

IPC/WG/8

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

**MECHANICAL FIELD/
DOMAINE DE LA MÉCANIQUE**



IPC/H 001/02
ORIGINAL: English/French
DATE: October 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 :	A01D
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ANNEX/ ANNEXE	CONTENT/CONTENU	ORIGIN/ ORIGINE	DATE
1	Rapporteur proposal / Proposition du rapporteur	SE	08.02
2	Comments / Observations	US	08.02
3	Comments / Observations	JP	09.02
4	Comments / Observations	GB	09.02
5	Comments / Observations	RO	10.02
6	Comments / Observations	DE	10.02

RAPPORTEUR : SE TECHNICAL FIELD/DOMAINE TECHNIQUE : M

Swedish Patent and Registration Office

IPC Hybrid System Project H 001, subclass A01D

July 4th, 2002

INITIAL PROPOSAL

A01D contains two indexing schemes:

A01D 101:00 and **103:00** are associated with main groups 34/00, 42/00, 43/00, 57/00, 67/00, 69/00 and 75/00 and relate to the use of mowers for particular purposes:

- 101:00 covers "lawn-mowers"
- 103:00 covers "shredding; pulverising"

The twelve codes of main group **A01D 151:00** are associated with main groups 42/00 - 45/00 and relate to the type of cutting apparatus used in harvesters or mowers that are either

- combined with or convertible to other apparatus (42/00, 43/00) or
- classified according to their special adaptation for particular crops (44/00, 45/00)

I. A01D 101:00

The Ad Hoc IPC Reform Working Group recommends abolishing this indexing scheme.

This indexing scheme is in accordance with the guidelines given in document IPC/CE/31/8, Annex III. It covers an aspect that is different from those covered by the classification entries and that is not provided for elsewhere in the IPC. During the revision of main group 34/00 subdivisions for lawnmowers were discussed, but it was realised that the introduction of application groups in 34/00 for this aspect would disturb the scheme and create overlaps with the mainly function-oriented subdivisions in the area. However, information about the application is often useful for limiting a search.

A01D 101:00 was introduced in IPC6. When it was introduced it was only applicable to A01D 34/00. Since then it has been applied to around 4 percent of the documents classified in A01D 34/00. In IPC7 the applicability was widened, but it would be difficult to give reliable data about its use with these groups.

Despite having relatively low figures of international use we think this code is of search use. We recommend that the experiences at the EPO with the similar ECC code are taken into account for deciding whether this indexing code should be retained.

II. A01D 103:00

The Ad Hoc IPC Reform Working Group recommends abolishing this indexing scheme, which was introduced in IPC7.

We do not think this indexing scheme is in accordance with the guidelines given in document IPC/CE/31/8, Annex III. The aspect of shredding or pulverising is covered by classification group 43/08 as far as combinations go, and a subgroup for shredding or pulverising could easily be fitted into 42/00, which covers mowers capable of performing operations other than mowing. This would appear to completely cover the matter.

According to EPODOC data this code has been applied to 6 documents.

We propose that this indexing code is converted to a classification group, which is placed in main group 42/00.

III. A01D 151:00

The Ad Hoc IPC Reform Working Group recommends retaining this indexing scheme, which was introduced in IPC7.

It is questionable whether this indexing scheme is completely in accordance with the guidelines given in document IPC/CE/31/8, Annex III. It covers an aspect that is not provided for in the groups with which it is associated, but that is provided for per se in main group 34/00. It could therefore be argued that the exactly corresponding classification entries of A01D 34/00 (see table below) should instead be used for non-obligatory additional classification.

Indexing codes	Classification groups
151:00 Type of cutting apparatus	34/01
151:02 . having reciprocating cutters	34/02
151:04 . . with oppositely movable knife-bars	34/135
151:06 . having cutters driven to oscillate in a horizontal plane	34/404
151:08 . . and cooperating with counter-cutters	34/408
151:10 . having rotating cutters	34/412
151:12 . . Flexible line cutters	34/416
151:14 . . rotating about a horizontal axis, e.g. cutting-cylinders	34/42
151:16 . . . with helically shaped cutting members	34/53
151:18 . . . with cutting members pivotally attached to the rotating axle, e.g. flails	34/535
151:20 . . rotating about a vertical axis	34/63
151:22 . having cutting members on endless belts or sprocket chains	34/83

We do, however, not see any advantage in replacing the indexing codes with non-obligatory additional classification. Now that indexing will be discretionary the indexing system will operate in exactly the same way as the additional classification would, and we think the presentation as a separate indexing scheme, with separate codes, is clearer and much more user-friendly.

According to EPODOC data the codes of A01D 151:00 have been applied to 24 documents, which corresponds to 3 percent of the global documentation.

We therefore propose to retain A01D 151/00, and to evaluate the search use and the frequency of use when more experience has been gained.

IV. Corresponding EPO and JPO practice

The EPO and JPO classification schemes have not been harmonised with IPC7 in these areas.

EPO have an ECC indexing code ("L") for lawn-mowers which is applicable with 34/00. This code, which has the same function as 101:00, is used with 39 percent of the documents in that main group. There are no ICO or ECC hybrid systems corresponding to 103:00 or 151:00.

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Project: H001

Subclass – A01D

Date: August 12, 2002

Comments

In general, US does not support the recommendations of the Rapporteur for this project.

We are particularly troubled by the logic used to justify the preservation of the A01D 151:00 indexing codes. As Rapporteur correctly points out, all of the subject matter covered by these indexing codes can be either obligatorily or non-obligatorily classified in the existing groups of A01D 34/00. Therefore, these indexing codes are in **clear violation** of section 1 & 2 (b) of the “Guidelines for Creation of Indexing Schemes in the Reformed IPC (see IPC/CE/31/8). There is obviously nothing that is ‘user friendly’ in the alarming and uneconomical practice of providing two potential classification codes for the identical subject matter. These codes must be deleted.

We also have problems with regard to the conversion of A01D 103:00 into a classification code A01D 42/10 under A01D 42/00. Our first problem is that the Revision Working Group usually does not create classifications for just 6 documents. Many of these documents may not even contain invention information on this subject matter. The other problem is that some of these 6 documents may fit under group A01D 43/00 since their ‘shredding or pulverizing’ is done during mowing. It is our opinion that this indexing code should be deleted and not converted.

We agree that there is some basis for retaining A01D 101:00. However, there are several groups covering the details of lawn mowers that are currently useful for locating more specific art for rejecting claims during the examination process. While other useful features may be disclosed, these features could be better located at a reduced cost by term searching their English abstracts using the term ‘lawn’. It is our opinion that for extremely simple concepts, such as the one covered by A01D 101:00, this is the better solution.

Japan Patent Office

September 18 2002

Project: H-001

Subclass: A01D

JP Comments

JPO does not think it will cause any inconvenience to abolish the indexing codes A01D101:00, 130:00, and 151:00.

We have not often used these indexing codes, or will not use them in future.

Respecting 2-(a) to (c) presented in “the Guidelines for the Conversion of Existing Indexing Schemes into Classification Schemes” in IPC/REF/6/2, we agree to abolish these indexing codes.

UK Patent Office

Date: 18 September 2002

Comments on Project H001 , Subclass A01D

We support the US comments on this project, even if the wording of those comments was perhaps a little harsh. The low usage of these indexing schemes seals their fate in our opinion; as always, coal-face examiners have the last word in deciding whether a particular scheme has value.

Martin Price

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INVENTII SI MARCI

RO Comments

Date: September 30, 2002

Project H001

Subclass A01D

A 01 D 101:00

We agree with R's recommendation to take into account the experiences of the EPO, whether this indexing code should be retained.

We think the aspect covered by this code is not provided in the IPC and it would be of use in search, but only if justified by the number of documents.

A 01 D 103:00

We do not agree with R's recommendation of converting this code into a classification code A01D42/10, mostly because shredding and pulverising can be associated also with other mowers or harvesting machines.

Also because of the reduced number of documents and considering this not a flourishing domain, we would abolish this indexing scheme.

A 01 D 151:00

The R's recommendation seems very reasonable to us, despite the opposition of the other offices. On one hand, the Ad Hoc IPC Reform Working Group recommends retaining this indexing scheme. On the other hand, since this indexing scheme was introduced not so very long ago (in IPC7), we would be very interested in finding out the reasons of creating it, discussing it in the Revision Working Groups and approving it. Did the situation of these documents change so dramatically to require a completely different way of thinking?

We think further comments would help in taking the right decision.

Bucura Ionescu

Deutsches Patent- und Markenamt German Patent and Trademark Office	Class/Subcl.: A01D
	Date : 10.10.2002
DE - Comments — H 001	

A01D 101:00

Each of the groups 34/00, 42/00, 43/00, 57/00, 67/00, 69/00 and 75/00 applies also for lawn-mowers. Because of the relatively high number of documents in these groups the characterization of lawn-mowers with the indexing-code 101:00 should be retained since lawn-mowers are particular devices.

Therefore we support the proposal of the rapporteur to retain the indexing code.

A01D 103:00

We agree with the Rapporteur's reasoning and support his proposal to abolish the indexing-code and to convert it to a new subgroup 42/10.

A01D 151:00

The maingroups 42/00 to 45/00 are provided for mowing-machines and for the harvesting of special plants. We think it is useful to characterize means of these maingroups which relate to cutting apparatus with the indexing-code 151:00.

We therefore support the Rapporteur's proposal to retain this indexing-code.

U. Rödiger



IPC/H 002/02

ORIGINAL: English/French

DATE: November 14, 2002

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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 :	A01N
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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	GB	10.02
4	Comments / Observations	JP	10.02
5	Rapporteur report / Rapport du rapporteur	SE	11.02

RAPPORTEUR : SE

TECHNICAL FIELD/DOMAINE TECHNIQUE :

M

Swedish Patent and Registration Office

IPC Project H002/02, subclass A01N

October 15th, 2002

Proposal

A01N 25/00-65/00

In A01N 25/00-65/00 it is desirable to add the indexing codes relating to individual components of a composition.

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

However, after consulting our expert in this field, it was found that the index codes were seldom used. Our expert says that she used the index codes until she realised that nobody else did. She now classifies the individual components and does not use the index codes. The last place rule has been applied to each individual component.

There are two alternatives:

- 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 exactly as the existing indexing codes, that is it would have the same disadvantage of non-obligatory application symbol for more than one of the components. It is necessary to include a note with recommendations for non-obligatory additional classification of the individual ingredients.

We suggest the following formulation of the note:

- (10) *It is desirable to give additional non-obligatory non-invention classifications in order to identify ingredients that are not identified by the classification made in Notes (2) to (9).***

We prefer alternative 2, since it seems to be the easiest and practical way to classify individual components in this field. On surface, when just reading the notes, it would appear that this is a major change of classification philosophy, but it appears that this way of classifying is already used by many offices. De facto it would therefore not be a major change of philosophy.

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

Our suggestion of formulation of a new note is:

(2) In groups A01N27/00 to A01N65/00, in the absence of an indication to the contrary, classification is made in the last appropriate place for an active ingredient. All active ingredients in a composition should be classified individually. Each individual ingredient should be classified in the last appropriate place, taking into account Notes (3) to (9).

Note (10) should then be deleted.

Carolina Gómez Lagerlöf

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Project: H002/02

Subclass – A01N

Date: October 15, 2002

US comments on SE proposal (Annex 1- October 15, 2002) on the double-purpose scheme of A01N 25/00-65/00:

US agrees with abolishing the double-purpose scheme and introducing a multiple classification scheme in its place. We agree with a combination of SE's alternatives 1 and 2. The first line of proposed note (2) under alternative (2) is acceptable. The second line of the note could be modified as follows and possibly made a separate note:

“When classifying in groups 25/00 to 65/00, additional classifications are made relating to individual ingredients of a composition if these ingredients are of interest.”

This would not change the classification philosophy of the area since this is primarily what existing note (10) states. The words *“are considered invention information or”* could be added after the second “ingredients,” 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 multiple classification part of the proposed note may need to be modified.

UK Patent Office**Date: 16 October 2002**

Comments on Project H002 , Subclass A01N

A01N 25/00 to 65/00

We agree with abolishing the double-purpose scheme and replacing it with a multiple classification scheme. Of the 2 alternatives presented to us by the Rapporteur, we tend to prefer the first because, as the Rapporteur states, the second looks like a major change of classification philosophy, (forbidden by IPC/WG/7/7 Annex H in the context of H-projects). We all know that examiners, in the privacy of their offices, sometimes do not follow the instructions in a classifying scheme. However implementing a major change to follow examiner practice still constitutes a major change, which may be desirable but is forbidden by the Annex above. For the same reason, the last place rule cannot be changed.

In regard to wording, the general consensus in proposals or comments appears to be that additionally-classifiable ingredients should be those that are regarded as **essential** or **characterizing** or **of interest**, while the words **non-obligatory** or **non-invention** do not seem to be favoured. The word **active ingredient** is unclear and we do not favour it.

Standardised wording for multiple-classification notes may be developed in the course of time, but we propose:

C Note (10)
 before 25/00 When classifying in groups 25/00 to 65/00, additional classifications are made in the same groups, relating to essential or characterising individual components of a composition.

D 25/00 to 65/02 <delete vertical line>

Martin Price

Japan Patent Office

October 29 , 2002

Project:H002

Subclass:A01N

JP Comments on Rapporteur Proposal Dated October 15, 2002
JP supports alternative 2 of the Rapporteur Proposal of ANNEX 1.

Swedish Patent and Registration Office

IPC Project H002, subclass A01N

November 12th, 2002

Rapporteur report

The double purpose scheme A01N 25/00 to 65/00

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,UK and JP.

Both US and UK agreed to abolish the double purpose scheme.
US suggested a note that is a combination of alternative 1 and 2.
UK was in favour of alternative 1 and has proposed a note.

JP supports alternative 2.

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. There is a slight majority to change the double-purpose schemes to multiple classification schemes.

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.

Carolina Gómez Lagerlöf



IPC/H 003/02

ORIGINAL: English/French

DATE: November 14, 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 :	SE	HYBRID SYSTEM OF IPC AREA: SYSTÈME HYBRIDE DU DOMAINE DE LA CIB :	A61K
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ANNEX/ ANNEXE	CONTENT/CONTENU	ORIGIN/ ORIGINE	DATE
1	Rapporteur proposal / Proposition du rapporteur	SE	10.02
2	Comments / Observations	JP	10.02
3	Comments / Observations	US	10.02
4	Comments / Observations	GB	10.02
5	Rapporteur report / Rapport du rapporteur	SE	11.02

RAPPORTEUR : SE

TECHNICAL FIELD/DOMAINE TECHNIQUE :

M

Swedish Patent and Registration Office

IPC Hybrid Project H 003, subclass A61K

October 3rd, 2002

Proposal

IPC 7 indexing codes A61K 31:00-47:00

"In A61K 31/00-47/00 it is desirable to add the indexing codes relating to individual components of a composition".

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

However, after consulting our experts in this field, it was found that offices seldom use the index codes. The examiners have not trusted the index codes to be complete and have instead classified the individual components. The last place rule has been applied to each individual component.

There are two alternatives:

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

Alternative 1 would lead to a system that will work exactly as the existing indexing codes, that is it would have the same disadvantage of obligatory classification of only one of the ingredients. It would be necessary to include a note with recommendations for non-obligatory additional classification of the other individual ingredients.

If alternative 1 is chosen we suggest the following notes before 9/00 (the notes before 31/00 should be deleted):

1(a) If a medicinal preparation is only characterised by its physical form it is classified in main group 9/00

1(b) If a medicinal preparation is characterised by its non-active ingredients, e.g. its carrier, it is classified in the last group of main groups 47/00 to 48/00 that covers any of those non-active ingredients

1(c) In other cases a medicinal preparation is classified in the last group of main groups 31/00 to 45/00 and 48/00 that covers any of its active ingredients

- 2 It is desirable to give additional non-obligatory non-invention classifications in order to identify ingredients that are not identified by the classification made in steps 1(a) to 1(c) above.*

We prefer alternative 2, since it seems to be the easiest and most practical way to classify individual components in this field. On the surface, when just reading the notes, it would

appear that this is a major change of classification philosophy, but it appears that this way of classifying is already used by many offices. De facto it would therefore not be a major change of philosophy.

In alternative 2 it is necessary to change the wording of note (1). Our suggestion of formulation of a new note is:

(1) *Active ingredients in a composition should be classified individually in groups 31-48/00. Each individual ingredient should be classified in the last appropriate place.*

IPC7 indexing codes A61K 101:00-103:00

These indexing codes were included in IPC6. They are associated with group 51/00 and relate to the nature of the radioactive substance.

Our expert has relatively small experience of these indexing codes, because there have been few applications in the field. However, it is our opinion that these indexing codes are helpful in the search of inventions in this field.

In Annex 1 we suggested that the indexing codes should be converted to subgroups of A51K 51/00. To make this work we found it to be necessary to abolish the last place rule between the one-dot level in this group.

In the WG/7 meeting we agreed to try to make an alternative proposal where no change in the last place rule was needed.

One way to do this is to move A61K 101:00 and 103:00 and place these subgroups before A61K 51/02. The number of groups has been reduced in order to avoid empty groups:

(51/00 Preparations containing radioactive substances for use in therapy or testing in vivo <existing>)?

N 51/001 . containing radioactive halogens

N 51/002 . containing radioactive metals

N 51/003 .. Technetium; Rhenium

N 51/004 .. Indium

N 51/005 .. Rare earths

N 51/006 ... Yttrium

N 51/007 ... Gadolinium

N 51/008 ... Ytterbium

N 51/009 .. Actinides

51/02 . characterised by the carrier <existing>)

51/04 - <existing>)

51/10

However, we do not think that this alternative is a good solution. There is a risk that very few documents will be classified in the new subgroups.

If the possibility of indicating the material is to be kept, there are now three alternatives:

1. Our original proposal of Annex 1 to abolish the last place rule in A61K 51
2. The proposal given above
3. Keeping the original indexing. However, the IPC Reform Working Group recommended to abolish the codes because of low use.

Even if we still are in favour of the proposal of Annex 1, we prefer to keep the indexing before alternative 2.

IPC7 indexing codes A61K 121:00-123:00

We suggest that the indexing codes A61K 121:00-123:00 should be deleted, irrespective of which alternative that are chosen above.

Carolina Gómez Lagerlöf

Japan Patent Office

October 15, 2002

Project: H003

Subclass:A61K

JP Comments on Rapporteur Proposal Dated October 3, 2002

IPC 7 indexing codes A61K 31:00-47:00

We select the alternative 1 since we prefer to use those indexing codes.

IPC7 indexing codes A61K 101:00-103:00

We select the alternative 3 since the alternatives 1 and 2 may not increase the number of the documents classified in the new subgroups and it is preferable to remain the existing classification rules.

IPC7 indexing codes A61K 121:00-123:00

We do not agree with the deletion of those indexing codes because they are required for classifications.

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Project: H003/02

Subclass – A61K

Date: October 7, 2002

US comments on SE proposal (Annex 1- October 3, 2002) on the indexing schemes and double-purpose schemes of A61K:

A61K 31:00-47:00-double-purpose scheme

US agrees with abolishing the double-purpose scheme and introducing a multiple classification scheme in its place. However, US doesn't believe rules and/or classification philosophy should be modified during a hybrid project, since such a change could result in changes in previous patent document placement. If such rule changes are considered necessary, they should be proposed as part of a revision project. For this reason, US believes the last place rule should be maintained in the area. In addition, Note (1) before group 31/00 could be changed to read:

“(1) When classifying in groups 31/00 to 47/00, additional classifications are made relating to individual ingredients of a composition if these ingredients are considered invention information or are 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 note (1) may need to be modified.

A61K 101:00-103:00-indexing scheme

US would not abolish the last place rule for A61K 51/00. We believe there must be some patent documents detailing radioactive compositions, which are not characterized by their carrier or by a special physical form, but by their “active” ingredients. We also believe the “Guidelines for Determining Subject Matter Appropriate for Obligatory and Nonobligatory Classification” as approved by the Reform Working Group (IPC/REF/7/3-Annex VI) will solve the concerns of SE. It will allow classifications to subgroups in 51/00 in addition to the last place if such subject matter is of interest or is considered invention information.

A61K 121:00-123:00-indexing scheme

US supports SE's proposal to delete these indexing codes.

UK Patent Office**Date: 17 October 2002**

Comments on Project H003 , Subclass A61K

IPC 7 Indexing codes A61K 31/00 to 47/00 (double-purpose)

We agree with abolishing the double-purpose scheme and replacing it with a multiple-classification scheme. Of the 2 alternatives presented to us by the Rapporteur, we tend to prefer the first because, as the Rapporteur states, the second looks like a major change of classification philosophy, (forbidden by IPC/WG/7/7 Annex H in the context of H-projects). We all know that examiners, in the privacy of their offices, sometimes do not follow the instructions in a classifying scheme. However implementing a major change to follow examiner practice still constitutes a major change, which may be desirable but is forbidden by the Annex above. For the same reason, the last place rule cannot be changed.

Standardised wording for multiple-classification notes may be developed in the course of time, but in the mean time we agree with the wording proposed by US for Note (1) preceding group 31/00.

A61K 101:00 to 103:00 indexing scheme

Upon a search of EPODOC, it seems that these codes are used on about 1.5 % of the global documentation. This tends to reinforce the Reform Group's decision to abolish them; however we feel that this information could still be useful, although text-searching should not be too difficult in these areas.

For the reasons above, the last place rule should not be abolished. This being the case, creating subgroups 51/001- 009, as in the SE alternative 2, would disturb the last place rule and create uncertainty as to where documents are classified.

We suggest either

- (i) retaining the indexing scheme as it is, despite its low use (SE alternative 3); or
- (ii) creating a multiple classification scheme, similar to the above, with the current indexing codes being replaced by classification codes of the same number and the colon replaced with a slash.

A61K 121:00 and 123:00 indexing scheme

We support the abolition of these codes.

Martin Price

Swedish Patent and Registration Office

IPC Hybrid Project H003, subclass A61K

November 12th, 2002

Rapporteur report

A61K 31:00-47:00- double-purpose scheme

In the Rapporteur proposal two 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 JP, US and UK.

All commenting offices are in favour of alternative 1.

US purposed a new wording of Note (1) before group 31/00 which also UK agrees to.

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.

A61K 101:00-103:00 index scheme

In the original proposal R suggested three alternatives:

3. To abolish the last place rule in A61K 51(the original proposal of annex 1).
4. To move A61K 101:00 and 103:00 and place these subgroups before A61K 51/02.
5. To keep the original indexing.

JP and UK are in favour of alternative 3, while US prefers alternative 2.

UK also suggests to creating a multiple classification scheme, with the current indexing codes being replace by classification codes.

R suggests that the indexing codes should be kept.

A61K 121:00-123:00 indexing scheme

In the original proposal R suggested to abolish the indexing codes A61K 121:00-123:00.

Both US and UK support the abolition of these codes. JP want to retain the codes.

R suggests that these codes should be abolished.

Carolina Gómez Lagerlöf



IPC/H 004/02

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 :	A63B
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ANNEX/ ANNEXE	CONTENT/CONTENU	ORIGIN/ ORIGINE	DATE
1	Rapporteur proposal / Proposition du rapporteur	GB	10.02
2	Comments / Observations	DE	10.02
3	Comments / Observations	US	10.02
4	Rapporteur report / Rapport du rapporteur	GB	10.02

RAPPORTEUR : GB

TECHNICAL FIELD/DOMAINE TECHNIQUE :

M

UK Patent Office**Date: 3 October 2002**

Rapporteur Proposal on Project H004, Subclass A63B

INITIAL PROPOSAL

IPC/WG/7/7 Annex I lists the indexing marks A63B 101:00 to 103:00 as having an ~~abolish~~ recommendation from the IPC/REF Working Group.

We support this recommendation because these indexing terms, dating back to Edition 5, have only been applied 25 times in a global documentation of 21 998 (0.11 % of the global documentation). They have clearly not been seen as useful.

These indexing terms were elaborated at Edition 5 together with the classifying terms A63B 21/00 to 23/00, and are tailor-made for use as indexing terms. There is no suitable way we can see to incorporate these terms as classifying terms for multiple classification. This matter, especially 101:00 and 101:02, should be relatively easy to text-search if necessary.

We therefore suggest complete abolition of these terms, as follows.

A63B

- D <Delete Note after 19/04>
- D <Delete guide heading after 71/16>
- D <Delete Note after 71/16>
- D 101:00 <delete entry>
- D 101:02 <delete entry>
- D 103:00 <delete entry>

Martin Price

Deutsches Patent- und Markenamt German Patent and Trademark Office	Class/Subcl.: A63B
	Date : 10.10.2002
DE - Comments — H 004	

We support the Rapporteur's proposal to abolish the indexing-scheme 101:00 to 103:00.

U. Rödiger

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Project: H004

Subclass – A63B

Date: October 15, 2002

Comments

US supports the recommendations of the Rapporteur for this project. We agree that all three indexes should be deleted and that keyword searching could be used for the concepts found in A63B 101:00 & 101:02.

UK Patent Office

Date: 24 October 2002

Rapporteur Report on Project H004, Subclass A63B

GB proposed in Annex 1 to abolish the indexing codes A63B 101:00 to 103:00 and associated Notes and Guide headings, in accordance with the recommendations from the IPC/REF Working Group.

Comments were received from DE and US (Annexes 2 and 3), both favourable to the proposal, and no adverse comments or suggestions for change were received.

R proposes that the deletions in Annex 1 be adopted by the Revision Working Group.

Martin Price



IPC/H 005/02
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 :	B01J
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ANNEX/ ANNEXE	CONTENT/CONTENU	ORIGIN/ ORIGINE	DATE
1	Rapporteur proposal / Proposition du rapporteur	GB	09.02
2	Comments / Observations	US	09.02
3	Comments / Observations	EP	09.02
4	Comments / Observations	JP	10.02
5	Comments / Observations	SE	10.02
6	Comments / Observations	DE	10.02
7	Rapporteur report / Rapport du rapporteur	GB	10.02
8	Rapporteur proposal / Proposition du rapporteur	GB	10.02

RAPPORTEUR : GB TECHNICAL FIELD/DOMAINE TECHNIQUE : M

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

Rapporteur Proposal on Project H005, Subclass B01J

DOUBLE-PURPOSE INDEXING SCHEME RELATING TO B01J 21/00 TO 31/00**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.

Our proposal follows.

B01J Notes
after 31/40

- | | | |
|---|-------------------|--|
| C | (1) | In groups 32/00 to 38/00, additional classifications are given relating to the materials of the catalyst. These classifications are chosen from groups 21/00 to 31/00. |
| D | (2) | <Delete entire note> |
| D | 21/00 to
31/38 | <Delete vertical line> |

Martin Price

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Project: H005

Subclass – B01J

Date: September 1, 2002

Comments

US agrees with Rapporteur's recommendations to delete all vertical lines in B01J and (2) note after group B01J 31/40 in the manner suggested in Rapporteur's proposal in view of IPC/REF/3/2, paragraph 35, section (d) approved by the Reform Working Group.

We also support inclusion of a guidance note after group B01J 31/40 to encourage additional discretionary classification. However, we do not support the proposed wording of the note. When the material of the catalyst is novel, it is already obligatory to classify it in groups 21/00 to 31/00 under the "What to Classify Guidelines". This note is not needed for that type of classification. As a potential alternative wording, we propose:

For inventive 'things' covered in groups 32/00 to 38/00, when particular constituents forming the material of the catalyst are useful for search purposes, it is desirable to add a discretionary classification to the appropriate group in groups 21/00 to 31/00.



EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE
Principal Directorate Documentation

Comments
27-09-2002

Project: H005 Subclass: B01J

Re.: - GB proposal of 30/8/02
- US comments of 1/9/02

We think the situation in B01J is not different from the situation in other fields where double purpose indexing schemes are replaced by a system of multiple classification. So whatever wording the standardised note will have at the end, in the case of B01J, the note should tell the classifier that:

When classifying in groups 32/00 to 38/00, classification is also made in groups 21/00 to 31/00 for the materials of the catalysts if of interest

Paul Daeleman

Japan Patent Office

September 30, 2002

Project:H-005Subclass:B01J

JP Comments on Rapporteur Proposal dated August 30, 2002

JP agrees with the proposed deletions of the indexing scheme 101:00-105:98, notes (2) after 31/40 and vertical lines to 21/00-31/38.

JP proposes to add the wording "(c)lassification is made in groups 21/00 to 31/00 only if compositions of the catalyst have distinct characters and are of interest for a search" to the proposed Note (1). JP concerns that the groups 21/00-31/00 would become useless for a search purpose if all materials of the catalyst relating to groups 32/00-38/00 would be classified in 21/00-31/00.

Swedish Patent and Registration Office

IPC Hybrid Project H 005, subclass B01J

October 2nd, 2002

Comments (in response to Annex 1)

The note proposed in Annex 1 would lead to overpopulation of the material-oriented set of groups if it were applied literally, since it does not require that the material is "of interest".

We wonder how this hybrid system was really intended to work, and how it is really used in practice. As we see it there are three situations (we use carriers as example, but the features covered by 33/00 - 38/00 are equivalent):

1. The carrier is specially adapted for a catalyst of a particular material. In that situation it should only be classified in the material-oriented groups 21/00 - 30/00.
2. The carrier is not specially adapted for catalysts of a particular material. In this case it should be classified in the general group 32/00 and indexing can hardly be of use, since the material is of no interest.
3. The carrier is specially adapted for catalysts of particular materials that are covered by two or more of the material-oriented groups 21/00 - 30/00. In this case it should, according to note (5) before 20/00 be classified in the general group 32/00. This situation is the only one where indexing would serve any purpose.

Situation 3 is the only situation we need to address. We think this would be better done in note (5) before 20/00 than in the notes before 32/00, because this is where the general philosophy is defined. If considered necessary a note before 32/00 could draw the attention to note (5).

We propose to add a last part of note (5) before 20/00:

It is desirable that catalysts classified in groups 32/00 - 38/00 are also given non-obligatory non-invention classifications in groups 21/00 - 21/18, 23/00 - 23/89, 25/00 - 25/02, 27/00 - 27/26, 29/00 - 29/89 or 31/00 - 31/38 if their carriers, protection, form, physical properties, preparation, activation, regeneration or reactivation is specially adapted for a particular catalytic material.

The notes before 32/00 and all vertical lines should be deleted.

Anders Bruun

Deutsches Patent- und Markenamt German Patent and Trademark Office	Class/Subcl.: B01J
	Date : 11.10.2002
DE - Comments — H 005	

We support the Rapporteur's proposal to delete all vertical lines in groups B01J21/00 to 31/40. The existing notes after 31/40 should be replaced by the wording of the EPO-proposal because it reflects the subject-matter in a brief and accurate manner.

U. Rödiger

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

Rapporteur Report on Project H005, Subclass B01J

Following the recommendations of IPC/WG/7/7 Annex I, GB proposed abolishing the double-purpose indexing scheme relating to B01J 21/00 to 31/00, and introducing a multiple classification scheme in its place. Comments came from US, EP, JP, SE and DE (Annexes 2-6).

The JP comments included a mention of another indexing scheme in B01J, namely the separate indexing scheme 101:00 to 105:98, which was omitted from the original proposal which dealt with the double-purpose scheme only - however this R report will deal with this separate scheme.

EP and US agree with the proposal but suggest different wording to the proposed Note (1). DE support the proposed EP wording.

JP are of the same opinion but are concerned with the subsequent usefulness of groups 21/00 to 31/00 if all materials of the catalyst are classified there. R does not entirely understand this argument but perhaps JP meant the same as SE who fear overpopulation of the material groups unless the material to be classified there is defined as *of interest*. SE make other comments - see below.

SE comments

SE fear overpopulation of the material groups unless the material to be classified there is defined as *of interest*. R agrees, and admits that the original proposal contained an error - see below. The correction of the error proposed by R should overcome the fears of overpopulation voiced by SE.

SE also propose a multiple classification scheme based on the carrier etc being *specially adapted* for a particular catalytic material, citing 3 scenarios:

- (i) Carrier is specially adapted for a particular catalyst - classification should be only in 21/00 to 31/00. The GB expert disagrees with this since if the carrier/form etc is of interest then 32/00 to 38/00 should be applied too.
- (ii) Carrier is not specially adapted for a particular catalyst - classification should only be in 32/00. The GB expert thinks that if a particular catalyst of interest is disclosed and not classified in 21/00 to 31/00, then potentially useful search information might be lost.
- (iii) Carrier is specially adapted to 2 or more types of catalyst - 32/00 should be applied together with indexing or multiple classification, and is the only scenario where double-purpose classification is needed.

SE then propose a Note, added to an existing Note placed before 20/00, where the general philosophy of this area is defined. R feels that this is not a matter of general philosophy, rather

practical instructions to define and apply a multiple classification scheme, and that the location of the note should be as defined in Annex 1 and accepted by other commenting offices. R does not see any need for amendment of the notes before 20/00 in consequence of the new Note (1) proposed by R.

Rapporteur-s opinion

R agrees that materials of the catalyst that are to be the subject of the multiple classification scheme should be materials that are *of interest* (or *essential or characterising* in GB-s preferred wording). GB intended to include wording to that effect but somehow omitted it by mistake. R has corrected that mistake

R feels that the SE proposal of restricting multiple classification to cases where the carrier etc. is *especially adapted* for one or more particular types of catalyst will lead to information being lost, and possibly to confusion for users who might be a little unclear as to what constitutes *especially adapted*. It would be easier and more reliable for users to decide whether a material of a catalyst material is *essential or characterising*

R agrees that the wording proposed by EP is *brief and accurate*, as stated by DE, and proposes to use a modified version of EP-s wording for the Note, which may need to be further modified when standardised wording for multiple-classification notes is elaborated.

Separate indexing scheme in B01J 101:00 to 105:98

JP agree that this scheme should be deleted. The IPC Reform Working Group recommend that it should be abolished. R has carried out a quick search and found 100 hits for these indexing terms, for a global documentation of 120, 831. The indexing terms are used in less than 0.1 % of the global documentation, which hardly shows the scheme as being popular and useful. R proposes complete abolition of this scheme.

Proposal

The R proposal is included in another Annex.

Martin Price

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

Rapporteur Proposal on Project H005, Subclass B01J

Amended proposal for B01J

C	Note (1) after 31/40	When classifying in groups 32/00 to 38/00, additional classification(s) are made relating to essential or characterising materials of the catalyst. These classifications are chosen from groups 21/00 to 31/00.
D	Note (2)	<Delete entire note>
D	21/00 to 31/38	<Delete vertical line>
D	Guide Heading after 49/02	<Delete guide heading>
D	Notes (1) to (3) After 49/02	<Delete all 3 Notes>
D	101:00 to 105:98	<Delete all entries>

Martin Price



IPC/H 006/02

ORIGINAL: English/French

DATE: October 17, 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 :	B62D
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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	JP	10.02

RAPPORTEUR : DE TECHNICAL FIELD/DOMAINE TECHNIQUE : M

Deutsches Patent- und Markenamt German Patent and Trademark Office	Class/Subcl.: B62D
	Date : 04.10.2002
DE - Proposal — H006	

B62D101:00 to B62D137:00

The Ad Hoc IPC Reform Working Group recommends retaining this indexing scheme.

The indexing scheme B62D101:00 to B62D137:00 is associated with main group 6/00 and relates to driving conditions sensed and responded to. It was introduced in IPC5 and is applied roughly to 5000 documents which is around 74 percent of the documents classified in B62D 6/00 since then (1990) up to now.

Whereas in the subgroups 6/02 to 6/08 only a singular driving condition sensed and responded to can be classified, this indexing scheme allows to describe several driving conditions in any combination. Therefore we think this code is of search use.

For the great number of documents provided with these indexing codes and the search possibilities involved therewith we propose to follow the recommendation of the Ad Hoc IPC Reform Working Group to retain this indexing scheme.

B62D151:00 to B62D155:00

The Ad Hoc IPC Reform Working Group recommends retaining this indexing scheme.

The indexing scheme B62D151:00 to B62D155:00 is associated with main group 6/00 and relates to the nature of the steering system. It was introduced in IPC6 and is applied roughly to 200 documents which is around 3 percent of the documents classified in B62D 6/00 since then (1995) up to now. About 150 documents bear the indexing code 153:00 the rest is shared by the indexing codes 151:00 and 155:00.

Because only a low number of documents are indexed in 151:00 and because the subject matter can easily searched with the terms ‚all-wheel steering‘ or ‚four-wheel steering‘ the indexing code is of low search use.

The indexing code 153:00 covers “Electric power steering”. This subject matter is already covered by the subgroup B62D5/04 (“ Power-assisted or power-driven steering, electrical,

...”). This classification entry could therefore be used as an additional classification to replace the indexing code.

In the indexing code 155:00, which is given to a very low number of documents, exists only a low search activity. If this subject matter should become more and more important in the future it could be desirable to create a new entry for it under the main group B62D6/00.

For the above-mentioned reasons we propose not to follow the recommendation of the Ad Hoc IPC Reform Working Group and to delete the indexing scheme 151:00 to 155:00.

U. Rödiger

PROPOSAL:

B62D

C Note (3)after In group 6/00 it is desirable to add additional classification in 5/04
Group 6/00 relating to the electrical power steering

D after 137:00 Guide heading and note

D 151:00

D 153:00 (transferred to 5/04)

D 155:00

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Project: H006

Subclass – B62D

Date: October 16, 2002

Comments

US agrees with Rapporteur's reasoning in this report and the recommendation to delete the indexing scheme B62D 151:00 to 155:00. We also agree with the creation of Note (3) after Group B62D 6/00.

US also agrees with Rapporteur that the subject matter covered by indexing scheme B62D 101:00 – 137:00 is useful for searching purposes and that at this time the best solution may be to retain the indexes as they are. However, our concern is that section 6 of the "Guidelines for the Conversion of Existing IPC Indexing Schemes into Classification Schemes" states the following":

"If a portion of an indexing scheme provides for inventive or novel subject matter that is essential to the determination of the patentability of the patent documents populating it, and this subject matter is not already elsewhere provided for in the titles and definitions of the classification schemes, this type of indexing should be converted to a classification scheme, if appropriate."

In this situation, the subject matter covered by several of the indexes of this indexing scheme overlaps with the subject matter covered by the indented subgroups of B62D 6/00. This is the reason the patent documents in groups B62D 6/02 – 6/10 are excluded from being indexed. In the future, it would be better to combine these concepts into a single classification scheme and to avoid conflicts in determining where to assign the 'invention as a whole' by using the top-down priority rule.

Japan Patent Office

October 17 , 2002

Project: H006

Subclass:B62D

JP Comments on Rapporteur Proposal Dated October 7, 2002

JP supports Rapporteur proposal (Annex 1).



IPC/H 007/02

ORIGINAL: English/French

DATE: October 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 :	B63B
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ANNEX/ ANNEXE	CONTENT/CONTENU	ORIGIN/ ORIGINE	DATE
1	Rapporteur proposal / Proposition du rapporteur	SE	08.02
2	Comments / Observations	US	08.02
3	Comments / Observations	GB	09.02
4	Comments / Observations	JP	10.02
5	Comments / Observations	DE	10.02

RAPPORTEUR : SE

TECHNICAL FIELD/DOMAINE TECHNIQUE :

M

Swedish Patent and Registration Office

IPC Hybrid System Project H 007, subclass B63B

July 2nd, 2002

INITIAL PROPOSAL

B63B contains only one indexing code: 35:79

This double usage code is intended for use together with classification in several general detail places for water vessels, in order to indicate that these details are used for surfboards. The intention appears to be that such documents should only be classified in the general detail places, and not in B63B 35/79, the place for surfboards. B63B 35:79 should instead be given as indexing information.

The reasoning behind this hybrid system is difficult to understand in relation to paragraphs 69 and 59 of the Guide. A detail of general use should be classified in the general place, while a detail that is only applicable to one specific kind of apparatus should be classified in the place for that apparatus. If the essential technical characteristics of a thing relate both to its intrinsic nature or function and to its special adaptation to or incorporation into a larger system, it should be classified in both the function-oriented place and the application place.

For example, a sail with features that are of general interest should be classified in the general place for sails (B63H 9/06), while a sail that is uniquely adapted for surfboards should be classified in the place for surfboards (B63B 35/79). The only sails that could be correctly classified B63H 9/06 (B63H 9/06, B63B 35:79) are thus ones that are not specially adapted for surfboards, but in some way indicated to be used on surfboards. We think this would be highly unusual, and the search use of this information would be almost non-existent.

We think this hybrid system is incorrectly constructed and of little use. It should be deleted. We also note that ECLA has chosen a more correct approach and introduced classification subdivisions of B63B 35/79.

Anders Bruun

Proposal:

B63B

**D Notes (1)
and (2)**

35/79 <delete vertical line>

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Project: H007

Subclass – B63B

Date: August 13, 2002

Comments

US agrees with Rapporteur that (1) Note of the subclass title should be deleted and that B63B 35/79 should no longer be used for dual-purpose type indexing. This seems to be a particularly appropriate recommendation in view of IPC/REF/3/2, paragraph 35, section (d) approved by the Reform Working Group which states “Abolish double-purpose use of classification groups and consider use of those groups for multiple classification.”

UK Patent Office

Date: 23 September 2002

Comments on Project H007 , Subclass B63B

We agree with the Rapporteur's reasoning and conclusion.

Martin Price

Japan Patent Office

September 30, 2002

Project:H007

Subclass: B63B

JP Comments on Rapporteur Proposal Dated July 2, 2002

JP supports the proposal by SE for the deletion of indexing code: B63B35:79 and the abolishment of B65D111:00-133:00.

Deutsches Patent- und Markenamt German Patent and Trademark Office	Class/Subcl.: B63B
	Date : 10.10.2002
DE - Comments — H 007	

We agree with the Rapporteur's reasoning and support his proposal to abolish the indexing-code B63B35:79.



IPC/H 008/02
ORIGINAL: English/French
DATE: October 14, 2002

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
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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 :	B65D
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ANNEX/ ANNEXE	CONTENT/CONTENU	ORIGIN/ ORIGINE	DATE
1	Rapporteur proposal / Proposition du rapporteur	SE	08.02
2	Comments / Observations	US	08.02
3	Comments / Observations	JP	09.02
4	Comments / Observations	GB	09.02
5	Comments / Observations	RO	10.02
6	Comments / Observations	DE	10.02

RAPPORTEUR : SE TECHNICAL FIELD/DOMAINE TECHNIQUE : M

Swedish Patent and Registration Office

IPC Hybrid System Project H 008, subclass B65D

August 5th, 2002

INITIAL PROPOSAL

B65D contains two indexing schemes:

1. B65D 101:00 - Tamper-indicating means for closure members

Classification of tamper-indicating means follows rather complex rules, which are not too clearly expressed in notes and titles. The intention is obviously the following:

- Tamper-indicating means that are specially adapted for a particular type of container or closure are classified in the groups for the particular types of containers or closures. This is stated in Note (6) after the subclass title.
- Closures with tamper-indicating means that are combined with means for discouraging unauthorised opening or removal thereof are classified in 50/00.
- Tamper-indicating means as accessories for container closures in general are classified in 55/02. This is a residual place so, as a consequence of Note (6) after the subclass title, tamper-indicating means that are specially adapted for a particular type of closure should not be classified here.
- Tamper-indicating means are additionally indexed in 101:00

Closures that are destroyed or permanently deformed by opening of course inherently indicate tampering, although they cannot be considered to be tamper-indication means or include tamper-indication means. This type of tamper-indication is the only one specifically provided for in the classification part of the scheme, for example in groups 41/32, 47/36, 49/12, 51/20 and 55/06. Even though the second part of the title of 55/02 "*Means for - - - indicating unauthorised opening or removal of closure*" does cover tamper-indication means there is no classification symbol that uniquely indicates the presence of tamper-indication means.

Tamper-indication is a valuable concept for searching, as indicated by the more than 3700 documents of EPO's search documentation that have been given the corresponding ICO codes of main group L65D 101:00. Tamper-indication is not a simple concept to text-search, since the function can be expressed in many different ways.

Converting 101:00 to classification does not appear to be feasible, due to the many different embodiments that are possible and the many different types of closures. A group of the same scope would also overlap with 55/02. The use of group 55/02 for additional information classification does not appear suitable, since that group only covers general aspects and since it also covers other matter than tamper-indication.

Therefore we recommend retaining 101:00, despite the recommendation of IPC/REF to abolish it.

However, in order to avoid unnecessary and non-productive indexing of matter that does not really embody any special arrangements for tamper-indication, we propose that the coverage of 101:00 is narrowed to exclude closures where tampering is merely indicated by the closure

being destroyed or permanently deformed during its normal opening. Wording to that effect will be found in the attached proposal.

2. B65D 111:00-113:00 - material or means used for containers, packaging elements, or packages, for contents presenting particular transport or storage problems

IPC/REF recommends abolishing this scheme, which comprises three groups. Usage of the groups is low - according to EPODOC each of the groups has been applied in less than ten cases.

111:00 and 111:02 cover the use of foam material. This is of general use for several types of containers and packaging problems, both for protection against mechanical damage and for thermal insulation. These groups could therefore not be converted to classification subgroups of 81/00 without causing overlaps.

113:00 covers the use of inflatable means. Although these appear to be mainly of use for protection against mechanical damage, so that an equivalent classification group could be introduced under 81/05, it also has other uses.

The abolition of 111:00 - 113:00 means that there will be no way of making a wide search for the means and materials covered. However, in view of the low usage it has to be presumed that the interest for this has not been big. ICO does not have equivalent indexing groups, but ECLA has a couple of classification groups for similar matter.

Therefore we recommend abolishing 111:00 - 113:00.

Anders Bruun

PROPOSAL:

B65D

- D Note after
81/00
- C 101/00 Means specially adapted for tamper-indication
- N Note after 101/00 This group does not cover closures where tampering is merely indicated by the destruction or permanent deformation of the closure during its normal opening
- D Guide
heading
before
111:00
- D Note
before
111:00
- D 111:00
- D 111:02
- D 113:00

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Project: H008

Subclass – B65D

Date: August 13, 2002

Comments

US supports the recommendation of Rapporteur to abolish indexes B65D 111:00, B65D 112:00, and B65D 113:00. This is the only logical action to take given their extremely broad coverage, which makes them almost useless for search purposes, and low usage.

US does not support the recommendation of Rapporteur to retain index B65D 101:00 either as currently worded or as Rapporteur proposes to reword it and add a note. In our opinion, this index is in **clear violation** of section 1 & 2 (b) of the “Guidelines for Creation of Indexing Schemes in the Reformed IPC” (see IPC/CE/31/8).

As Rapporteur correctly points out, all of the subject matter covered by this index can be obligatorily or non-obligatorily classified in the existing groups of subclass B65D (see particularly groups B65D 50/00 & B65D 55/02). These existing groups clearly, and far more accurately, provide for it.

While we found Rapporteur statements both eloquent and informative, we believe Rapporteur’s conclusion, after careful review, is unreasonable. The title of group B65D 55/02 provides for “Means for discouraging or indicating unauthorized opening or removal of closures”. This statement covers **both** means that indicate opening by the destruction or permanent deformation of the closure or elements linked to the closure and means that indicate opening by other methods. At least part, if not all, of this subject matter is also covered by group B65D 55/06 with the terminology “Use of seals”. Therefore, all types of tamper indicating means per se are specifically provided for in the classification part of the scheme.

Review of the ECLA scheme for this group supports this conclusion. EP has added indented groups B65D 55/02G and B65D 55/02J to its scheme that clearly do not require destruction of the closure or a linked component. If needed in the future for search purposes, a much more appropriate solution to the search problem caused by the broad scope of group B65D 55/02 can easily be implemented. For example, the scope of group B65D 55/06 could be clarified to more clearly cover this subject matter. Alternatively, a new two-dot indent under group B65D 55/02 could be created that is titled “Means for discouraging or indicating unauthorized opening or removal of closures” and the subject matter of group B65D 55/06 could be indented under it if “use of seals” were deleted from its title. Either of these solutions will separate out this concept in a vastly more appropriate manner without maintaining a useless index.

Japan Patent Office

September 11, 2002

Project:H008**Subclass:B65D**

**Comments of the Japan Patent Office on the IPC Hybrid System Project H 008
(Subclass: B65D)**

JP holds the view that not only indexes B65D 111:00, 112:00, and 113:00 but also B65D 101:00 should be abolished in accordance with the recommendations of the ad hoc IPC Reform Working Group. JP thus supports the Rapporteur's proposal regarding B65D 111:00, 112:00, and 113:00 while it is not in agreement with Rapporteur with respect to B65D 101:00.

In light of the "Guidelines for the Conversion of Existing IPC Indexing Schemes into Classification Schemes" and the "Guidelines for Creation of Indexing Schemes in the Reformed IPC," in particular Paragraphs 3 and 4 of the former and Paragraphs 2 and 4 of the latter, JP perceives that the following three points be considered in relation to the matter of whether to retain the index B65D 101:00 or abolish it:

- (a) whether the index B65D 101:00 covers aspects of subject matter which represent useful search information; more specifically, whether there exist sufficient needs, in terms of conducting efficient searches, for using the index instead of relying upon relevant existing classification schemes;
- (b) whether the subject matter covered by the index is appropriate only for indexing; and
- (c) whether the index provides Offices and classification users with reasonable cost benefits.

Negative answers to the above three queries would support the abolishment of the index while positive answers the reconsideration of such abolishment.

With regard to the above point (a), our examination experiences have taught us that needs infrequently arise for conducting a search for tamper-indicating means covering the rather broad area corresponding to main groups B65D 39/00 to 55/00, with which the index is associated, *regardless of* types of the closure embodying the tamper-indicating function. In other words, searches for tamper-indicating means are normally conducted based upon specific types of the closure. This is supported by the fact that most tamper-indicating solutions are associated with specific types of the closure, in particular threaded or like caps or cap-like covers with lines of weakness corresponding to B65D 41/34 under B65D 41/32. The European Patent Classification (ECLA) implies this. The ECLA system gives a note "provided with tamper elements formed in, or attached to, the closure skirt" to B65D 41/34 and has a number of additional classifications under B65D 41/34 dedicated to the details of tamper-indicating means, making, in effect, B65D 41/34 a subgroup for the aforesaid type of the closure *with* the tamper-indicating function, although the definition of B65D 41/34 as in the IPC system does not explicitly state its relevance to the tamper-indicating function.

As stated above, the tamper-indicating function is normally associated with specific types of closure, and this constitutes a background for rather low needs for the index B65D 101:00 associated with all the main groups from B65D 39/00 to 55/00. This does not completely preclude the possibility of utility of the index when it is used during searches in combination

with proper classifications to reduce the number of relevant documents. In this regard, however, it is also noted that term searching is often effective in such reduction so far as the tamper-indicating function is concerned, as many documents refer to the function as the “tamper-evident” function or the “pilfer-proof” function and thus the words “tamper” and “pilfer” are particularly relevant terms.

Therefore, JP does not perceive sufficient needs for using the index for the purpose of searches, as it makes good sense to rely upon relevant existing classification schemes and, when appropriate, relevant terms.

As for the above item (b), apparently, the subject matter covered by the index, i.e., tamper-indicating means, is not one appropriate only for indexing. As properly pointed out by Rapporteur, “Tamper-indicating means are *additionally* indexed in 101:00.” (emphasis added) As is also mentioned by Rapporteur, tamper-indicating means are classified either in the groups for the particular types of containers or closures, or where it is not appropriate, in the “residual” classification of 55/02.

With regard to the above point (c), JP is not in a view that the index provides Offices and classification users with reasonable cost benefits. In this connection, attention is drawn to the fact remarked by Rapporteur that more than 3,700 documents of European Patent Office’s search documentation have been given the corresponding ICO codes of main group L65D 101/00. In view of the circumstances mentioned above in relation to the item (a), JP considers that the relatively large number of documents classified in L65D 101/00 does not necessarily demonstrate the usefulness of the indexing scheme B65D 101:00 in the IPC system, but rather implies potentially heavy future classification workload when the indexing scheme is retained.

In light of the aforesaid considerations, JP currently has its conclusions stated at the beginning of this comment sheet.

[End of document]

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

Comments on Project H008 , Subclass B65D

GB supports the Rapporteur's view that indexing terms B65D 111:00, 111:02 and 113:00 should be abolished, and also supports the view held by US and JP that the indexing term B65D 101:00 should be abolished too. Rapporteur does indeed make his case eloquently in favour of keeping B65D 101:00 in some form, but I am not persuaded in view of the US and JP submissions. I would also mention two additional points.

The first point is the usage of this indexing term. EPODOC has 292 hits, which considering the weight of terms 39/00 to 55/00 (81,857 hits) represents 0.03% of the global documentation. Terms B65D 50/00 and subgroups, and 55/02 and 55/06, all of which refer to anti-tampering and attract the 101:00 indexing term, represent 7639 hits, 28 times as many as the 101:00 indexing term. It seems that coal-face examiners worldwide have shown in their actions that B65D 101:00 is less useful than it would appear at first glance.

The second point is SE's argument about text-searching this important and frequently-researched topic. Much of my last year or so has been spent working in the B65D area and I have seen many cases dealing with anti-tampering, but I have not seen a vast multiplicity of different terms used in patent applications to express the anti-tampering concept. In my experience text searching on only a few terms, such as *Atamper+@*, *Aantitamper+@* or *Aunauthori+@* has covered the field well and given good search results.

GB therefore supports abolition of all 4 indexing terms in B65D, including 101:00, without replacement.

Martin Price

OFICIUL DE STAT PENTRU
INVENTII SI MARCI

RO Comments

Date: September 30, 2002

Project H008

Subclass B65D

RO supports without hesitation R=proposal to abolish indexes B 65 D 111:00, 112:00 and 113:00, according to the recommendations of the Ad Hoc IPC Reform Working Group.

Referring to index B 65 D 101:00, we do not agree with R's recommendation of retaining it, and we support the view of the other offices. According to our searches in the field, we stated that tamper-indication function is associated with specific closures. Therefore, associating this indexing scheme with groups 39/00 to 55/00 is not relevant and it does not improve searching. Very often and with good results we used text searching with keywords and the conclusion was that the index 101:00 was not needed.

Therefore, we would suggest abolishing all indexing codes in B 65 D without replacement.

Bucura Ionescu

Deutsches Patent- und Markenamt German Patent and Trademark Office	Class/Subcl.: B65D
	Date : 10.10.2002
DE - Comments — H 008	

B65D 101:00

There are a lot of possibilities for the classification of closures with tamper-indicating means. Therefore it is not useful to create a particular maingroup for these means. We prefer to retain the indexing-code 101:00 but to narrow the coverage of 101:00 according to the Rapporteur's proposal.

B65D 111:00 to 113:00

We agree with the Rapporteur's reasoning and support his proposal to abolish this indexing-scheme.

U. Rödiger



IPC/H 029/02
ORIGINAL: English/French
DATE: October 18, 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 :	D21H
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ANNEX/ ANNEXE	CONTENT/CONTENU	ORIGIN/ ORIGINE	DATE
1	Rapporteur proposal / Proposition du rapporteur	SE	08.02
2	Comments / Observations	US	08.02
3	Comments / Observations	GB	09.02
4	Comments / Observations	RO	10.02
5	Comments / Observations	JP	10.02
6	Comments / Observations	RU	10.02
7	Comments / Observations	EP	10.02

RAPPORTEUR : SE TECHNICAL FIELD/DOMAINE TECHNIQUE : M

Swedish Patent and Registration Office

IPC Hybrid System Project H 029, subclass D21H

August 6th, 2002

INITIAL PROPOSAL

D21H contains nine notes defining double usage hybrid systems:

1. In main group **D21H 17/00**, which covers "**Non-fibrous material added to the pulp or paper-impregnating material, characterised by its constitution**", it is desirable to add indexing codes relating to individual constituents of fibres. These indexing codes are chosen from groups D21H 11/00 to D21H 15/00, which cover pulp or paper comprising fibres of different types.
2. In **D21H 17/71** and its three subgroups, which cover "**Mixtures of non-fibrous materials added to the pulp or of paper-impregnating materials, characterised by their constitution**", it is desirable to add indexing codes relating to individual components of the mixtures. These indexing codes are chosen from groups D21H 17/00 (with the exception of groups 17/18, 17/19 and 17/70) or D21H 21/00, which cover individual non-fibrous materials, characterised by their constitution, function, form or properties.
3. In main group **D21H 19/00**, which covers "**Coated paper; Coating material**", it is desirable to add indexing codes relating to individual constituents of the fibres, non-fibrous materials added or impregnating or coating materials. These indexing codes are chosen from:
 - Groups D21H 11/00 to D21H 15/00, which cover pulp or paper comprising fibres of different types
 - Main group D21H 17/00 (with the exception of groups 17/18, 17/19 and 17/70), which covers mixtures of non-fibrous materials added to the pulp or impregnating materials, characterised by their constitution
 - Groups D21H 21/14 to D21H 21/56, which cover non-fibrous materials, characterised by their function or properties in or on the paper.
4. In groups **D21H 21/00 - 21/12**, which cover "**Non-fibrous material added to the pulp, paper impregnating or coating material, characterised by their form or by their function or properties other than in or on the paper**", it is desirable to add indexing codes relating to individual constituents of the fibres, non-fibrous materials added or impregnating or coating materials. These indexing codes are chosen from:
 - Groups D21H 11/00 to D21H 15/00, which cover pulp or paper comprising fibres of different types
 - Main group D21H 17/00 (with the exception of groups 17/18, 17/19 and 17/70), which covers mixtures of non-fibrous materials added to the pulp or impregnating materials, characterised by their constitution
5. In groups **D21H 21/14 - 21/56**, which cover "**Non-fibrous material added to the pulp, paper impregnating material or coating material, characterised by their function or properties in or on the paper**", it is desirable to add indexing codes relating to individual constituents of the fibres, non-fibrous materials added or impregnating or coating materials. These indexing codes are chosen from:

- Groups D21H 11/00 to D21H 15/00, which cover pulp or paper comprising fibres of different types
- Main group D21H 17/00 (with the exception of groups 17/18, 17/19 and 17/70), which covers mixtures of non-fibrous materials added to the pulp or impregnating materials, characterised by their constitution
- Main group D21H 19/00, which covers coated paper and coating material.

6. In groups **D21H 23/00 - 23/20**, which cover "**Processes or apparatus for adding material, characterised by the manner in which material is added to the pulp**", it is desirable to add indexing codes relating to individual constituents of the fibres, non-fibrous materials added or impregnating or coating materials. These indexing codes are chosen from:

- Groups D21H 11/00 to D21H 15/00, which cover pulp or paper comprising fibres of different types
- Main group D21H 17/00 (with the exception of groups 17/18, 17/19 and 17/70), which covers mixtures of non-fibrous materials added to the pulp or impregnating materials, characterised by their constitution
- Main group D21H 19/00, which covers coated paper and coating material.
- Main group D21H 21/00, which covers non-fibrous material added to the pulp, paper impregnating material or coating material, characterised by its function, form or properties

7. In groups **D21H 23/22 - 23/78**, which cover "**Processes or apparatus for adding material, characterised by the manner in which material is added to the formed paper, by auxiliary compounds or by control or regulation**", it is desirable to add indexing codes relating to individual constituents of the fibres, non-fibrous materials added or impregnating or coating materials. These indexing codes are chosen from:

- Groups D21H 11/00 to D21H 15/00, which cover pulp or paper comprising fibres of different types
- Main group D21H 17/00 (with the exception of groups 17/18, 17/19 and 17/70), which covers mixtures of non-fibrous materials added to the pulp or impregnating materials, characterised by their constitution
- Main group D21H 19/00, which covers coated paper and coating material.
- Main group D21H 21/00, which covers non-fibrous material added to the pulp, paper impregnating material or coating material, characterised by its function, form or properties

8. In main group **D21H 25/00**, which covers "**After-treatment of paper not provided for in groups 17/00 to 23/00**", it is desirable to add indexing codes relating to individual constituents of the fibres, non-fibrous material added or impregnating or coating materials. These indexing codes are chosen from:

- Groups D21H 11/00 to D21H 15/00, which cover pulp or paper comprising fibres of different types
- Main group D21H 17/00 (with the exception of groups 17/18, 17/19 and 17/70), which covers mixtures of non-fibrous materials added to the pulp or impregnating materials, characterised by their constitution
- Main group D21H 19/00, which covers coated paper and coating material.
- Main group D21H 21/00, which covers non-fibrous material added to the pulp, paper impregnating material or coating material, characterised by its function, form or properties

9. In main group **D21H 27/00**, which covers "**Special paper not otherwise provided for**", it is desirable to add indexing codes relating to individual constituents. These indexing codes are chosen from:

- Groups D21H 11/00 to D21H 15/00, which cover pulp or paper comprising fibres of different types
- Main group D21H 17/00 (with the exception of groups 17/18, 17/19 and 17/70), which covers mixtures of non-fibrous materials added to the pulp or impregnating materials, characterised by their constitution
- Main group D21H 19/00, which covers coated paper and coating material.
- Main group D21H 21/00, which covers non-fibrous material added to the pulp, paper impregnating material or coating material, characterised by its function, form or properties
- Main group D21H 23/00, which covers processes or apparatus for adding material to the pulp or to the paper
- Main group D21H 25/00, which covers after-treatment of paper

I. The hybrid system in D21H 17/71

This system differs from the other ones in that it serves to identify individual components of mixtures, which due to the last place rule of that main group can not otherwise be classified. This system must therefore be dealt with separately from the others.

The present subdivision of 17/00 is tailor-made for use with a last place rule and double-purpose indexing. It will not work if indexing is simply removed, because mixtures will become practically unsearchable. In groups 17/72 - 17/74 the invention information can only be identified very imprecisely (organic/inorganic), so important parts of the invention information can only be indicated by indexing.

At present, groups 17/01 - 17/70 are, at least formally, only intended for single materials. However, groups 17/72 - 17/74 are not used in a consistent way. Some offices apparently instead classify the ingredients of a mixture separately. Perhaps the mixture groups are also used in a more restricted manner than by strict interpretation of the last place rule, for example for particular synergistic effects achieved by a specific mixture.

There are two alternatives:

(a) Delete the mixture groups

The notes are modified to require classification of all components of a mixture that are of interest. The last four groups of the scheme are then redundant. Groups 17/71 - 17/74 are deleted and a note introduced stating that all components of a mixture should be classified separately.

Consequences: Groups 17/01 - 17/70 would serve also for identifying components of a mixture. Would this be a big disadvantage - are there many "single material documents" that will become difficult to search if the groups are also used for identifying components of mixtures? It would be a change in the philosophy of the main group - is it a too big change, or is it a philosophy that is in reality already used in practice?

(b) Apply the last place rule, together with non-obligatory additional classification of individual ingredients

More detailed notes are introduced, giving more strict guidance for classification of mixtures and recommendations for non-obligatory additional classification in the groups for single components in case classification is made in the groups for mixtures.

Consequences: This would lead to a system that would work in the same way as the existing. It would still have the same disadvantages, for example the classification of single ingredients would still be non-obligatory and the temptation to incorrectly classify individual ingredients of a mixture as invention information in the "individual ingredients" groups would still be there.

We prefer alternative (a). Alternative (b) would have all the disadvantages of the present solution.

II. The other hybrid systems

These systems all appear to be intended to enable identification of non-invention "additional information" in addition to the invention information. Classification of this type of information can not be made obligatory.

The general layout of main groups is roughly as follows:

Product places:	11/00 - 15/00, 19/00, 27/00 (characterised by fibrous material, characterised by non-fibrous material, residual/special)
Material places	17/00 - 21/00 (non-fibrous or impregnating material characterised by constitution, form/function/properties or coatings)
Process places	23/00, 25/00 (adding material, after-treatment/residual)

The relationships between different main groups of the same categories of invention are mainly "multiaspect" relationships. The present notes are complicated and overdetailed, but do still not give much guidance. If they are considered necessary they must be simplified. It can, however, be questioned whether any special notes are necessary or helpful in order to achieve the intentions behind the hybrid systems. We do not think the notes give any additional information beyond the general rules for "what to classify", so we do not think they need to be replaced.

We think a single note after the subclass title giving general advice for classification might be useful, but we are not sure that even such a note is necessary. In the proposal below you will nevertheless find an effort at such a note.

III. Corresponding ECLA and FI practice

The ECLA and FI groups in the range D21H 17/71 to D21H 17/74 are obviously rarely used, in both cases for less than one percent of the documents classified in the main group.

In view of the very wide-ranging indexing possibilities the usage at the EPO of the corresponding ICO codes of subclass N21H appears relatively low. Only around 4700 of the 33,000 documents classified in the ECLA main groups D21H 11/00 to D21H 27/00 are also indexed in N21H.

Anders Bruun
Barbro Nilsson

PROPOSAL

D21H

Common parts:

- C Note (4) after subclass title If a paper or pulp, or a material therefor, is characterised by more than one feature provided for in this subclass, for example by both the fibrous material and a coating or by both a colorant and a water-repelling agent, classification is made in places providing for all these features.
- N Note (5) after subclass title <old Note (4)>
- 11/00 - 17/00 <delete vertical line>
- 17/01 - 17/17 <delete vertical line>
- 17/20 - 17/69 <delete vertical line>
- 19/00 <delete vertical line>
- D Notes (1) and (2) after 19/00
- 19/02 - 19/84 <delete vertical line>
- D Notes (1) and (2) after 19/84
- 21/00 - 21/12 <delete vertical line>
- D Notes (1) and (2) after 21/12
- 21/14 - 21/56 <delete vertical line>
- D Notes (1) and (2) after 21/56
- 23/00 - 23/20 <delete vertical line>
- D Notes (1) and (2) after 23/20
- 23/22 - 25/00 <delete vertical line>
- D Notes (1) and (2) after 25/00
- 25/02 - 25/18 <delete vertical line>
- Note (1) after 27/00 <delete "(1)">
- D Notes (2) and (3) after 27/00

Alternative (a):

- C Note (1) after 17/00 In this group all active ingredients of a mixture of materials are classified separately.
- C Note (2) after In this group, in the absence of an indication to the contrary, an

- 17/00 individual compound is classified in the last appropriate place.
- D Note (3) after
17/00
- D 17/71 (covered by 17/00)
- D Notes (1) and
(2) after 17/71
- D 17/72 (covered by 17/00)
- D 17/73 (covered by 17/00)
- D 17/74 (covered by 17/00)

Alternative (b):

- Note (1) after
17/00 <delete "(1)"> In this group, in the absence of an indication to the contrary, a material is classified in the last appropriate place. Mixtures of material are thus only classified in group 17/71. Classification in groups 17/00 - 17/63 is only made if a material is of interest on its own.
- D Notes (2) and
(3) after 17/00
- C Note (1) after
17/71 <delete "(1)"> When classifying a mixture in this group it is recommended to give additional non-invention classifications in groups 17/00 to 17/63 in order to indicate the individual ingredients of the mixture.
- D Note (2) after
17/71

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Project: H029

Subclass – D21H

Date: August 14, 2002

Comments

US agrees with Rapporteur's recommendations to delete all vertical lines and notes related to indexing in D21H in the manner suggested in Rapporteur's proposal in view of IPC/REF/3/2, paragraph 35, section (d) approved by the Reform Working Group. This section requires the abolishment of double-purpose use within classification groups and suggests considering multiple classification in these groups as an alternative. Rapporteur is correct in stating that the new 'What to Classify Guidelines' will allow adequate additional obligatory and non-obligatory classification in these groups and that notes stating this obvious fact are not necessary.

US understands the reason for Rapporteur's suggestion to add new Note (4) under the D21H subclass title. We do not think this note is needed based on the adopted Guidelines. However, we would not oppose its inclusion with slight rewording. We suggest the note be restated as follows:

“If the individual constituents forming or associated with forming the paper or pulp of an invention are separately characterised by more than one distinct feature provided for in this subclass, for example by both the fibrous material and a coating or by both a colorant and a water-repelling agent, they are classified in the places providing for each distinct feature that is novel or useful for search.”

US is confused with regard to Rapporteur's recommendations, alternative (a) & alternative (b), for groups D21H 17/00 – 17/74. It was our understanding that the scope of H-type projects is limited to absolutely essential modification of, and not major modifications of, existing schemes. In our opinion, significant changes such as those suggested in alternative (a) should not even be considered at this time. The Working Group is already **significantly** behind in its goals in other areas of reform and it should not expend the additional manpower needed to adequately review all of the documents impacted by this alternative. Furthermore, we are confused in alternative (a) by the use of the term 'active' ingredient and are unsure what is required to make an ingredient 'active' in this paper/pulp area?

For these reasons, US supports alternative (b) with minor modifications to the proposed notes which maintains the status quo. In Note (1) after 17/00, we suggest adding to the last line “- - a material in the mixture is novel or of interest on its own”. In Note (1) after 17/71, we suggest deleting “non-invention” and adding to the last line “- - individual ingredients of the mixture when they are novel or of interest.”

UK Patent Office**Date: 23 September 2002**

Comments on Project H029 , Subclass D21H

We note that the Rapporteur proposals contain two alternatives, (a) and (b), for dealing with groups D21H 17/00 - 17/74, and note rather harshly-worded opposition to alternative (a) by the US. The US have a point in that alternative (a), or variations thereof, would be a more major modification of the classification than envisaged by the guidelines under which we are operating just now. However there is a general point at issue here which needs discussion.

The situation seems analogous to that in projects H016 and H018 in that a last place rule exists, and its operation would be disturbed by the abolition of the indexing scheme and replacement thereof by some sort of classification scheme. On these projects the Rapporteur (the present writer) proposed a multiple classification scheme, additional to the original scheme with the last place rule, and invited comments. Our guidelines (IPC/WG/7/7 Annex H) allow additional rules or classification approaches *in exceptional cases where absolutely necessary*, and therefore we need to explore whether we need to invoke this provision now, in the case of last place rules.

US correctly notes that his preferred alternative (b) *maintains the status quo*, as does the Rapporteur's proposal in projects H016 and H018; but is this the right thing to do here? **We need further comments.**

Having said all of this, we tend to prefer alternative (b) with the suggested changes of wording proposed by US in the second and fourth paragraphs of their comments. This ties up with our rather tentative approach on projects H016 and H018, and is the line of least resistance. We also agree with the additional classification being for ingredients that are *of interest* - very much our way of thinking.

There are advantages and disadvantages in both alternatives (a) and (b), but (i) coal-face examiners worldwide may well operate the current scheme as a multiple classification scheme similar to (b), and (ii) any disadvantages of (b) would not be comparable to those of rushing out an ill-thought-out scheme as a result of treating a hybrid project as though it were a revision project.

Martin Price

OFICIUL DE STAT PENTRU
INVENTII SI MARCI

RO Comments

Date: September 30, 2002

Project H029

Subclass D 21 H

- RO agrees with R's proposal to delete vertical lines and notes related to indexing in subclass D21H;
- Note (4) after subclass title:

We are in favour of introducing this note, which we consider very useful. In this respect, analysing also US proposal we would prefer to have some minor changes on R's proposal, as follows:

***A** If the individual constituents forming or associated with forming the paper or pulp are separately characterised by more than one distinct feature provided for in this subclass, for example by both the fibrous material and a coating or by both a colorant and a water-repelling agent, classification is made in places providing for all these features@*

We prefer R's suggestion in the last row of the note **A**classification is made...@, instead of US= proposal **A**they are classified@..., because the intention is not to classify individual constituents but paper or pulp, in order to retrieve it when searching.

We are also not in favour of introducing terms like **A**novel and useful@, (or even **A**invention@) used mostly in or related to the examination process. This could create confusion among other users.

- As regarding alternative (a) or (b), we have the following considerations:

we also consider that in groups 17/72 - 17/74, the information can only be identified very imprecisely (organic/inorganic material);

these groups are not used in a consistent way;

the note associated with them is complicated and sophisticated and the user tends to prefer skipping it;

we do agree that the deletion of these subgroups, would cause a modification of the classification in subclass D21H, but would this be a major one?

Having as purpose also the creation of a user-friendly classification instrument, we think the modification would be worth. Consequently, we prefer alternative (a).

Maybe further comments would be necessary.

Bucura Ionescu

Japan Patent Office

September 30, 2002

Project:H029

Subclass:D21H

JP Comments on Rapporteur Proposal Dated August 6, 2002**Common Parts**

JP supports Rapporteur proposal.

Alternative (a)

We do not agree with this proposal for deletion of D21H17/71-17/74 and think that deletion of these groups is beyond the H project. We also concern that it will be inconvenient for use if the subject matters already classified in those subgroups transfer to D21H17/00.

Alternative (b)

This Alternative (b) is preferable to Alternative (a). We, however, think that the subject matters being relevant to D21H17/71-17/74 should not be classified in only D21H17/71-17/74 since these subgroups would be less valuable for search purpose. Hence, it is desirable to define clearly that characteristic components of the mixtures of non-fibrous materials should be also classified in one of relevant subgroups of D21H17/71-17/74 as additional information.

FEDERAL INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY

RU comments	
Project : H 029	Date: 7.10.2002
Class/Subclass : D21H	

Re: IPC WG/7/7

We support multiple classification scheme in subclass D21H, proposed by SE, and agree with US and GB opinion that there is no need to change the current classification scheme in this subclass. So we support the alternative (b), proposed by SE.

We are also in favor of wordings of Notes proposed by US. But we believe notes relating to classification of ingredients of mixtures to be anyhow standardized for all subclasses, wherever such notes are needed, particularly in relation to the terms like "essential" or "novel" or the expression "if of interest".

E.Brill,
M.Sobolev



EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE
Principal Directorate Documentation

Comments
4 October 2002

Project: H029/02 Class: D21H

Re.: SE proposal (6 August 2002)

Our expert agrees with Comments and proposal of the SE Office



IPC/H 030/02

ORIGINAL: English/French

DATE: November 18, 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 :	E04B
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ANNEX/ ANNEXE	CONTENT/CONTENU	ORIGIN/ ORIGINE	DATE
1	Comments / Observations	JP	10.02
2	Rapporteur proposal / Proposition du rapporteur	DE	10.02
3	Comments / Observations	EP	11.02
4	Comments / Observations	GB	11.02
5	Comments / Observations	US	11.02

RAPPORTEUR : DE TECHNICAL FIELD/DOMAINE TECHNIQUE : M

Japan Patent Office

October 16, 2002

Project: H030

Subclass:E04B

JP Comments

In light of the “Decisions of the Ad Hoc IPC Reform Working Group with Regard to Separate Indexing Schemes in the IPC (IPC/WG/6/5),” JP agrees to abolish the indexing codes E04B101:00 and E04B103:00 since they satisfy the followings:

- a) No national documents are provided for them.
- b) They are hardly used for retrievals.
- c) Their use may be rare in future.

DEUTSCHES PATENT- UND MARKENAMT German Patent and Trade Mark Office	Class/Subcl. E04B
	Date : 16.10.2002
DE - Proposal — H 030	

Re: IPC Hybrid System Project H 030, subclass E04B

E04B 101:00

It was recommended by the Ad Hoc IPC Reform Working Group to abolish this indexing scheme (dating from IPC 5).

This indexing scheme is associated with groups E04B 1-00 to 9-00 and relates to fire protection.

With view to the classification entry "**E04B 1-94 ..Protection --- against fire**" provision is made to additionally classify protective measures etc against fire under this group if the technical disclosure requires.

Indexing to this purpose refers to only about 0.06% of our E04B search file and is not deemed necessary by the examiners in charge of E04B.

We therefore recommend **deletion** of the scheme.

E04B 103:00 – 103:06

It was recommended by the Ad Hoc IPC Reform Working Group to abolish this indexing scheme (dating from IPC 5).

This indexing scheme is only associated with group

"E04B 9-04 . Ceilings; Construction of ceilings ----- comprising slabs".

Private subdivision of this group in our office provides for construction features and not for materials according to the indexing scheme. The latter is therefore rarely used. Further, only about 6% of our E04B 9-04 documents, i.e. about 0.04% of our E04B search file, are provided with an indexing code 103:0?.

We therefore recommend **deletion** of the scheme.

Project: H030 Subclass: E04B

We agree with the Rapporteurs proposal and reasoning to delete the indexing schemes. The low use of the schemes by our examiners in charge shows that these codes are not needed.

H. Mende

UK Patent Office

Date: 15 November 2002

Comments on Project H030 , Subclass E04B

We agree, in common with all other Offices, that the indexing schemes of E04B 101:00 and 103:00 to 103:06 should be dispensed with.

In addition to other comments, we would point out that the 103:00 - 06 codes mention ceramics, plastics, metal and all possible materials that might be expected to be used in building slabs, sheets or the like, and represent an exhaustive list. The fact that only 6% of DE's E04B 9/04 collection have these indexing terms, whereas the figure ought to be around 100%, shows clearly that these indexing terms are not seen to have great value.

Martin Price

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Project: H030

Subclass - E04B

Date: November 16, 2002

Comments

US agrees with Rapporteur's recommendation that the indexing schemes of E04B 101:00 and E04B 103:00 should be deleted.



IPC/H 031/02
ORIGINAL: English/French
DATE: October 18, 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 :	F16H
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ANNEX/ ANNEXE	CONTENT/CONTENU	ORIGIN/ ORIGINE	DATE
1	Proposal / Proposition	EP	09.02
2	Comments / Observations	US	09.02
3	Comments / Observations	GB	09.02
4	Comments / Observations	RO	09.02
5	Comments / Observations	JP	10.02
6	Rapporteur report / Rapport du rapporteur	EP	10.02

RAPPORTEUR : EP TECHNICAL FIELD/DOMAINE TECHNIQUE : M

Project: H031 Subclass: F16H

Group F16H 48/00

Following the recommendations of IPC/7/7 Annex H we propose to convert the existing dual-purpose indexing scheme into a multiple classification scheme.

The purpose behind this hybrid system introduced in IPC6 was to save paper when giving codes for constructional features of differential gearings which help searching but are not part of the invention. Only a low number of documents had been indexed in this hybrid system. We believe that the new "What to classify guidelines" will allow adequate additional obligatory and non-obligatory classification in these groups.

Note (2) and (3) after 48/04 should be replaced by:

In groups 48/06 to 48/30, it is desirable to add additional classification relating to constructional features of differential gearings.

Group F16H59/00 to F16H63/00

F16H59/00 to F16H63/00 is a double purpose scheme, which was introduced in IPC 5 to give additional symbols especially for the signals used in the control systems of transmissions. With the developments of the last 15 years the input parameters are no longer essential technical features of the control system, because nearly every parameter is measured by the system. The hybrid system with double purpose use of classification groups should be replaced by multiple classifications, especially for classification of additional information according the new rules.

Note (6,7,8) before F16H59/00 should be deleted and replaced by a note for multiple classification.

Group F16H101:00 to F16H109:00

Part of this indexing scheme provides subject matter, which is essential in combination with the control system for the determination of the patentability of the patent documents. Especially continuous variable transmissions (CVT), which have different control features compared to the stepped gearing, are mostly classified only in head group 61/00. With the active development of CVT's for vehicle transmission in recent years there is an enormous need for a proper classification entry. Therefore the conversion of the most active indexing codes into subgroups under F16H61/00 would be a big improvement. The code 107:00 "Differential or balance gearing" is not used but could be replaced by an additional classification in F16H48/02. The last code 109:00 "Changing number of driven wheels" is also empty and should better be deleted because of the already existing similar group in B60K23/08. We propose to convert the other entries of the indexing scheme 101:00 to 105:00 to new subgroups under 61/00 and apply multiple classification according to the new "What to classify guidelines".

H.Mende
Proposal

F16H

C Note (2) after In groups 48/06 to 48/30 it is desirable to add additional classification

- group 48/04 relating to constructional features of differential gearings
- D Note (3) after group 48/04
- C Note (6) before 59/00 In groups 59/00 to 63/00 it is desirable to add additional classification chosen from these groups, e.g. selected from subgroup 61/66 relating to the type of gearing controlled or from 59/00 relating to control inputs.
- D Note (7 and 8) before 59/00
- N 61/66 . specially adapted for continuously variable gearings (61/38 takes precedence)
- N 61/662 . . with endless flexible members
- N 61/664 . . Friction gearings
- N 61/68 . specially adapted for stepped gearings
- N 61/682 . . with interruption of drive
- N 61/684 . . without interruption of drive
- N 61/686 . . . with orbital gears
- N 61/688 . . . with two inputs, e.g. selection of one of torque flow path by clutch
- N 61/70 . specially adapted for change speed gearing in group arrangement, i.e. with separate change speed gear trains arranged in series, e.g. range or overdrive-type gearing arrangements
- D after 63/50 Guide heading and note
- D 101:00 (transferred to 61/66)
- D 101:02 (transferred to 61/662)
- D 101:04 (transferred to 61/664)
- D 103:00 (transferred to 61/68)
- D 103:02 (transferred to 61/682)
- D 103:10 (transferred to 61/684)
- D 101:12 (transferred to 61/686)
- D 101:14 (transferred to 61/688)
- D 105:00 (transferred to 61/70)
- D 107:00 (empty)
- D 109:00 (empty)

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Project: H031

Subclass – F16H

Date: August 28, 2002

Comments

US fully supports Rapporteur's recommendations and proposal. In particular, we agree with the deletion of the regular and dual-purpose type indexing codes in this scheme.

US agrees with Rapporteur's suggested deletions and modifications of the notes after group F16H 48/04 and the notes before group F16H 59/00. Our only suggestion is a slight change to the last line of Note (6) before group F16H 59/00. We would change it to “---from *group* 59/00 relating to-----”.

However, we did have some concern with the creation of proposed group F16H 61/68. The titles of its indented groups seemed to completely exhaust its scope and we were not sure any patent documents could be properly classified in F16H 61/68. While this practice is acceptable for indexing code titles, it is a discouraged practice for groups. Nevertheless, this being said, the very similar titles of groups B60K 41/06, 41/08, and 41/10 also seem to do this and there are documents in all of these groups and ECLA subgroups.

US would like to note that for the type of information covered by indexing codes 101:00 – 105:00, there is potentially the alternative solution of maintaining them as indexing codes until a more elaborate reorganization of the existing scheme of F16H 61/00 is undertaken at the advanced level in the future. This option is found in the “Guidelines for the Conversion of Existing IPC Indexing Schemes into Classification Schemes” section 7 (IPC/REF/6/2, Annex V). US notes that this option is available only because both the ECLA and FI schemes for F16H 61/00 already include extensive additional subgroups. In the future, a more elegant solution for collecting this invention information may be possible in the advanced level of the IPC.

UK Patent Office
Date: 24 September 2002

Comments on Project H031 , Subclass F16H

We support the Rapporteur's recommendations and proposal, subject to a few minor comments. We also agree in general with the US comments.

We agree with US's suggestion regarding the last line of Note (6) before group F16H 59/00.

We turn to US's comments on proposed group F16H 61/68. We agree in theory that the indented subgroups look like exhausting the scope of 61/68; however we note that US refer to similar groups in B60K and state that there are documents in all these groups. We have found that all the indexing terms F16H 103:00 to 103:14 have documents according to EPODOC, but only one in 103:12 and two in 103:10, while 103:00 (the term at issue here) has 11 documents. Clearly not enough to create a proper IPC group, but we have to take into account (i) the low usage of the indexing terms (as mentioned by the Rapporteur) and (ii) the fact that these indexing terms were only recently introduced at IPC7. Hopefully corresponding classifying groups would be better used over a period of time.

We therefore favour the creation of the classifying terms suggested by the Rapporteur, unless evidence emerges to suggest that these groups would be a mistake.

US mention the possibility of keeping the existing indexing codes until an advanced level solution is worked out (which may of course take a number of years). We are not in favour of this since the current indexing codes are under-used and therefore not seen as very useful. The Rapporteur proposal appears to constitute an improvement compared to the current situation and it is probably better to have a temporary improvement rather than none.

We would suggest a slight change to Note (2) after F16H 48/04, to specify that the additional classification should be chosen from the same groups. The suggestion is as follows:

C	Note (2) after group 48/04	In groups 48/06 to 48/30 - - - additional classifications, <i>chosen from the same groups</i> , relating to constructional - - -
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All the vertical lines in the subclass should be deleted too.

Martin Price

**OFICIUL DE STAT PANTRU
INVENTII SI MARCI**

RO. COMMENTS

Date:Sept. 2002

Project :H031

Area: F16H

We sustain the rapporteur comments.

Regarding the maintaining of the existing indexing codes we do not agree with. In this respect the vertical line in the subclass should be deleted.

N. MURARUS

Japan Patent Office

October 4, 2002

Project:H031

Subclass:F16H

JP Comments on Rapporteur Proposal Dated August 26, 2002

JP agrees with Rapporteur proposal.

JP just wonders whether it is useful to classify to F16H59/00, on condition that “the input parameters are no longer essential technical features of the control system.”

Project: H031 Subclass: F16H

Comments have been received from US, GB, RO and JP.

All four offices support Rapporteur's recommendations and proposal. USPTO drew attention to the possibility that the indexing codes 101:00 – 105:00 could be kept until a more elaborate reorganisation of the scheme of F16H61/00 is undertaken at the advanced level in the future. GB and RO are against the postponing of deletion of these codes and prefer the deletion of codes and introduction of new subgroups in IPC8.

GB proposed a slight change of Note (2) to emphasize that the additional classifications could be chosen from the same groups. RR agrees with the proposal. US suggested a slight change of Note (6), which is supported by GB. Further USPTO had some concern about creation of group 61/68 because they fear that this group will be empty because of the exhaustive scope of the indented groups. Our experience with a similar break down in B60K41/00 shows that there are always some documents describing methods or means in general, which do not fit into the scope of the subgroups with similar titles.

GB and RO draw attention to the vertical lines in the presentation of the IPC, which have to be removed with the deletion of double purpose indexing scheme.

JPO wonders whether it is useful to classify into F16H59/00, on the basis that the input parameters are no longer essential technical features of the control system. For most of the control systems – where every possible parameter is measured – the input parameters are not an essential feature for classifying. Nevertheless there are other applications where the invention concerns mainly the processing of a single input parameter or where the invention is the selection of particular input parameters. These documents should be classified in F16H59/00.

H. Mende

Proposal

F16H

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|--|
| C | Note (2) after group 48/04 | In groups 48/06 to 48/30 it is desirable to add additional classification, chosen from the same groups, relating to constructional features of differential gearings |
| D | Note (3) after group 48/04 | |
| C | Note (6) before 59/00 | In groups 59/00 to 63/00 it is desirable to add additional classification chosen from these groups, e.g. selected from subgroup 61/66 relating to the type of gearing controlled or from group 59/00 relating to control inputs. |
| D | Note (7 and 8) before 59/00 | |

- N 61/66 . specially adapted for continuously variable gearings (61/38 takes precedence)
- N 61/662 . . with endless flexible members
- N 61/664 . . Friction gearings
- N 61/68 . specially adapted for stepped gearings
- N 61/682 . . with interruption of drive
- N 61/684 . . without interruption of drive
- N 61/686 . . . with orbital gears
- N 61/688 . . . with two inputs, e.g. selection of one of torque flow path by clutch
- N 61/70 . specially adapted for change speed gearing in group arrangement, i.e. with separate change speed gear trains arranged in series, e.g. range or overdrive-type gearing arrangements

D after 63/50 Guide heading and note

- D 101:00 (transferred to 61/66)
- D 101:02 (transferred to 61/662)
- D 101:04 (transferred to 61/664)
- D 103:00 (transferred to 61/68)
- D 103:02 (transferred to 61/682)
- D 103:10 (transferred to 61/684)
- D 101:12 (transferred to 61/686)
- D 101:14 (transferred to 61/688)
- D 105:00 (transferred to 61/70)
- D 107:00 (empty)
- D 109:00 (empty)

D vertical lines parallel to columns of F16H48/00, F16H59/00 and F16H63/00



IPC/H 032/02

ORIGINAL: English/French

DATE: September 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 :	SE	HYBRID SYSTEM OF IPC AREA: SYSTÈME HYBRIDE DU DOMAINE DE LA CIB :	F23C
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ANNEX/ ANNEXE	CONTENT/CONTENU	ORIGIN/ ORIGINE	DATE
1	Rapporteur proposal / Proposition du rapporteur	SE	08.02
2	Comments / Observations	US	08.02
3	Comments / Observations	GB	09.02
4	Comments / Observations	RO	09.02

RAPPORTEUR : SE

TECHNICAL FIELD/DOMAINE TECHNIQUE :

M

Swedish Patent and Registration Office

IPC Hybrid System Project H 032, subclass F23C

July 4th, 2002

INITIAL PROPOSAL

F23C contains one (unlinked) indexing scheme, with only a single indexing code, F23C 101/00. This relates to "**Combustion in entrained fluidised beds, i.e. fluidised beds which have no distinct upper surface**", and is applicable in main group F23C 10/00.

The Ad Hoc IPC Reform Working Group recommends retaining this indexing scheme, which was introduced in IPC 7.

This indexing scheme is in accordance with the guidelines given in document IPC/CE/31/8, Annex III. It covers an aspect that is different from those covered by the classification entries of F23C 10/00, and which is not provided for elsewhere in the IPC. During the creation of main group 10/00 it was realised that the introduction of a classification group for this aspect would disturb the scheme and create overlaps. The aspect of fluidisation speed is rarely in itself invention information, but it is additional information that is sometimes useful for limiting a search.

The use of the indexing scheme in IPC collections is difficult to estimate with precision, since it was only introduced in IPC7, but according to WPI data the use appears to be around 1.5 percent. The corresponding ICO code R23C 206/101 is used on around 13 percent of the documents classified in the ECLA main group F23C 10/00. This appears to be sufficient to prove its usefulness, since there is only one single code, which is not by far applicable to all documents in F23C 10/00.

We therefore recommend that F23C 101/00 is retained.

Anders Bruun

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Project: H032

Subclass – F23C

Date: August 14, 2002

Comments

US supports Rapporteur's recommendation to retain index F23C 101:00. The indexed subject matter is not appropriate for a classification group and is at least useful for some searches.

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

Comments on Project H032 , Subclass F23C

We support the Rapporteur's reasoning and conclusion to retain the indexing code F23C 101:00, but are not sure *in what form* this indexing code is intended to be retained. Is the intention to keep an indexing code 101:00, i.e. with a *colon* and exactly as printed in IPC7, or to delete it and create a corresponding multiple classification scheme where that code would be labelled 101/00, with a *slash*? Some changes to Notes and guide headings etc. would then be needed.

The fact that all mentions of the code are presented as 101/00 in the Rapporteur's proposal (with no colons appearing anywhere in the proposal) seems to indicate that a multiple classification scheme is what is intended, but perhaps the Rapporteur could clarify this point.

Martin Price

**OFICIUL DE STAT PANTRU
INVENTII SI MARCI**

RO. COMMENTS

Date:Sept. 2002

Project :H032

Area: F23C

We agree with the Rapporteur's proposal to retain the indexing code F23C101/00 relating to *Combustion in entrained fluidised beds, i.e. fluidised beds which have no distinct upper surface*, applicable in F23C10/00.

We do not consider the indexing code appropriate for classification.

N. MURARUS