF THE IPC UNION
COMITÉ D'EXPERTS DE L'UNION DE L'IPC

IPC HYBRID SYSTEM PROJECT FILE/DOSSIER DE PROJET DE SYSTÈME HYBRIDE DE LA CIB

PROPOSAL BY: PROPOSITION DE :	DE	HYBRID SYSTEM OF IPC AREA: SYSTÈME HYBRIDE DU DOMAINE DE LA CIB :	C07D
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ANNEX/ ANNEXE	CONTENT/CONTENU	ORIGIN/ ORIGINE	DATE
1	Rapporteur proposal / Proposition du rapporteur	DE	09.02
2	Comments / Observations	GB	10.02
3	Comments / Observations	RU	10.02
4	Comments / Observations	US	10.02

RAPPORTEUR : DE

TECHNICAL FIELD/DOMAINE TECHNIQUE :

C

DEUTSCHES PATENT- UND MARKENAMT	Class/Subcl.: C07D 203/00-347/00 C07D 451/00-517/00
German Patent and Trade Mark Office	Date : 26.09.2002
DE - Proposal — H014	

Re: Double-purpose schemes

We propose to delete the lines to the left of 203/00 through 347/00 and 451/00 through 517/00 and use these classification symbols for multiple classification.

According to this the notes relating to subclass C 07D should be adapted as follows:

C07D**Heterocyclic Compounds [2]****Notes:**

(1) to (6) unchanged

(7) In this subclass, if individual components of compounds are of interest, other classifications may be given.

UK Patent Office
Date: 3 October 2002

Comments on Project H014 , Subclass C07D

We support the general idea of converting the double-purpose indexing scheme in C07D to a multiple classification scheme based on components of interest. Some amendment is needed to the Rapporteur proposal though, as shown below.

\$ R surely does not intend to delete the guidelines (a) to (d) in Note (7) - these guidelines appear essential and useful, and are couched in terms of **Additional information**, which is exactly the wording we need.

\$ Note (8) needs amending or deleting, depending what happens to subclass C07M (Project H015). The IPC/REF recommendation is to abolish that scheme.

\$ Finally Note (9) needs deleting.

Our counter-proposal follows.

C07D

C Note (7) under In this subclass, if individual components of compounds are of subclass title interest, additional classifications may be made according to the guidelines mentioned under (a) to (d) below.
(a) For compounds - - -

C/D Note (8) <depends on Project H015>

D Note (9) <delete Note>

D <delete all vertical lines in subclass>

Martin Price

FEDERAL INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY

RU comments	
Project : H 014	Date: 7.10.2002
Class/Subclass : C07D	

Re: IPC WG/7/7

We support the conversion of double-purpose scheme in subclass C07D into multiple classification scheme. However, even though we favor the use of the expression "of interest" in notes for most hybrid systems, subclass C07D does not seem to be the case, because all individual components of compounds to be shown as additional information in this subclass are already determined by existing notes (7) (a) to (d), and, in this respect, to give the classifier more liberty would cause confusion when either classifying or searching patent documents in the future.

Therefore we suggest that the existing notes (7) (a) to (d) be just slightly modified and not deleted.

The changes to the said notes we propose are following:

Note (7)

1. We propose to change the existing wording as follows:

"In this subclass, it is desirable to add the classification symbols relating to individual components of compounds, chosen according to the following guidelines:"

2. In **guidelines (a), (b) and (d)** the word "codes" should be replaced by "classification symbols".

3. In **guideline (b)** the end of the last sentence beginning with the words "and the invention information and additional information - - -" should be replaced by following phrase:

"- - - and in relation to the said compound the invention information would be represented by C07D 401/06 and the additional information – by C07D 213/58 and C07D 233/24".

4. **Guideline (c)** should remain unchanged.

5. We also propose to delete **Notes (8) and (9)**.

M.Sobolev,
E.Brill

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Project: H014/02

Subclass – C07D

Date: October 3, 2002

US comments on DE proposal (Annex 1- September 26, 2002) on the double purpose indexing schemes in C07D:

US supports the DE proposal, though we agree with UK (Annex 2) that Note (8) will need to be “revisited” based on H015 and Note (9) should be deleted.

Concerning the UK comment in Annex 2 concerning Note (7), we believe (a) – (d) in existing Note (7) are reflected in the note (7) proposed by DE in combination with the “Guidelines for Determining Subject Matter Appropriate for Obligatory and Nonobligatory Classification” which were approved by the 7th Session of Reform Working Group (IPC/REF/7/3, ANNEX VI). These Guidelines state that all subject matter covered by the claims must be classified. In other words, the claim as a whole must be classified as well as each inventive embodiment within the claim including any part of a claimed combination if the part is novel and unobvious. These Guidelines would appear to take care of most of the concerns of Note 7. Furthermore, these guidelines do not preclude the classification of other subject matter, which is considered of interest.

At IPC/REF/7, comments were invited on developing standardized wording for “multiple classification-type” notes. Once a “standardized” wording for these types of notes is approved, the wording of the proposed new note (7) may need to be modified.



IPC/H 015/02

ORIGINAL: English/French

DATE: November 18, 2002

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IPC HYBRID SYSTEM PROJECT FILE/DOSSIER DE PROJET DE SYSTÈME HYBRIDE DE LA CIB

PROPOSAL BY: PROPOSITION DE :	IE	HYBRID SYSTEM OF IPC AREA: SYSTÈME HYBRIDE DU DOMAINE DE LA CIB :	C07M
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ANNEX/ ANNEXE	CONTENT/CONTENU	ORIGIN/ ORIGINE	DATE
1	Rapporteur proposal / Proposition du rapporteur	IE	11.02
2	Comments / Observations	US	11.02
3	Comments / Observations	GB	11.02

RAPPORTEUR : IE

TECHNICAL FIELD/DOMAINE TECHNIQUE :

C



Oifig na bPaitinní
Irish Patents Office

Project: H015/02 Subclass: C07M

IE proposal for indexing scheme C07M.

1. Introduction

The subclass C07M was introduced into the IPC at the sixth edition. It is an indexing scheme, relating to all parts of C07, and concerns specific properties possessed by organic compounds, such as whether specific optical or geometric isomers of a general chemical structure are involved. The indexing codes are not linked to the primary classification from which they arise. This subclass was recommended for abolition by the ad hoc Reform Working Group, when considering the role of indexing schemes in the Reformed IPC.

2. Discussion

The subclass is generally little used. An examination of European applications and grants throughout the Int. Cl.⁶ and Int. Cl.⁷ periods shows that C07M codes appear on less than 1% of all European granted patents with C07 classifications between 1 January 1995 and 30 September 2001, with almost negligible classification in European and PCT published applications for the same period. Invocation of C07M in relation to all subclasses of C07 remains under 1% for all C07 subclasses. It is clear that C07M does not, of itself, form a cogent body of searchable material.

While C07M deals with specific properties of organic molecules, C07B provides for methods of organic synthesis or work-up leading to the properties in question. For instance, the separation of optically active compounds is covered in C07B 57/00, whereas optically active isomers of an organic compound per se exist in C07M 7:00. So it is clear that methods of production, separation or purification leading to specific properties in the target compound are, for the most part, already dealt with elsewhere in the IPC.

The lack of correlation between C07M and other C07 subclasses does not suggest that retaining C07M for indexing in relation to specific subclasses is viable or desirable.

3. Proposal

On the basis of the foregoing, that there is low-density of use, and therefore a clear lack of a cogent body of art under C07M, and the close relation between the subject matter of C07M and C07B, IE propose the abolition of C07M, in agreement with the recommendation of the ad hoc IPC Reform Working Group.

Fergal Brady
Irish Patents Office

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Project: H015/02

Subclass – C07M

Date: November 14, 2002

US comments on IE proposal (Annex 1) on the indexing scheme C07M:

Based on the research done by IE, US supports the IE and ad hoc IPC Reform Working Group proposals to abolish subclass C07M.

UK Patent Office

Date: 15 November 2002

Comments on Project H015 , Subclass C07M

We agree with the Rapporteur's reasoning and conclusions.

Martin Price



IPC/H 016/02
ORIGINAL: English/French
DATE: October 30, 2002

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COMITÉ D'EXPERTS DE L'UNION DE L'IPC

IPC HYBRID SYSTEM PROJECT FILE/DOSSIER DE PROJET DE SYSTÈME HYBRIDE DE LA CIB

PROPOSAL BY: PROPOSITION DE :	GB	HYBRID SYSTEM OF IPC AREA: SYSTÈME HYBRIDE DU DOMAINE DE LA CIB :	C08F
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ANNEX/ ANNEXE	CONTENT/CONTENU	ORIGIN/ ORIGINE	DATE
1	Rapporteur proposal / Proposition du rapporteur	GB	09.02
2	Comments / Observations	EP	10.02
3	Comments / Observations	DE	10.02
4	Comments / Observations	US	10.02
5	Rapporteur report / Rapport du rapporteur	GB	10.02

RAPPORTEUR : GB TECHNICAL FIELD/DOMAINE TECHNIQUE : C

 UK Patent Office

Date: 30 August 2002

 Rapporteur Proposal on Project H016, Subclass C08F

DOUBLE-PURPOSE INDEXING SCHEME RELATING TO C08F 210/00 TO 238/00
INITIAL PROPOSAL

Following the recommendations of IPC/WG/7/7 Annex I, we propose abolishing the above double-purpose indexing scheme and introducing a multiple classification scheme in its place.

C08F has a last place rule, and it is not clear to us how a last place rule fits comfortably with a multiple classification scheme. However IPC/WG/7/7 Annex H forbids introducing additional rules or classification approaches besides those already existing in the current IPC, and we don't remember any discussion at the WG about the effect of last place rules on multiple classification schemes. We have therefore kept the last place rule in this subclass, but **invite comments on the appropriateness of keeping this last place rule in these circumstances.**

We have used as the main criteria for the additional classification the *essential or characterizing* monomeric components. This reflects the practice, in our experience, of most coal-face examiners who appear to have applied a multiple classification scheme based upon essential or characterizing features, rather than using the official indexing scheme.

Our proposal follows.

C08F Notes after
subclass title

- | | | |
|---|---------------------|---|
| C | (7) | In groups 210/00 to 297/00, in addition to the classifications applied according to any of Notes (1) to (6), additional classifications are added relating to essential or characterizing monomeric components. These additional classifications are chosen from groups 210/00 to 238/00. |
| D | (8) | <Delete entire note> |
| D | 210/00 to
238/04 | <Delete vertical line> |

Martin Price

Project: H016/02 Subclass: C08F

Comments on the proposal of UK for the double-purpose indexing scheme in C08F.

We agree with the proposal.

We do not think that the last place rule in C08F should be kept, because it collides with Note (5)(e).

Anne Glanddier.

DEUTSCHES PATENT- UND MARKENAMT German Patent and Trade Mark Office	Class/Subcl.: C08F
	Date : 30/09/2002
DE - Comments — H016	

In C08F we would prefer to keep the double-purpose indexing scheme relating to C08F210/00 to 238/00 because much essential information will be lost if it is converted into a multiple classification scheme.

Martina Fritzsche

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Project: H016/02

Subclass – C08F

Date: October 3, 2002

US comments on UK proposal (Annex 1- August 30, 2002) on the double purpose indexing scheme of C08F 210/00 to 238/00:

US doesn't believe any conflict exists with keeping the last place rule for classifying in C08F. We believe it is necessary to have some rule for the primary classification of a document and in addition to this rule, additional classifications may be made for novel and unobvious (invention information) or "of interest" subject matter. Since the last place rule is in effect for most, if not all of C08F, removing it now would mean that the patent documents classified in C08F would need to be reviewed for possible missing classifications.

At IPC/REF/7, comments were invited on developing standardized wording for "multiple classification-type" notes. Once a "standardized" wording for these types of notes is approved, the wording of the proposed new note (7) may need to be modified. Until then, we would like to suggest a small change to note (7). After "characterizing monomeric components" we would insert something like "*if they are invention information or are of interest.*" With this language, "essential or characterizing" may not be needed.

UK Patent Office**Date: 24 October 2002**

Rapporteur Report on Project H016, Subclass C08F

Following the recommendations of IPC/WG/7/7 Annex I, GB proposed a multiple classifying scheme to replace the double purpose indexing scheme relating to C08F 210/00 to 238/00. Comments were received from EP, DE and US (Annexes 2-4).

EP agree with the proposal but want the last place rule in C08F removed because it collides with Note 5(e). **R** prefers not to deal with this matter in the context of this H-project since major classification changes are outside the remit of H-projects according to the above Annex I; such a question would be a revision or maintenance matter.

DE would prefer the double-purpose scheme in question to be kept, for fear of losing essential information. Unfortunately the selfsame Annex I states that *A double-purpose use of classification groups (as classification symbols and indexing codes) should be abolished@ and A considered for multiple classification@*.

It seems that no exception to this rule is envisaged, although **R** supposes that if a really strong case is made out for retention of a particular double-purpose scheme then such a case could be considered. Anyway multiple classification schemes are intended to work in much the same way as a double-purpose scheme, and should not lose any more information especially in view of the low level of application of most indexing schemes in the IPC. **R** suggests carrying on with the original proposals to replace the double purpose scheme with a multiple classification scheme.

US believes the last place rule in C08F can be kept, and should because of the reclassification implications. They believe, correctly, that standardised wording may be agreed for multiple classification schemes, but propose a small change to Note (7) of the GB proposal.

On the assumption that a multiple classification scheme will be agreed to replace this double-purpose indexing scheme, then the forthcoming standardised wording will obviously be employed. In the mean time, **R** likes the GB wording of Note (7) as much as the US wording and suggests that it be kept, but proposes a small change elsewhere in the note based on the wording used in some of the other H-projects.

R proposes:

C Note (7) after
subclass title

When classifying in groups 210/00 to 297/00, additional classification is made relating to essential or characterizing monomeric components. These additional classification(s) are chosen from groups 210/00 to 238/00.

D Note (8) <Delete entire note>

D 210/00 to
238/04 <Delete vertical line>

Martin Price



IPC/H 017/02
ORIGINAL: English/French
DATE: November 1, 2002

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COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS OF THE IPC UNION
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IPC HYBRID SYSTEM PROJECT FILE/DOSSIER DE PROJET DE SYSTÈME HYBRIDE DE LA CIB

PROPOSAL BY: PROPOSITION DE :	EP	HYBRID SYSTEM OF IPC AREA: SYSTÈME HYBRIDE DU DOMAINE DE LA CIB :	C08G
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ANNEX/ ANNEXE	CONTENT/CONTENU	ORIGIN/ ORIGINE	DATE
1	Proposal / Proposition	EP	08.02
2	Comments / Observations	GB	09.02
3	Comments / Observations	JP	10.02
4	Comments / Observations	US	10.02
5	Comments / Observations	DE	10.02
6	Rapporteur report / Rapport du rapporteur	EP	11.02

RAPPORTEUR : EP TECHNICAL FIELD/DOMAINE TECHNIQUE : C

Project: H017 Group: C08G101:00

Re: Conversion of indexing scheme

The recommendation of the IPC Working Group is to retain this scheme, convert it, and transfer it in C08J (see document IPC/WG/6/5, Annex G):

The indexing symbol C08G101:00 was used as the classification symbol C08G18/14 in IPC4, under the two-dot group: C08G18/08 "Processes". We are not aware of the reasons why that group was deleted in the 5th edition of the IPC.

The manufacture of cellular products is indeed classified in C08J9/00. However, the indexing scheme C08G101:00 was relating to polyurethanes; furthermore, there is a reference to these polymers in the title of C08J9/00. Therefore, we suggest to reintroduce it as it was in C08G:

C08G

N 18/14 § § § Manufacture of cellular products

Anne Glanddier.

UK Patent Office**Date: 18 September 2002**

Comments on Project H017 , Subclass C08G

GB supports the recommendation of the IPC Working Group to retain C08G 101:00 in some form, but supports neither its transfer to C08J nor the Rapporteur's proposal to create a classifying term C08G 18/14 with the indentations proposed.

The area of polyurethane foams is messy, and not well provided for in the IPC (or in the UK key for that matter). The division between C08J 9/00 and C08G 18/00 is fairly clear; C08J takes processes where the monomers or catalysts are not specific, whereas C08G 18/00 takes products (cellular or otherwise) characterised by the monomers or catalysts used. Since a large proportion of polyurethane cases relate to cellular polyurethanes, it makes sense to have a **cellular polyurethanes** term in the C08G 18/00 area.

In C08G 18/00, there is a last place rule; catalysts are taken by 18/16 to 18/26, while monomers are in 18/28 to 18/80. Methods for producing cells or voids are in C08J 9/00. There is little or no other subject-matter to classify, *therefore C08G 18/14, in its proposed indented form, would be substantially empty.*

It would of course be undesirable to tinker with these substantial areas, and it would also be beyond the remit of mere abolition or conversion of indexing schemes.

The UK key makes a messy compromise of a multiple classification scheme; there is a term (R32KG and excessive subdivisions) which takes **processes for producing cellular polyurethanes; modification of cellular structure**. This term has 683 hits and appears to take **all** cellular polyurethanes, while polyurethanes (cellular or not) characterised by choice of polyisocyanate/polyol/catalyst etc are separately classified in a variety of other subdivided terms. There has been low file growth for some years now.

The usage of term C08G 101:00 is low (only 168 hits on EPODOC), while UK term R32KG is 683 and includes GB documents and only a few EP, WO and US documents. C08G 101:00 is thus of little value, but I feel the concept has search value and some provision should be made.

The cellular polyurethane area is too large to create a single term; subdividing it along similar lines to C08G 18/16 to 18/80 would be cumbersome; and therefore I feel that a term for additional classification would be the only viable option here.

Probably the best place to put this term would be at 18/07, before **Processes**, we should also delete the Note before 18/02 and replace it with a more suitable note. My counter-proposal follows.

C08G

D <Note before 18/02>

N <Note after 18/06> In this group, when classifying cellular products of isocyanates or isothiocyanates, it is desirable to add term 18/07 in addition to other classifications from 18/08 to 18/87.

N 18/07 . . Manufacture of cellular products

D <All matter after 85/00>

Martin Price

Japan Patent Office

September 30, 2002

Project:H017

Subclass:C08G

JP Comments

New Title of Group 18/07 (UK proposal)

JP concerns that the new subgroup “Manufacture of cellular products” of 18/07 would cover only process and exclude polyurethane foams. JP proposes to modify the title to “Cellular products or process of manufacturing cellular products.”

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Project: H017

Group – C08G 101:00

Date: October 3, 2002

US comments on EP proposal (Annex 1- August 15, 2002) on the conversion of indexing scheme C08G 101:00:

US agrees with EP that C08G 101:00 should not be transferred to C08J since that area is for nonspecific catalysts and monomers and C08G 101 is related to polymeric products of isocyanates or isothiocyanates.

Since 101:00 is “manufacturing” it would appear proper to place the subject matter under 18/08 (Processes) as suggested by EP, if the reason this subject matter was originally taken from this area and made an indexing scheme is not brought to light.

DEUTSCHES PATENT- UND MARKENAMT German Patent and Trade Mark Office	Class/Subcl.: C08G
	Date : 16.10.2002
DE - Comments — H017/02	

Re: Conversion of indexing scheme

DE follows the EP proposal (Annex 1) to take up again subgroup 18/04 "Manufacture of cellular products" in C08G.

Project: H017 Subclass: C08G

Comments have been received from UK, JP, US and DE.

DE, JP and US support the proposal.

JP would prefer the wording: " Cellular products or process of manufacturing cellular products".

UK made a counter-proposal.

Answer to UK proposal:

The usage of C08G101:00 appears to be low in EPODOC, because the EPO does not use it to classify, but the polyurethane foams are coded in M08G101/00 instead, resulting in almost 6000 entries.

We think that the preparation of a foam is a process and therefore should be classified under the 2-dots group C08G18/08: "Processes".

This class could be introduced when monomers and /or catalysts are specified and a polyurethane foam is prepared.

When the monomers and /or catalysts are not specified, the foams are classified in C08J9/00.

Rapporteurs's recommendation:

R. is not in favour to change the wording as JP proposes, because the word "process" is already present in group 18/08.

R. thinks that the adoption of group C08G18/14 as proposed in Annex 1 should be adopted.

Anne Glanddier.



IPC/H 018/02
ORIGINAL: English/French
DATE: October 30, 2002

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ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA PROPRIÉTÉ INTELLECTUELLE
GENEVA/GENÈVE

COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS OF THE IPC UNION
COMITÉ D'EXPERTS DE L'UNION DE L'IPC

IPC HYBRID SYSTEM PROJECT FILE/DOSSIER DE PROJET DE SYSTÈME HYBRIDE DE LA CIB

PROPOSAL BY: PROPOSITION DE :	GB	HYBRID SYSTEM OF IPC AREA: SYSTÈME HYBRIDE DU DOMAINE DE LA CIB :	C08K
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ANNEX/ ANNEXE	CONTENT/CONTENU	ORIGIN/ ORIGINE	DATE
1	Rapporteur proposal / Proposition du rapporteur	GB	09.02
2	Comments / Observations	EP	10.02
3	Comments / Observations	DE	10.02
4	Comments / Observations	RU	10.02
5	Comments / Observations	US	10.02
6	Rapporteur report / Rapport du rapporteur	GB	10.02

RAPPORTEUR : GB TECHNICAL FIELD/DOMAINE TECHNIQUE : C

 UK Patent Office

Date: 30 August 2002

 Rapporteur Proposal on Project H018, Subclass C08K

DOUBLE-PURPOSE INDEXING SCHEME IN C08K**INITIAL PROPOSAL**

Following the recommendations of IPC/WG/7/7 Annex I, we propose abolishing the above double-purpose indexing scheme and introducing a multiple classification scheme in its place.

C08K has a last place rule, and it is not clear to us how a last place rule fits comfortably with a multiple classification scheme. However IPC/WG/7/7 Annex H forbids introducing additional rules or classification approaches besides those already existing in the current IPC, and we don't remember any discussion at the WG about the effect of last place rules on multiple classification schemes. We have therefore kept the last place rule in this subclass, but **invite comments on the appropriateness of keeping this last place rule in these circumstances.**

We have used as the main criteria for the additional classification the *essential or characterizing* ingredients. This reflects the practice, in our experience, of most coal-face examiners who appear to have applied a multiple classification scheme based upon essential or characterizing features, rather than using the official indexing scheme.

Our proposal follows.

C08K Notes after
subclass title

- | | | |
|---|------------------|---|
| C | (3) | In this subclass, in addition to the classifications applied according to Notes (1) or (2), additional classifications are added according to the essential or characterizing ingredients of a mixture. These additional classifications are chosen from the groups of this subclass. |
| D | (4) | <Delete entire note> |
| D | 3/00 to
13/08 | <Delete vertical line> |

Jason Scott

Project: H018/02 Subclass: C08K

Comments on the proposal of UK for the double-purpose indexing scheme in C08K.

We agree with the proposal.

We think that the last place rule in C08K should be kept.

Anne Glanddier.

DEUTSCHES PATENT- UND MARKENAMT German Patent and Trade Mark Office	Class/Subcl.: C08K
	Date : 30/09/2002
DE - Comments — H018	

We support the solution proposed by the UK in Annex 1.

In our opinion a last place rule is indispensable in C08K, especially for the use of organic ingredients. We think it is appropriate to keep the last place rule in the multiple classification scheme, and we therefore suggest to keep Note (1).

Martina Fritzsche

FEDERAL INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY

RU comments	
Project : H 018	Date: 7.10.2002
Class/Subclass : C08K	

Re: IPC WG/7/7

We support the multiple classification scheme for mixtures in this subclass as well as Note (3) proposed by UK, but believe notes relating to classification of ingredients of mixtures to be anyhow standardized for all subclasses, wherever such notes are needed (e.g., C08L, C09D, C09J, D21H etc.), particularly in relation to the terms like "essential" or "novel" or the expression "if of interest".

We feel Note (1) in this subclass relating to the rule of classifying ingredients in accordance with the last appropriate place should be kept.

E.Bril,
M.Sobolev

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Project: H018/02

Subclass – C08K

Date: October 3, 2002

US comments on UK proposal (Annex 1- August 30, 2002) on the double purpose indexing scheme of C08K:

US doesn't believe any conflict exists with keeping the last place rule for classifying in C08K. We believe it is necessary to have some rule for the primary classification of a document and in addition to this rule, additional classifications may be made for novel and unobvious (invention information) or "of interest" subject matter. Since the last place rule is in effect for most, if not all of C08K, removing it now would mean that the patent documents classified in C08K would need to be reviewed for possible missing classifications.

At IPC/REF/7, comments were invited on developing standardized wording for "multiple classification-type" notes. Once a "standardized" wording for these types of notes is approved, the wording of the proposed new note (3) may need to be modified. Until then, we would like to suggest a change to note (3).

“(3) When classifying in this subclass, classifications are also made for individual ingredients of a mixture when ingredients are invention information or are of interest.”

UK Patent Office
Date: 24 October 2002

Rapporteur Report on Project H018, Subclass C08K

Following the recommendations of IPC/WG/7/7 Annex I, GB proposed abolishing the double-purpose indexing scheme in C08K and introducing a multiple classification scheme in its place. Comments were received from EP, DE, RU and US (Annexes 2-5).

EP, DE and **RU** agree with the proposal, and agree that the last place rule in C08K should be kept. **RU** also state, correctly, that standardised wordings for multiple classification schemes should be introduced. These are under consideration.

US also make the same points, and propose a change to note (3) proposed by GB. **R** prefers the general layout of US's proposed note since it is briefer and of similar layout to those proposed in other H-projects, but also prefers the terms **essential or characterising ingredients** (GB) to **Ingredients that are invention information or are of interest** (US). When standardised wordings are agreed, these will obviously be employed.

There is complete agreement regarding the use of a multiple classification scheme, and the keeping of the last place rule currently employed in C08K.

Pending standardised wordings, **R proposes:**

- | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------|--|
| (C) | Note (3) after subclass title | When classifying in this subclass, additional classifications are made according to the essential or characterizing individual ingredients of a mixture. These additional classification(s) are chosen from the groups of this subclass. |
| D | Note (4) | <Delete entire note> |
| D | 3/00 to 13/08 | <Delete vertical line> |

Martin Price



IPC/H 019/02
ORIGINAL: English/French
DATE: October 30, 2002

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COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS OF THE IPC UNION
COMITÉ D'EXPERTS DE L'UNION DE L'IPC

IPC HYBRID SYSTEM PROJECT FILE/DOSSIER DE PROJET DE SYSTÈME HYBRIDE DE LA CIB

PROPOSAL BY: PROPOSITION DE :	GB	HYBRID SYSTEM OF IPC AREA: SYSTÈME HYBRIDE DU DOMAINE DE LA CIB :	C08L
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ANNEX/ ANNEXE	CONTENT/CONTENU	ORIGIN/ ORIGINE	DATE
1	Rapporteur proposal / Proposition du rapporteur	GB	09.02
2	Comments / Observations	EP	10.02
3	Comments / Observations	DE	10.02
4	Comments / Observations	JP	10.02
5	Comments / Observations	RU	10.02
6	Comments / Observations	US	10.02
7	Rapporteur report / Rapport du rapporteur	GB	10.02

RAPPORTEUR : GB TECHNICAL FIELD/DOMAINE TECHNIQUE : C

UK Patent Office
Date: 30 August 2002

Rapporteur Proposal on Project H019, Subclass C08L

DOUBLE-PURPOSE INDEXING SCHEMES IN C08L**INITIAL PROPOSAL**

Following the recommendations of IPC/WG/7/7 Annex I, we propose abolishing the double-purpose indexing scheme in C08L and introducing a multiple classification scheme in its place.

We also note that there is a second double-purpose scheme in C08L, at Note (4), referring to C08J, that the WG seems not to have noticed when Rapporteurs were appointed to deal with these projects. We make proposals here relating to this scheme too.

We have used as the main criteria for multiple classification the *essential or characterizing* macromolecular constituents. This reflects the practice, in our experience, of most coal-face examiners who appear to have applied a multiple classification scheme based upon essential or characterizing features, rather than using the official indexing scheme.

Our proposal follows.

C08L Notes after
subclass title

C	(2)	In this subclass compositions are classified according to all of the or characterizing macromolecular constituents. e.g. a composition containing 80 parts polyethene and 20 parts chloride is classified in groups C08L 23/06 and C08L	essential polyvinyl 27/06
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D	(3)	<Delete entire note>	
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C	(4)	<Delete existing note, and replace with the following> Classifications are added as necessary from this subclass, relating to the materials used, when classifying in subclass C08J.	
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D	(5)	<Delete entire note>	
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C08J Notes after
subclass title

- C (3) <Delete existing note, and replace with the following>
In this subclass, classifications are added as necessary from subclass C08L,
relating to the materials used.

Jason Scott

Project: H019/02 Subclass: C08L

Comment on the initial proposal made by UK on the double-purpose indexing schemes in C08L.

The approach followed by UK is different from the ones we proposed to follow in C09D and C09J, but of course the end result should be the same.
We have no strong objections to UK proposal, but we thought, as written in our comment, that keeping an indexing scheme would allow a distinction between the ingredients in majority and the ingredients in minority, without adding to much noise in the searches.
So the solution suggested by UK in their comments to projects H020 and H021 could be followed.

Comment on the initial proposal made by UK on the double-purpose indexing schemes in C08J.

We agree with the proposal.

Anne Glanddier.

DEUTSCHES PATENT- UND MARKENAMT German Patent and Trade Mark Office	Class/Subcl.: C08L
	Date : 30/09/2002
DE - Comments — H019	

We support the solution proposed by the UK in Annex 1 and have no further comment on the proposal.

Martina Fritzsche

Japan Patent Office

September 30, 2002

Project:H019

Subclass:C08L

JP Comments on Rapporteur Proposal dated August 30, 2002

JP does not support the UK proposal to delete the existing items (a) and (b) of Notes (2), which say that compositions are classified “according to the mutual proportions by weight of only the macromolecular constituents” and “the macromolecular constituent or constituents present in the highest proportion,” and to create the new wording “compositions are classified according to all of the essential or characterizing macromolecular constituents” instead.

JP considers that the proposed modification will cause a big change to the classification principle of C08L. JP proposes to remain existing (a) and (b) of Note (2) and add proposed wording as (c).

Notes after subclass title

(2) In this subclass:

(a) *no change*

(b) *no change*

N (c) compositions are classified according to all of the essential or characterizing macromolecular constituents...

FEDERAL INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY

RU comments	
Project : H 019	Date: 7.10.2002
Class/Subclass : C08L	

Re: IPC WG/7/7

It is essential modification of the existing classification rules, in particular note 2(b), that the Rapporteur proposes in relation to this subclass. Although we agree that this note works well not in all cases, we see no need to change it. And one also should take into account that subclasses C09D and C09J probably need similar notes.

We support introduction of multiple classification scheme in this subclass, i.e., classification of ingredients of compositions, in addition to the classification applied in accordance with note (2). However we believe notes relating to classification of ingredients of mixtures to be anyhow standardized for all subclasses, wherever such notes could be needed, particularly in relation to the terms like "essential" or "novel" or the expression "if of interest".

E.Bril,
M.Sobolev

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Project: H019/02

Subclass – C08L

Date: October 3, 2002

US comments on UK proposal (Annex 1- August 30, 2002) on the double purpose indexing scheme of C08L:

Basically, US agrees with the UK proposal, however we are not certain that the proposed new note (2) truly means the same as the existing note (2) especially the part (b). Part (b) mentions that the “highest” or “equal” proportions of constituents are considered when placing classifications on the documents. US is not certain that this is apparent from UK’s new wording.

Also, the wording “as necessary” which is proposed in note (4) in C08L and note (3) in C08J could be replaced with wording stating that classifications are added from this subclass if they are invention information or are of interest. With this language, “essential or characterizing” may not be needed.

At IPC/REF/7, comments were invited on developing standardized wording for “multiple classification-type” notes. Once a “standardized” wording for these types of notes is approved, the wording of the proposed notes may need to be modified.

UK Patent Office**Date: 24 October 2002**

Rapporteur Report on Project H019, Subclass C08L

Following the recommendations of IPC/WG/7/7 Annex I, GB proposed abolishing the double-purpose indexing scheme in C08L and introducing a multiple classification scheme in its place. GB also noted that there is a second double-purpose scheme in C08L, at Note (4), referring to C08J, that the WG seems not to have noticed when Rapporteurs were appointed to deal with these projects, and made proposals relating to this scheme too. Comments were received from EP, DE, JP, RU and US (Annexes 2-6).

EP comment that the GB approach was different from their approach in C09D/J (Projects H020 and H021), but have no strong objection since the end result should be the same. They suggest, however, the solution proposed in the GB comments on projects H020 and H021.

DE fully agree with the GB proposal.

JP and **RU** agree with a multiple classification scheme in this subclass but do not agree with the GB proposal since the proposed new Note (2) appears to represent a major change in classification practice. **JP** also have a proposal for a new Note (2)(c).

US basically agree with the GB proposal but are not sure whether the proposed Note (2) truly means the same as the old Note (2) - this could mean the same as the JP/RU contention. They also have a minor suggestion about wording, and mention (in common with RU) standardised wordings for multiple classification notes.

Regarding the GB proposal for C08J, only EP and US have commented, with EP in favour and US proposing a slight change of wording.

R agrees with JP and RU that the proposed Note (2) from GB could be regarded as a change in classification philosophy - not allowed in H-projects. R proposes to follow the JP proposal for no change to Note (2), and JP's proposal for a Note (2)(c) with some changes for improved clarity, although R prefers JP's Note (2)(c) to be presented as an amended Note (3). Of course when standardised wording is elaborated, it will be employed in the new Note.

R proposes a slight change to the wording of Note (3) in C08J, with a corresponding change to Note (4) in C08L.

Proposal**C08L**

Notes after

subclass title

- Note (2) <Unchanged>
- C Note (3) When classifying in this subclass, additional classification(s) are made according to all of the essential or characterizing macromolecular constituents, e.g. a composition containing 80 parts polyethene and 20 parts polyvinyl chloride is classified in groups C08L 23/06 and C08L 27/06.
- C Note (4) <Delete existing note, and replace with the following>
Additional classification(s) are made from this subclass, relating to essential or characterising materials used, when classifying in subclass C08I.
- D Note (5) <Delete entire note>

C08J

Notes after
subclass title

- C Note (3) <Delete existing note, and replace with the following>
When classifying in this subclass, additional classification(s) are made from subclass C08L, relating to essential or characterising materials used.

Martin Price



IPC/H 020/02

ORIGINAL: English/French

DATE: November 1, 2002

**WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
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GENEVA/GENÈVE

COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS OF THE IPC UNION
COMITÉ D'EXPERTS DE L'UNION DE L'IPC

IPC HYBRID SYSTEM PROJECT FILE/DOSSIER DE PROJET DE SYSTÈME HYBRIDE DE LA CIB

PROPOSAL BY: PROPOSITION DE :	EP	HYBRID SYSTEM OF IPC AREA: SYSTÈME HYBRIDE DU DOMAINE DE LA CIB :	C09D
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ANNEX/ ANNEXE	CONTENT/CONTENU	ORIGIN/ ORIGINE	DATE
1	Proposal / Proposition	EP	08.02
2	Comments / Observations	GB	09.02
3	Comments / Observations	DE	10.02
4	Comments / Observations	US	10.02
5	Rapporteur report / Rapport du rapporteur	EP	11.02

RAPPORTEUR : EP

TECHNICAL FIELD/DOMAINE TECHNIQUE :

C



Project: H020 Conversion of IPC indexing schemes: C09D101/00-201/00

Following the recommendations of IPC/7/7 Annex I, we propose to convert the existing indexing scheme into a multiple classification scheme.

In the case of a coating comprising a composition of polymers, the constituent in majority will give the classification information, and the other constituents in minority will give the nonobligatory classification information. That will prevent the loss of information and hopefully limit the noise in on line searching.

The notes following the title of C09D should be modified as follow:

C09D

Notes after
title

- C (3) In this subclass, coatings comprising two or more macromolecular constituents are given invention information classifications according to the macromolecular constituent or constituents present in the highest proportion, i.e. the constituent on which the coating is based. If the coating is based on two or more constituents, present in equal proportions, the coating is classified according to each of these constituents.
Examples: a coating containing 80 parts of polyethene and 20 parts of polyvinylchloride is given the invention information classification C 09 D 123/06.
A coating containing 40 parts of polyethene and 40 parts of polyvinylchloride is given the invention information classifications C 09 D 123/06 and C 09 D 127/06.
- (4) In groups C 09 D 101/00 to C 09 D 201/00, it is advisable to add other (non-invention information) classifications relating to additional macromolecular constituents of the coating.
- D <Former Note 5>
- D <Delete vertical lines 101/00 to 201/10>

Anne Glanddier.

UK Patent Office**Date: 19 September 2002**

Comments on Project H020 , Subclass C09D

[Almost identical comments are made in respect of projects H020 and H021]

We agree with the general philosophy and approach of the Rapporteur. We agree that a multiple classification scheme would be desirable here so that information is not lost, and we agree that useful information will improve quality of online searching and will not generate too much noise.

In some ways we wish we could change the overall classification approach of this subclass, because many or most patent applications in this subclass tend to be directed to new additives or minor components in a coating composition, not to the overall binder in highest proportion. Searching for the macromolecular constituent of highest proportion is not usually very effective. However the guidelines we have for abolishing or converting these double-purpose schemes do not allow for changes in the overall classification approach of a subclass, and therefore the general approach detailed in Note (3) cannot be changed in the context of this hybrid project.

We therefore need to cater for the essential matter claimed in a patent application, and the best way is via a multiple classification scheme as detailed by the Rapporteur. However we would suggest a few detail changes.

Firstly we do not see the need to refer to *Ainvention information classifications@* and *Anon-invention information classifications@* in this subclass, since most other hybrid proposals in existence do not mention this terminology. Since this type of wording is the only proposed amendment to Note (3), we think that **existing Note (3) in this subclass should remain unchanged.**

As for the amended Note (4), we feel that the additional classification should refer to macromolecular constituents that are *Aof interest@* or *Aessential or characterizing@*, see the wordings from some other hybrid proposals. We do not feel that referring to this matter as *Aadditional ... constituents@* or *Anon-invention information@* would adequately cover it, indeed conventional or commonly-used ingredients would be covered too, and matter specifically claimed in claim 1 might not be regarded as important enough to be classified. We therefore propose a different wording to Note (4) as follows:

Note (4) *In groups 101/00 to 201/00, in addition to the classifications applied in accordance with any of Notes (1) to (3), additional classifications are made, chosen from these groups, relating to essential or characterizing macromolecular constituents of the coating.*

Martin Price

DEUTSCHES PATENT- UND MARKENAMT German Patent and Trade Mark Office	Class/Subcl.: C09D
	Date : 30/09/2002
DE - Comments — H020	

We generally support the solution proposed by EP in the rapporteur report converting the existing indexing scheme into a multiple classification scheme.

As proposed by the UK we prefer the wording of the existing Note (3) to remain unchanged. We also support the wording of Note (4) suggested by the UK.

Martina Fritzsche

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Project: H020/02

Group – C09D 101/00-201/00

Date: October 3, 2002

US comments on EP proposal (Annex 1- August 22, 2002) on the double purpose indexing scheme of C09D 101/00-201/00:

US agrees with the UK comment of Annex 2 that note (3) needs no modification at this time. As for the proposed note (4), for now we would add “if the constituents are of interest” or “if the constituents are considered invention information or are of interest” at the end and delete “(non-invention information)”.

At IPC/REF/7, comments were invited on developing standardized wording for “multiple classification-type” notes. Once a “standardized” wording for these types of notes is approved, the wording of the proposed notes (3) and (4) may need to be modified.

ssss

Project: H020 Subclass: C09D

Comments have been received from UK, DE and US.

UK proposes an alternative solution, which is supported by DE and US.

Therefore we propose to follow the UK proposal, modified by US:

C09D

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Notes
after
title | (3) <Unchanged> |
| C | (4) In groups 101/00 to 201/00, in addition to the classifications applied in accordance with any of Notes (1) to (3), additional classifications are made, chosen from these groups, relating to essential or characterizing macromolecular constituents of the coating, if the constituents are considered invention information or are of interest. |
| D | <Former Note 5> |
| D | <Delete vertical lines 101/00 to 201/10> |

Anne Glanddier.



IPC/H 021/02
ORIGINAL: English/French
DATE: November 1, 2002

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COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS OF THE IPC UNION
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IPC HYBRID SYSTEM PROJECT FILE/DOSSIER DE PROJET DE SYSTÈME HYBRIDE DE LA CIB

PROPOSAL BY: PROPOSITION DE :	EP	HYBRID SYSTEM OF IPC AREA: SYSTÈME HYBRIDE DU DOMAINE DE LA CIB :	C09J
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ANNEX/ ANNEXE	CONTENT/CONTENU	ORIGIN/ ORIGINE	DATE
1	Proposal / Proposition	EP	08.02
2	Comments / Observations	GB	09.02
3	Comments / Observations	DE	10.02
4	Comments / Observations	JP	10.02
5	Comments / Observations	RU	10.02
6	Comments / Observations	US	10.02
7	Rapporteur report / Rapport du rapporteur	EP	11.02

RAPPORTEUR : EP TECHNICAL FIELD/DOMAINE TECHNIQUE : C

Project: H021 Conversion of IPC indexing schemes: C09J101/00-201/00

Following the recommendations of IPC/7/7 Annex I, we propose to convert the existing indexing scheme into a multiple classification scheme.

In the case of an adhesive comprising a composition of polymers, the constituent in majority will give the classification information, and the other constituents in minority will give the nonobligatory classification information. That will prevent the loss of information and hopefully limit the noise in on line searching.

The notes following the title of C09J should be modified as follow:

C09J

Notes after
title

- | | |
|-------|--|
| C (3) | <p>In this subclass, adhesives comprising two or more macromolecular constituents are given invention information classifications according to the macromolecular constituent or constituents present in the highest proportion, i.e. the constituent on which the adhesive is based. If the adhesive is based on two or more constituents, present in equal proportions, the adhesive is classified according to each of these constituents.</p> <p>Examples: an adhesive containing 80 parts of polyethene and 20 parts of polyvinylchloride is given the invention information classification C 09 J 123/06.</p> <p>An adhesive containing 40 parts of polyethene and 40 parts of polyvinylchloride is given the invention information classifications C 09 J 123/06 and C 09 J 127/06.</p> |
| (4) | <p>In groups C 09 J 101/00 to C 09 J 201/00, it is advisable to add other (non-invention information) classifications relating to additional macromolecular constituents of the adhesive.</p> |
| D | <p><Former Note 5></p> |
| D | <p><Delete vertical lines 101/00 to 201/10></p> |

Anne Glanddier.

UK Patent Office**Date: 19 September 2002**

Comments on Project H021 , Subclass C09J

[Almost identical comments are made in respect of projects H020 and H021]

We agree with the general philosophy and approach of the Rapporteur. We agree that a multiple classification scheme would be desirable here so that information is not lost, and we agree that useful information will improve quality of online searching and will not generate too much noise.

In some ways we wish we could change the overall classification approach of this subclass, because many or most patent applications in this subclass tend to be directed to new additives or minor components in an adhesive, not to the macromolecular constituent in highest proportion. Searching for the macromolecular constituent of highest proportion is not usually very effective. However the guidelines we have for abolishing or converting these double-purpose schemes do not allow for changes in the overall classification approach of a subclass, and therefore the general approach detailed in Note (3) cannot be changed in the context of this hybrid project.

We therefore need to cater for the essential matter claimed in a patent application, and the best way is via a multiple classification scheme as detailed by the Rapporteur. However we would suggest a few detail changes.

Firstly we do not see the need to refer to *invention information classifications* and *Non-invention information classifications* in this subclass, since most other hybrid proposals in existence do not mention this terminology. Since this type of wording is the only proposed amendment to Note (3), we think that **existing Note (3) in this subclass should remain unchanged.**

As for the amended Note (4), we feel that the additional classification should refer to macromolecular constituents that are *of interest* or *essential or characterizing*, see the wordings from some other hybrid proposals. We do not feel that referring to this matter as *Additional ... constituents* or *Non-invention information* would adequately cover it, indeed conventional or commonly-used ingredients would be covered too, and matter specifically claimed in claim 1 might not be regarded as important enough to be classified. We therefore propose a different wording to Note (4) as follows:

Note (4) *In groups 101/00 to 201/00, in addition to the classifications applied in accordance with any of Notes (1) to (3), additional classifications are made, chosen from these groups, relating to essential or characterizing macromolecular constituents of the adhesive.*

Martin Price

DEUTSCHES PATENT- UND MARKENAMT German Patent and Trade Mark Office	Class/Subcl.: C09J
	Date : 30/09/2002
DE - Comments — H021	

We generally support the solution proposed by EP proposed in the rapporteur report converting the existing indexing scheme into a multiple classification scheme.

As proposed by the UK and already described in H020 we prefer the wording of the existing Note (3) to remain unchanged. We also support the wording of Note (4) suggested by the UK.

Martina Fritzsche

Japan Patent Office

September 30, 2002

Project:H-021Subclass:C09J

JP Comments

JP has no special preference. We have dealt with the indexing scheme of C09J as arbitrary classifications, and classified a small-quantity polymer component as additional information rather than invention information or indexing code. Consequently, it is considered that this conversion will not cause any inconvenience as a search information.

FEDERAL INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY

RU comments	
Project : H 021	Date: 7.10.2002
Class/Subclass : C09J	

Re: IPC WG/7/7

We cannot agree with the wordings of notes (3) and (4) proposed by the EPO in relation to the terms "invention information" and "non-invention information" which seem not quite relevant here, because invention information is not necessarily represented by macromolecular constituent present in the highest proportion and it is well known that additives too may represent invention information. Therefore we suggest that these expressions be deleted in both notes.

Note (3)

Like the UK, we would like to have it unchanged.

Note (4)

We share the UK's opinion of this note, however, out of two alternative wordings present in the UK's comments ("of interest" and "essential or characterizing") we would prefer the first one, since, to our mind, it reflects the real classifier's needs better.

So we propose the following wording:

Note (4)

In groups 101/00 to 201/00, in addition to the classifications applied in accordance with any of Notes (1) to (3), it is advisable to add classifications, chosen from these groups, relating to the other macromolecular constituents of the adhesive if they are of interest.

M.Sobolev,
E.Brill

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Project: H021/02

Group – C09J 101/00-201/00

Date: October 3, 2002

US comments on EP proposal (Annex 1- August 22, 2002) on the double purpose indexing scheme of C09J 101/00-201/00:

US agrees with the UK comment of Annex 2 that note (3) needs no modification at this time. As for the proposed note (4), for now we would add “if the constituents are of interest” or “if the constituents are considered invention information or are of interest” at the end and delete “(non-invention information)”.

At IPC/REF/7, comments were invited on developing standardized wording for “multiple classification-type” notes. Once a “standardized” wording for these types of notes is approved, the wording of the proposed notes (3) and (4) may need to be modified.

Project: H020 Subclass: C09J

Comments have been received from UK, DE, JP, RU and US.

UK proposes an alternative solution, which is supported by DE, RU and US.

Therefore we propose to follow the UK proposal, modified by US:

C09J

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Notes
after
title | (3) <Unchanged> |
| C | (4) In groups 101/00 to 201/00, in addition to the classifications applied in accordance with any of Notes (1) to (3), additional classifications are made, chosen from these groups, relating to essential or characterizing macromolecular constituents of the adhesive, if the constituents are considered invention information or are of interest. |
| D | <Former Note 5> |
| D | <Delete vertical lines 101/00 to 201/10> |

Anne Glanddier.



IPC/H 022/02

ORIGINAL: English/French

DATE: November 14, 2002

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA PROPRIÉTÉ INTELLECTUELLE
GENEVA/GENÈVE

COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS OF THE IPC UNION
COMITÉ D'EXPERTS DE L'UNION DE L'IPC

IPC HYBRID SYSTEM PROJECT FILE/DOSSIER DE PROJET DE SYSTÈME HYBRIDE DE LA CIB

PROPOSAL BY: PROPOSITION DE :	SE	HYBRID SYSTEM OF IPC AREA: SYSTÈME HYBRIDE DU DOMAINE DE LA CIB :	C10M
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ANNEX/ ANNEXE	CONTENT/CONTENU	ORIGIN/ ORIGINE	DATE
1	Rapporteur proposal / Proposition du rapporteur	SE	10.02
2	Comments / Observations	US	10.02
3	Comments / Observations	EP	10.02
4	Rapporteur report / Rapport du rapporteur	SE	11.02

RAPPORTEUR : SE

TECHNICAL FIELD/DOMAINE TECHNIQUE :

C

Swedish Patent and Registration Office

IPC Hybrid Project H022/02, subclass C10M

October 15th, 2002

Proposal

The hybrid system C10M 101/00-109/00, 113/00- 121/00, 125/00-139/00, 143/00-155/00, 159/00, 162/00-167/00

In the above mentioned classes it is desirable to add the indexing codes relating to individual components of a lubricating composition.

It is important to classify the individual ingredients in a composition, so this feature is necessary.

Our expert in this field has not used the index codes in C10M. She has classified the individual components in the composition.

There are two alternatives how to deal with the index codes:

- 1 Apply the last place rule, together with non-obligatory additional classification of individual ingredients.
- 2 Abolish the index codes and classify each individual component in a composition. The last place rule should be used for each component.

Alternative 1 would lead to a system that will work as the existing indexing codes. It is necessary to include a note with recommendations for non-obligatory additional classification of the individual ingredients.

A suggestion of the new note:

In this subclass the following rules for classification of compositions are applied:

(5) In this subclass, it is desirable to give additional non-obligatory non-invention classifications relating to

- *each of the essential ingredients of a mixture. However in the case of an aqueous lubricating composition covered by group 173/00, the presence of water is not indicated.*
- *each of the essential reactants of the reaction product covered by 109/02, 121/02 or 159/12.*

We prefer alternative 2, since it seems to be the easiest and practical way to classify individual components in this field.

In alternative 2 it is necessary to change the wording of note (3).

Our suggestion of formulation of a new note is:

(3) In this subclass, in the absence of an indication to the contrary, classification is made in the last appropriate place. For example, a compound having an aromatic ring is classified as aromatic regardless of whether the substituent(s) of interest are on the ring or on an aliphatic part of the molecule.

All active components in a composition should be classified individually in groups C10M 101/00-109/00, 113/00-121/00, 125/00-139/00, 143/00-155/00, 159/00, 162/00-167/00. Each individual component should be classified in the last appropriate place.

Note (5) should then be deleted.

C10N

C10N is an indexing scheme that is associated with subclass C10M.

The Reform Working Group has suggested that this subclass should be retained.

We are of the same opinion since C10N gives useful information and can be used as a search tool. We have not analysed statically how much these subgroups are used. If some of the subgroups are not used we think that those subgroup could be removed from the scheme, otherwise the whole scheme should be retained.

Carolina Gómez Lagerlöf

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Project: H022/02

Subclass – C10M

Date: October 15, 2002

US comments on SE proposal (Annex 1- October 15, 2002) on the double-purpose schemes of C10M:

US agrees with abolishing the double-purpose schemes and introducing multiple classification in its place. In order to maintain the classification philosophy of C10M, we would prefer to use a modified version of alternative 1. We would suggest the following wording for proposed note (5).

“(5) When classifying in this subclass, additional classifications are made for each essential ingredient of a mixture, except for water in the case of compositions covered by group 173/00, and each essential reactant of a reaction product covered by groups 109/02, 121/04 or 159/12 when these essential components are considered to be of interest.”

This would not change the classification philosophy of the area since this is primarily what existing note (5) stated. The words “*are considered invention information or*” could be added after “components,” but this would slightly change the classification philosophy which may not be acceptable at this time since previous patent document placement could be influenced.

At IPC/REF/7, comments were invited on developing standardized wording for “multiple classification-type” notes. Once a “standardized” wording for these types of notes is approved, the wording of the proposed note may need to be modified.

US is not certain that all of the C10N indexing scheme is proper to retain. In the guidelines for creating indexing schemes, it is stated that indexing schemes should not be created to cover aspects of subject matter that are already specified with the scope of the groups they are associated with. C10N 10:00 is titled “Metal present as such or in compounds”. C10M has several areas within the scheme, which would be appropriate for this subject matter (e.g., 103/04, 103/06, 113/06, 124/04, etc.). C10N 60:00 and 70:00 include after-treatment of constituents of lubricating compositions and special methods of preparation. This is identical to the subject matter of C10M 177/00 as far as we can tell.



Project: H022/02 Subclass: C10M

**Conc.: 1) Double purpose indexing scheme used in C10M
2) Separate indexing scheme C10N**

1) C10M

Referring to the initial SE proposal, it is not completely clear to us how R came to the formulation of the two "alternatives".

Nevertheless, EP supports the general idea of the US modified version of alternative I, keeping in mind the ongoing "quest" for a standardised note, as referred to in the US comments.

2) C10N

EP agrees with SE and US (and thus with the recommendations of the Reform WG) that subclass C10N should be retained for indexing of documents classified in C10M. We also agree with US that, in the light of the recommendations, approved by the CE concerning the creation of indexing codes, we might have to reconsider some of the existing entries in this indexing subclass.

Paul Daeleman

Swedish Patent and Registration Office

IPC Hybrid Project H022, subclass C10M

November 13th, 2002

Rapporteur report

The double-purpose scheme of C10M

In the Rapporteur proposal to alternatives were suggested:

- 1 Apply the last place rule, together with non-obligatory additional classification of individual ingredients.
- 2 Abolish the index codes and classify each individual component in a composition. The last place rule should be used for each component.

Comments were received from US and EP.

US agrees with abolishing the double-purpose schemes and introducing multiple classification in its place.

US also suggested of new wording for note (5).

EP supports the general idea of the US modified version.

Many of the double-purpose schemes in the IPC concern the problem how to classify the individual ingredients in a composition. The schemes have not been used as they were meant to, because many of the examiners did not trust the system.

In the hybrid projects dealing with this problem have different solutions been suggested. It is important that when these schemes are going to be changed that they are changed in a consistent way. Not only should a standard note be formulated, but R thinks that it would be useful if this matter could be discussed more generally than in the different projects.

C10N

R suggested that this subclass should be retained.

US and EP agree to retain the subclass, but are uncertain if all entries are necessary.

R suggests that all C10N should be retained. US is correct that C10M 177/00 covers the same subject matter as C10N 60:00 and 70:00, but to abolish these subgroups would lead to double classification in C10M which is not recommended due to last place rule.

Carolina Gómez Lagerlöf



IPC/H 023/02

ORIGINAL: English/French

DATE: October 30, 2002

**WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA PROPRIÉTÉ INTELLECTUELLE**

GENEVA/GENÈVE

COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS OF THE IPC UNION
COMITÉ D'EXPERTS DE L'UNION DE L'IPC

IPC HYBRID SYSTEM PROJECT FILE/DOSSIER DE PROJET DE SYSTÈME HYBRIDE DE LA CIB

PROPOSAL BY: PROPOSITION DE :	GB	HYBRID SYSTEM OF IPC AREA: SYSTÈME HYBRIDE DU DOMAINE DE LA CIB :	C11D
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ANNEX/ ANNEXE	CONTENT/CONTENU	ORIGIN/ ORIGINE	DATE
1	Rapporteur proposal / Proposition du rapporteur	GB	09.02
2	Comments / Observations	EP	09.02
3	Comments / Observations	DE	10.02
4	Comments / Observations	US	10.02
5	Rapporteur report / Rapport du rapporteur	GB	10.02

RAPPORTEUR : GB

TECHNICAL FIELD/DOMAINE TECHNIQUE :

C

UK Patent Office**Date: 30 August 2002**

Rapporteur Proposal on Project H023, Subclass C11D

DOUBLE-PURPOSE INDEXING SCHEME RELATING TO C11D 1/00 TO 9/00**INITIAL PROPOSAL**

Following the recommendations of IPC/WG/7/7 Annex I, we propose abolishing the above double-purpose indexing scheme and introducing a multiple classification scheme in its place.

We have used as the main criteria for the additional classification the *essential or characterizing* ingredients. This reflects the practice, in our experience, of most coal-face examiners who appear to have applied a multiple classification scheme based upon essential or characterizing features, rather than using the official indexing scheme.

Our proposal follows.

C11D Notes after
subclass title

- C (1) In this subclass, detergent compositions that are classified in groups 1/00 to 10/00 are also given additional classifications according to the essential or characterizing ingredients of the compositions. These additional classifications are chosen from groups 1/00 to 9/00.
- D (2) <Delete entire note>
- D 1/00 to <Delete vertical line>
9/50

Martin Price

Project: H023 Subclass: C11D

Re.: GB proposal of 30/8/02

We agree with the general idea of the GB proposal. We would however like to propose a slightly different wording. It seems to us that GB's proposal could be interpreted as involving more than only the replacement of the existing indexing system for the mixture groups by a system of multiple classification.

So our proposal for the new note (1) after the subclass title of C11D is as follows:

- (1) *In this subclass, when classifying in one or more of the mixture groups of groups 1/00 to 10/00, classification is also made for essential or characterising ingredients of the composition in groups 1/00 to 9/00*

Paul Daeleman

DEUTSCHES PATENT- UND MARKENAMT German Patent and Trade Mark Office	Class/Subcl.: C11D
	Date : 30/09/2002
DE - Comments — H023	

We support the solution proposed by the UK in Annex 1 and have no further comment on the proposal.

Martina Fritzsche

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Project: H023/02

Subclass – C11D

Date: October 3, 2002

US comments on UK proposal (Annex 1- August 30, 2002) on the double purpose indexing scheme relating to C11D 1/00 to 9/00:

US supports the UK proposal, but would like to propose a wording modification in note (1). This same wording could be used in the proposed EP note (1) of annex 2.

Even with the proposed wording changes, at IPC/REF/7, comments were invited on developing standardized wording for “multiple classification-type” notes. Once a “standardized” wording for these types of notes is approved, the wording of the proposed new note (1) may need to be modified. We would like to insert the language “*if the ingredients are considered invention information or are of interest*” after “ingredients of the compositions”. With this language, “essential or characterizing” may not be needed.

UK Patent Office
Date: 24 October 2002

Rapporteur Report on Project H023, Subclass C11D

GB proposed to abolish the double-purpose indexing scheme relating to C11D 1/00 to 9/00, and replace it with a multiple classification scheme. Comments were received from EP, DE and US (Annexes 2-4).

EP agree with the general idea of the proposal, but suggest different wording for GB's proposed Note (1).

DE fully support the GB proposal.

US also support the GB proposal, but suggest different wording for Note (1) along lines proposed by the US office elsewhere (the wording being *if the ingredients are invention information or are of interest*). Such wording could be applicable to either the GB wording of Annex 1 or the EP wording of Annex 2. US do not particularly like the wording *essential or characterising* favoured by the UK office and here by the EPO. US also point out the likelihood of standardised wording being agreed for multiple-classification schemes.

R suggests a slightly modified version of the EP wording of Annex 2, pending a decision on standardised wordings. The proposal reads:

C	Note (1) after subclass title	In this subclass, when classifying in one or more of the mixture groups 1/00 to 10/00, additional classification is also made in groups 1/00 to 9/00 for essential or characterising ingredients of the composition.
D	Note (2)	<Delete entire note>
D	1/00 to 9/50	<Delete vertical line>

Martin Price



IPC/H 024/02

ORIGINAL: English/French

DATE: November 18, 2002

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GENEVA/GENÈVE

**COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS OF THE IPC UNION
COMITÉ D'EXPERTS DE L'UNION DE L'IPC**

IPC HYBRID SYSTEM PROJECT FILE/DOSSIER DE PROJET DE SYSTÈME HYBRIDE DE LA CIB

PROPOSAL BY: PROPOSITION DE :	IE	HYBRID SYSTEM OF IPC AREA: SYSTÈME HYBRIDE DU DOMAINE DE LA CIB :	C12R
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ANNEX/ ANNEXE	CONTENT/CONTENU	ORIGIN/ ORIGINE	DATE
1	Rapporteur proposal / Proposition du rapporteur	IE	11.02
2	Comments / Observations	US	11.02
3	Comments / Observations	GB	11.02

RAPPORTEUR : IE

TECHNICAL FIELD/DOMAINE TECHNIQUE :

C



Oifig na bPaitinní
Irish Patents Office

Project: H024/02 **Subclass:** C12R

IE proposal for indexing scheme C12R.

1. Introduction

The subclass C12R was introduced into the IPC at the third edition. It is an indexing scheme, relating to all parts of C12, and concerns the nature of the microorganisms employed in inventions classified under C12. Apart from small amendments for editions 5 and 7, it has essentially existed in original form since then. The indexed codes are linked to the primary classification code from which they arise.

This subclass was recommended for abolition by the ad hoc Reform Working Group, when considering the role of indexing schemes in the Reformed IPC.

2. Discussion

The subclass is moderately used. An examination of applications and grants throughout the Int. Cl.⁵ to Int. Cl.⁷ periods shows that C12R codes appear in only 1.7% of all C12 classified European and PCT applications since 1 January 1990. For granted patents, however, invocation of C12R in conjunction with all subclasses of C12 is much higher, at 16.6% overall.

The use of C12R is not uniform across C12 Subclasses. In particular, there is strong co-classification between C12R and both C12N and C12P, with a weaker though still significant link with C12Q. There is, however, no significant indexing of C12R with any other C12 subclass, with some having no C12R indexing whatsoever.

C12N involves microorganisms and enzymes themselves, their propagation and preservation, mutation or genetic engineering and culture media. C12P concerns the use of microorganisms or enzymes in the manufacture of chemical compounds or the separation of optical isomers. It is clear that the microorganism relating to the invention is strongly relevant to the subject matter of these subgroups.

3. Proposal

Following from the above, there are a number of possibilities. These are

- i) the retention of C12R in its entirety, as it currently operates
- ii) the retention of C12R as an indexing subclass for C12N and C12P

iii) the abolition of C12R.

On the basis of the foregoing, option ii is probably the most efficient, and most closely reflects current practice by IPC classifiers. However, as this does not fall under either abolition, retention or conversion, it is probably most practical to retain the status quo.

Hence, IE proposes the retention of C12R in its current format.

Fergal Brady
Irish Patents Office

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Project: H024/02

Subclass – C12R

Date: November 14, 2002

US comments on IE proposal (Annex 1) on the indexing scheme C12R:

Based on the research done by IE, US supports the IE proposal to retain C12R as it now exists. Since there is no other place in C12 with such detailed subdivisions of the genera and species of micro-organisms, it would be helpful to keep C12R for search purposes.

UK Patent Office

Date: 15 November 2002

Comments on Project H024 , Subclass C12R

We support the Rapporteur's reasoning and conclusions, even though the figures quoted by the Rapporteur do not seem to indicate that there is a cogent body of searchable art there in view of the moderate degree of use of this indexing scheme.

Still, some use has been made of C12R and it would be a big step to abolish it completely; we agree that retaining it and restricting its applicability to C12N and C12P would be a little artificial. We have to conclude that C12R has some value and should be retained in its present form for the time being, but perhaps we will need to revisit the question in a few years' time.

Martin Price



IPC/H 025/02

ORIGINAL: English/French

DATE: October 22, 2002

**WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA PROPRIÉTÉ INTELLECTUELLE**

GENEVA/GENÈVE

COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS OF THE IPC UNION
COMITÉ D'EXPERTS DE L'UNION DE L'IPC

IPC HYBRID SYSTEM PROJECT FILE/DOSSIER DE PROJET DE SYSTÈME HYBRIDE DE LA CIB

PROPOSAL BY: PROPOSITION DE :	DE	HYBRID SYSTEM OF IPC AREA: SYSTÈME HYBRIDE DU DOMAINE DE LA CIB :	C21D
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ANNEX/ ANNEXE	CONTENT/CONTENU	ORIGIN/ ORIGINE	DATE
1	Rapporteur proposal / Proposition du rapporteur	DE	10.02
2	Comments / Observations	GB	10.02
3	Comments / Observations	US	10.02
4	Comments / Observations	EP	10.02

RAPPORTEUR : DE

TECHNICAL FIELD/DOMAINE TECHNIQUE :

C

DEUTSCHES PATENT- UND MARKENAMT German Patent and Trade Mark Office	Class/Subcl.: C 21 D 6/00
	Date : 30.09.02
DE - Proposal — H025/02	

Following the recommendations of IPC/WG/7/7, par. 29-31, we propose abolishing the double-purpose indexing scheme and introducing a multiple classification scheme in its place.

1. Our proposal for the new notes (1) and (2) after the main group title of C 21 D 6/00 Heat treatment of ferrous alloys:

<Delete existing notes and replace with the following>

Notes

- C (1) In this group, if an aspect of the heat treatment methods is an essential criteria for additional classification, additional classification is made in groups 1/02 to 1/84.
- C (2) If alloying constituents represent an essential information in this group, additional classification is made in groups chosen from C 22 C 38/02 to 38/60.
- D (3) <Delete entire note>
- D 1/02 to 1/84 <Delete vertical line>

2. With regard to the decision of the IPC/REF to abolish the indexing scheme C 22 K (see document IPC/WG/7/7, Annex I), it would be necessary to delete the note after the subclass title of C 21 D referring to the indexing codes of subclass C 22 K. Our experts support this abolishment and they do not see the need to convert the existing indexing scheme into a classification scheme.

UK Patent Office

Date: 3 October 2002

Comments on Project H025 , Subclass C21D

We support the Rapporteur proposal.

Martin Price

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Project: H025/02

Group – C21D 6/00

Date: October 3, 2002

US comments on DE proposal (Annex 1- September 30, 2002) on the double-purpose indexing scheme of C21D 6/00:

US supports DE's proposal, but would suggest some language changes in the proposed notes (1) and (2).

Notes

- C (1) In this group, if an aspect of the heat treatment methods is considered invention information or is of interest, additional classifications are made in groups 1/02 to 1/84.
- C (2) In this group, if alloying constituents are considered invention information or are of interest, additional classifications are made in groups chosen from C 22 C 38/02 to 38/60.

At IPC/REF/7, comments were invited on developing standardized wording for “multiple classification-type” notes. Once a “standardized” wording for these types of notes is approved, the wording of the proposed notes may need to be modified.

Project: H025/02 Subclass: C21D

Conc.: Double-purpose indexing schemes used in C21D6/00

EP agrees with the general idea of R's proposal to replace this indexing system by a multi-classification system guided by the new proposed notes.

EP also agrees with US that for the final formulation of such notes, we will have to consider the general standardised note(s) to be adopted later. Indeed, in the different H-projects, quite a lot of different versions have been proposed for bringing (more or less) the same message.

Remark: In our understanding, a separate H-project would be started later to discuss indexing subclass C22K. Therefore, our comments for this indexing system are still in preparation.

Paul Daeleman



IPC/H 026/02

ORIGINAL: English/French

DATE: October 22, 2002

**WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA PROPRIÉTÉ INTELLECTUELLE**

GENEVA/GENÈVE

COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS OF THE IPC UNION
COMITÉ D'EXPERTS DE L'UNION DE L'IPC

IPC HYBRID SYSTEM PROJECT FILE/DOSSIER DE PROJET DE SYSTÈME HYBRIDE DE LA CIB

PROPOSAL BY: PROPOSITION DE :	DE	HYBRID SYSTEM OF IPC AREA: SYSTÈME HYBRIDE DU DOMAINE DE LA CIB :	C22B
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ANNEX/ ANNEXE	CONTENT/CONTENU	ORIGIN/ ORIGINE	DATE
1	Rapporteur proposal / Proposition du rapporteur	DE	10.02
2	Comments / Observations	GB	10.02
3	Comments / Observations	US	10.02
4	Comments / Observations	EP	10.02

RAPPORTEUR : DE

TECHNICAL FIELD/DOMAINE TECHNIQUE :

C

DEUTSCHES PATENT- UND MARKENAMT German Patent and Trade Mark Office	Class/Subcl.: C 22 B 3/00
	Date : 01.10.02
DE - Proposal — H026/02	

Following the recommendations of IPC/WG/7/7, par. 29-31, we propose abolishing the double-purpose indexing scheme and introducing a multiple classification scheme in its place.

1. Our proposal for a new note after the main group title of C 22 B 3/00 Extraction of metal compounds from ores or concentrates by wet processes :

<Delete existing notes (1) and (2) and replace with the following>

Note

- C In this group, additional classification is made relating to the metals obtained. The classification symbols are chosen from the main groups (only) of groups 11/00 to 25/00, from group 19/34 or from any of the groups 26/00 to 61/00.
- D <Delete note 2 completely>
- D <Delete vertical lines from 11/00, 13/00, 15/00, 17/00, 19/00, 19/34, 21/00, 23/00, 25/00, 26/00 to 61/00>.

Angelika Eva Zettler

UK Patent Office

Date: 3 October 2002

Comments on Project H026 , Subclass C22B

We support the Rapporteur proposal.

Martin Price

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Project: H026/02

Group – C22B 3/00

Date: October 3, 2002

US comments on DE proposal (Annex 1- October 1, 2002) on the double-purpose indexing scheme of C22B 3/00:

US supports DE's proposal, but would suggest some language changes in the proposed note.

Note

- C In this group, additional classifications are made relating to the metals obtained if these metals are considered invention information or are of interest. The classification symbols are chosen from the main groups (only) of groups 11/00 to 25/00, from group 19/34 or from any of the groups 26/00 to 61/00.

At IPC/REF/7, comments were invited on developing standardized wording for “multiple classification-type” notes. Once a “standardized” wording for these types of notes is approved, the wording of the proposed note may need to be modified.

Project: H026/02 Subclass: C22B

Conc.: Double-purpose indexing scheme used in C22B3/00

EP agrees with R's proposal to replace this indexing system by a multi- classification system guided by the new proposed note.

The general idea of US version of the note is preferred however. EP also agrees with the US-remark about standardising such a note.

Paul Daeleman



IPC/H 027/02

ORIGINAL: English/French

DATE: October 22, 2002

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA PROPRIÉTÉ INTELLECTUELLE
GENEVA/GENÈVE

COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS OF THE IPC UNION
COMITÉ D'EXPERTS DE L'UNION DE L'IPC

IPC HYBRID SYSTEM PROJECT FILE/DOSSIER DE PROJET DE SYSTÈME HYBRIDE DE LA CIB

PROPOSAL BY: PROPOSITION DE :	DE	HYBRID SYSTEM OF IPC AREA: SYSTÈME HYBRIDE DU DOMAINE DE LA CIB :	C22C
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ANNEX/ ANNEXE	CONTENT/CONTENU	ORIGIN/ ORIGINE	DATE
1	Rapporteur proposal / Proposition du rapporteur	DE	10.02
2	Comments / Observations	GB	10.02
3	Comments / Observations	US	10.02
4	Comments / Observations	EP	10.02

RAPPORTEUR : DE TECHNICAL FIELD/DOMAINE TECHNIQUE : C

DEUTSCHES PATENT- UND MARKENAMT German Patent and Trade Mark Office	Class/Subcl.: C 22 C 38/00
	Date : 01.10.02
DE - Proposal — H027/02	

The Note after main group title C 22 C 38/00 refers to an indexing scheme which is associated with main group C 21 D 6/00. After converting the double-purpose indexing scheme of C 21 D 6/00 into a multiple classification scheme we think that the existing note is dispensable.

Therefore we propose to delete the Note completely.

D <Delete entire note after 38/00>

D 38/02 to 38/60 <Delete vertical line>

With regard to the decision of the IPC/REF to abolish the indexing scheme C 22 K (see document IPC/WG/7/7, Annex I), it would be necessary to delete

a) note (2) after the subclass title of C 22 C and

b) the note after the class title of C 22.

Our experts support this abolishment and they do not see the need to convert the existing indexing scheme of C 22 K into a classification scheme.

Angelika Eva Zettler

UK Patent Office

Date: 3 October 2002

Comments on Project H027 , Subclass C22C

We support the Rapporteur proposal.

Martin Price

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Project: H027/02

Group – C22C 38/00

Date: October 3, 2002

US comments on DE proposal (Annex 1- October 1, 2002) on the double-purpose indexing scheme of C22C 38/00:

US supports DE's proposal.

Project: H027/02 Subclass: C22C

Conc.: Use of C22C38/00 subgroups for double-purpose indexing in C21D6/00

* EP agrees with DE proposal.

* Concerning C22K: see our remark in our comments for project H025.

Paul Daeleman



IPC/H 028/02
ORIGINAL: English/French
DATE: October 22, 2002

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ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA PROPRIÉTÉ INTELLECTUELLE
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COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS OF THE IPC UNION
COMITÉ D'EXPERTS DE L'UNION DE L'IPC

IPC HYBRID SYSTEM PROJECT FILE/DOSSIER DE PROJET DE SYSTÈME HYBRIDE DE LA CIB

PROPOSAL BY: PROPOSITION DE :	EP	HYBRID SYSTEM OF IPC AREA: SYSTÈME HYBRIDE DU DOMAINE DE LA CIB :	C22C Ind.
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ANNEX/ ANNEXE	CONTENT/CONTENU	ORIGIN/ ORIGINE	DATE
1	Proposal / Proposition	EP	09.02
2	Comments / Observations	GB	09.02
3	Comments / Observations	DE	10.02
4	Comments / Observations	US	10.02
5	Rapporteur report / Rapport du rapporteur	EP	10.02

RAPPORTEUR : EP TECHNICAL FIELD/DOMAINE TECHNIQUE : C

Project: H028/02 **Class:** C22C

Re.: IPC/WG/7/7, par.29-31

Conc.: **Separate indexing scheme C22C101:00 - 121:02**

1. Subject matter covered

Subclass C22C relates to alloys.

Note (1) after the title of the subclass stipulates that metallic composite materials containing a substantial proportion of fibres are covered also.

During the previous IPC revision period, main groups 47/00 and 49/00 were created (replacing IPC6 group 1/09) to classify this subject matter. Besides these classification entries, also associated indexing codes C22C101:00 to 121:02 were created to identify the nature of the fibrous materials contained in the metal-fibrous composites.

2. Reform WG recommendation was to retain these indexing codes

3. Rapporteurs opinion

As the nature of the fibres or filaments in the metallic matrix can represent information of interest both in main group 47/00 and its subgroups as well as in main group 49/00 and its subgroups, it is considered more appropriate to have only one set of entries, for identifying this information.

Furthermore, the keeping of these entries as indexing codes, reflects the special and exceptional status of fibres or filaments in the whole of this subclass.

In conclusion: R agrees with and supports the recommendation of the Reform WG to **retain the separate indexing scheme C22C101:00 - 121:02.**

Paul Daeleman

UK Patent Office

Date: 19 September 2002

Comments on Project H028 , Subclass C22C

We support the Rapporteur's reasoning and conclusion.

The indexing scheme in question (C22C 101:00 to 121:02) was recently introduced at IPC7, and is a limited and reasonably simple scheme in a highly specialised area of the IPC. Our expert concurs that the scheme appears to have search value and is worth keeping, at least until a longer-term assessment is made of its usefulness.

Martin Price

DEUTSCHES PATENT- UND MARKENAMT German Patent and Trade Mark Office	Class/Subcl.: C 22 C
	Date : 08.10.2002
DE - Comments — H 028/02	

Re: EP comments 29. August 2002 (Annex 1)

Annex I of IPC/WG/7/7 recommends that the indexing scheme C 22 C 101:00 to 121:00 should be retained.

We agree with the Rapporteur comments and the reasoning contained in it, and we support the decision to retain the separate indexing scheme.

To form an opinion about the handling of the indexing scheme in practice, a longer-term assessment of it's usefulness will be necessary as pointed out by UK in Annex 2.

Angelika Eva Zettler

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Project: H028/02

Subclass – C22C

Date: October 3, 2002

**US comments on EP proposal (Annex 1- August 29, 2002) on the indexing scheme of C22C
101:00-121:02:**

US supports EP's assessment of this indexing scheme and their proposal to retain the separate indexing scheme C22C 101:00-121:02.

Project: H028/02 Class: C22C

Conc.: Separate indexing scheme C22C101:00 - 121:02

*In his initial proposal, R recommended **to retain the separate indexing scheme C22C101:00 - 121:02** (annex 1 to the project file).

* All commenting Offices (GB, De and US) agree.

* **Conclusion: separate indexing scheme C22C101:00 - 121:02 should be retained**, in accordance with earlier recommendations of the Reform WG.

Paul Daeleman

