

**IPC DEFINITION PROJECT FILES/
DOSSIERS DE PROJET DE DÉFINITION DE LA CIB**

**MECHANICAL FIELD/
DOMAINE DE LA MÉCANIQUE**

Project	Rap	Tech	Indication of approval by
D014	US	M	GB
D015	GB	M	JP, EP
D017	US	M	GB (cond.), EP
D018	EP	M	GB (cond.), JP, SE (for Annex 17)
D029	US	M	EP (cond.), GB (cond.)



IPC/D 014/00
ORIGINAL: English/French
DATE: May 14, 2003

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

IPC DEFINITION PROJECT FILE/DOSSIER DE PROJET DE DÉFINITION DE LA CIB

PROPOSAL BY: PROPOSITION DE :	US	IPC AREA: DOMAINE DE LA CIB :	A 61 N
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ANNEX/ ANNEXE	CONTENT/CONTENU	ORIGIN/ ORIGINE	DATE
1	Rapporteur proposal / Proposition du rapporteur	US	12.01
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RAPPORTEUR : US TECHNICAL FIELD/DOMAINE TECHNIQUE : M

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Project: D014

Subclass – A61N

Date: February 25, 2003

RAPPORTEUR REPORT

Rapporteur has placed the modified definition into the new format based on the finally approved “Guidelines for Drafting Classification Definitions” in IPC/WG/8/8, Annex F.

Rapporteur has included within the newly proposed definition all changes that were recommended in the previous Rapporteur Report.

Potential Future Actions for Working Group

While no significant issues remain regarding the definition of A61N, Rapporteur suggests that the Working Group eventually consider action on the following additional concerns relating to subclass A61N:

1. Rapporteur determined that the note after the subclass title of A61N in the scheme was unclear as to what invention information is intended to be covered in surgery by the terminology “contrary to that which takes place with instruments, devices or methods covered by group A61B 18/00”. Because of uncertainty as to the actual intended meaning of this terminology, its value for establishing a line between these two classification places is highly doubtful. Rapporteur recommends that the Working Group remove this note from the scheme of this subclass or alter it to clarify its intent.
2. In subclass A61H ‘physical therapy’ is limited to “the treatment of **disease or disability** by means, e.g. mechanical means, as opposed to drugs or surgery. It includes, by way of example, **massage, whirlpool baths**, and devices for exercising a passive body member.” Rapporteur notes that some of the examples of what is included within the scope of ‘physical therapy’ in the 2nd sentence are clearly not limited to use for treatment of either disease or disabilities as required in the 1st sentence. Both massage and whirlpool baths, while they can be therapeutic, are clearly not restricted to this very limited usage. This type of invention information is already covered by other parts of the multipart subclass title. Currently, only the invention information covered by main groups 1/00, 3/00, 5/00, 31/00, 36/00, and 39/00 is covered by the term ‘physical therapy’. For this reason, Rapporteur suggests that the Working Group consider deleting the examples “**massage, whirlpool baths**” and replacing them with different examples such as ‘crutches’ and ‘sweating suits’ that are not covered by a separate part of the subclass title.

3. DE suggested that the subclass title for A61N be modified to better reflect its actual scope. Rapporteur agrees with DE that the Working Group could modify the subclass title to “---ULTRASOUND THERAPY; THERAPY UTILIZING NON-MECHANICAL FORMS OF ENERGY”. This terminology is based on that of A61B 18/00 that covers similar types of invention information.
4. DE suggested adding a main group for the ‘not otherwise provided for’ subject matter in the subclass. Rapporteur believes that a residual main group could be safely added to the subclass scheme of A61N.
5. EP has suggested that the Working Group modify the title of group A61N 1/00 by adding “Apparatus for iontophoresis” to it. Rapporteur suggests the Working Group consider EP’s recommendation to alter the title of group A61N 1/00 to “Electrotherapy; Apparatus for iontophoresis; Circuits therefore”.

Title – A61N

Electrotherapy;

Magneto-therapy;

Radiation therapy;

Ultrasound therapy

Definition statement

This subclass covers:

Specially adapted apparatus, instruments, devices, or processes for the following types of **therapy**:

- **electrotherapy**,
- **magneto-therapy**,
- **radiation therapy**,
- **ultrasound therapy**, and
- All other types of **therapy** utilizing particular forms of energy other than direct mechanical energy (e.g., iontophoresis) that are not specifically provided for elsewhere in another subclass.

Components having specialized structural features that limit their use to the apparatus, instruments, or devices for the types of **therapy** appropriate for this subclass.

Relationships between large subject matter areas (e.g. special rules of classification between subclasses)

Several subclasses provide for subject matter that is used for ‘therapy’ as this terminology is commonly defined in English. The relationship between these subclasses in regard to the type of ‘therapy’ covered by each is as follows:

Subclass A61N provides for medical treatment-type ‘therapy’ by apparatus or methods utilizing forms of energy other than direct mechanical energy when they are **not** used for surgical purposes and they are intended to either

- destroy, control, or advance the recovery of sick or abnormal cells within body tissue while minimizing undesirable destruction of adjoining healthy cells, or
- treat other types of abnormal conditions of the body (e.g., disease, impaired organ, injured limb).

In particular, subclass A61N covers implanted devices, when the implanted device is not a replacement or supplementation of an actual portion of the organ or part, utilizing forms of energy other than direct mechanical energy to stimulate organs or body parts in a manner that facilitates, regulates, or improves their normal functioning.

Subclass A61H provides for massage and physical-type ‘therapy’ apparatus or methods for the treatment of disease or disability (i.e., an abnormal condition of the body) by utilization of direct mechanical energy. The apparatus or methods appropriate for this subclass do not surgically alter any portion of the bodies during treatment. Usually, the massage and therapy apparatus and methods of this subclass are intended to facilitate the healing of diseases, reduce the impact of injuries, or beneficially influence the condition of disabled body parts by physically moving a part of a body (e.g., devices for exercising a passive body member) solely by direct physical contact with, or stimulation of, external surfaces of the body or naturally occurring cavities in the body. However, stimulation of internal organs or body parts, such as artificial respiration and stimulation of the heart, when it is done by direct mechanical energy is also considered proper for this subclass.

Subclass A61K and Subclass A61P provide for drug-type ‘therapy’ using chemical compounds or medicinal preparations specially adapted for use in healing, benefiting, or destroying abnormal conditions of the body (e.g., diseases, birth defects) and the specific therapeutic activities that the chemical compounds and medicinal preparations are used for.

Subclass A61B provides for surgery and surgical-type ‘therapy’ that alters or repairs organs and body parts. It also provides for any surgical or diagnostic apparatus or methods that would otherwise be proper for subclass A61H or A61N when the apparatus or methods are used for both purposes or combined together. In particular, subclass A61B provides for surgical instruments, devices, or methods for transferring non-mechanical forms of energy to or from the body (e.g., electromagnetic radiation surgery) to alter or repair it.

References relevant to classification in this subclass

This subclass does not cover:

Apparatus for diagnosis or surgery combined with, or applicable also as, therapy apparatus	A61B
Apparatus for radiation diagnosis	A61B6/00
Surgical instruments, devices or methods for transferring non-mechanical forms of energy to or from the body (e.g., radiation surgery, electro-surgery).	A61B18/00
Instruments, implements, tools, or methods specially adapted so as to limit	A61D

their use to only animals

Apparatus or methods utilizing direct mechanical energy in 'therapy' intended to treat disease or disability	A61H
Percussion or vibration massage apparatus (e.g. using supersonic vibration)	A61H23/00
Apparatus or methods for stimulating specific reflex points by heating or cooling within the cell-life limits	A61H39/06
Devices for applying radioactive material to the body	A61M36/00

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

For measuring bioelectrical signals of the body or body parts	A61B5/04
For artificial substitutes or replacements for parts of the body	A61F2/00
For aesthetic apparatus in general	A61M
For artificial hearts and circulatory assistance means intended for implantation	A61M1/12
For chemical compounds or medicinal preparation used to treat sicknesses or abnormal conditions of the body	A61P
For incandescent lamps having general utility	H01K
For infrared radiators for heating	H05B

Special rules of classification within this subclass

None

Glossary of terms

In this subclass, the following terms or expressions are used with the meaning indicated:

Electrotherapy	utilizes electrical energy directly applied to either an external surface or inside portion of a human or animal body to effect a cure or alleviation of an abnormal condition (e.g., symptoms of a disease, defective functioning of an organ) of the body.
Magneto-therapy	utilizes magnetic force fields directly applied to either an external surface or inside portion of a human or animal body to effect a cure or alleviation of an abnormal condition (e.g., symptoms of a disease, defective functioning of an organ) of the body.

Radiation therapy

utilizes radiant type energy in the form of waves or particles (e.g., radiation emitted by radioactivity, gamma rays, microwaves, x-rays) directly applied to either an external surface or inside portion of a human or animal body to effect a cure or alleviation of an abnormal condition (e.g., symptoms of a disease, defective functioning of an organ) of the body.

Therapy

any medical treatment of an abnormal condition of a human or animal body (e.g., disease, impaired organ, injured limb) by means, instruments, devices, or methods that utilize forms of energy other than direct mechanical energy (e.g., ultrasonic energy) and which is not used for surgical purposes. Therapy appropriate for this subclass when it occurs at the cellular level is performed within the limits of healthy cell life and it is (a) intended to destroy, control, or advance the recovery of sick or abnormal cells within the body tissue of human beings or animals and (b) minimizes undesirable destruction of healthy cells adjoining the sick or abnormal cells that are treated.

Ultrasound therapy

utilizes acoustic vibrations at a very high frequency that are above the range audible to the human ear (i.e., acoustic frequency above approximately 20,000 cycles per second) directly applied to either an external surface or inside portion of a human or animal body to effect a cure or alleviation of an abnormal condition (e.g., symptoms of a disease, defective functioning of an organ) of the body.

Synonyms and Keywords

None



IPC/D 015/00
ORIGINAL: English/French
DATE: May 22, 2003

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IPC DEFINITION PROJECT FILE/DOSSIER DE PROJET DE DÉFINITION DE LA CIB

PROPOSAL BY: PROPOSITION DE :	GB	IPC AREA: DOMAINE DE LA CIB :	B 60 T
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RAPPORTEUR : GB TECHNICAL FIELD/DOMAINE TECHNIQUE : M

ANNEX/ ANNEXE	CONTENT/CONTENU	ORIGIN/ ORIGINE	DATE
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18	Rapporteur proposal / Proposition du rapporteur	GB	05.03

UK Patent Office**Date: 29 January 2003**

Rapporteur Report on Project D015, Subclass B60T

This project was briefly discussed at WG/8 in the Task Force lunch breaks. We agreed that more work was needed to move the project towards adoption. Taking each section in turn:

Title

(The following discussion may guide the forthcoming Committee of Experts discussion on the title of subclass B60T).

SE and FR have long argued that the title of subclass B60T needs changing. It is clear to R that the English title of the subclass is inconsistent with the French one, and both are inconsistent with the content of the subclass. Something definitely needs to be done, not only in the context of this definition project but in the IPC itself - see above.

R notes that the corresponding Revision project (C355) is completed but has not yet been approved by the Committee of Experts. **R suggests that CE should allow project C355 to be reopened to allow the title of B60T to be corrected;** if not, we would have to wait for a Maintenance project to be set up.

Meanwhile, main groups 1/00 to 5/00 are treated differently in the English and French versions of the title: the VE ignores these groups and the VF over-provides for them by using the word "freinage" (encompassing all aspects of braking, which is inappropriate here). *R suggests amending the French version to delete the generalised reference to "freinage", and by incorporating French versions of his proposed amendments in English - see proposal below.*

All limiting references in the definition should be added to the subclass title, in both languages.

There is no common concept in groups 1/00 to 5/00 and R can think of no way of succinctly summarising them in an elegant phrase. We therefore have a choice of (i) ignoring groups 1/00 to 5/00 in the title of B60T, or (ii) mentioning them in a rather cumbersome addition to the title, as suggested by SE.

Option (i) has the virtue of simplicity but leads to a title that does not accurately reflect the content of the subclass. Many titles in the IPC are in the same position though, eg B01D and B05C which are wider and narrower than their respective subclasses. It would also seem strange to specifically mention in a title two main groups (3/00 and 5/00) that have only 655 and 372 documents respectively. However the IPC is not a work of poetry and R feels it better that the title should be reasonably accurate, so he suggests following option (ii).

R proposes to use a slightly shortened version of the suggested Swedish title. The mention of "on land vehicles (on cycles B62L)" can be taken care of by limiting references, and should be because this phraseology is not present in group 1/00. See R's proposal in another Annex.

Definition statement

R agrees with both the SE and US suggestions for the definition statement, and has incorporated them into his proposal.

Relationships section

R agrees with SE that material formerly in this section can be taken care of by references. R has replaced it by a clarification sought by SE regarding the relationship between B60T and B61H.

References relevant to classification in this subclass

It could be argued that the reference to F16D is a limiting reference, at least in relation to the current French version of the title! R accepts, however, SE's point that a reference to F16D should become an informative reference.

Does anyone know what is the difference between "electrodynamic brake systems" (B60L) and "dynamoelectric brakes" (H02K). This ambiguity is present in the IPC itself, and cannot be addressed here. Perhaps a maintenance project is needed here?

Informative references

The reference to F16D has been moved here.

Special rules

SE and US suggest that the special rule relating to 8/00 should appear only in a main group definition for 8/00. There isn't one, nor does R propose to elaborate one unless a clamour erupts. The special rule on 8/00 stays where it is.

Glossary

The "Notes" in the definition statement have been moved here.

Synonyms and Keywords

The entries have been clarified as requested by SE, and a new entry added for electronic brakeforce distribution (EBD), available in many cars.

Proposal for French version of subclass title (to which all limiting references should be added):

"Commande des freins pour véhicules; Systèmes de commande des freins ou parties de ces systèmes, en général; Aménagements des éléments de freinage; dispositifs portatifs pour interdire le mouvement non voulu d'un véhicule; Modifications apportées aux véhicules pour faciliter le refroidissement des freins"

Martin Price

UK Patent Office**Date: 22 May 2003**

Rapporteur Report on Project D015, Subclass B60T

Following the deliberations of the Committee of Experts (see IPC/CE/32/12 Technical Annexes page 12), some minor changes are needed to the definition of B60T. These changes are explained below; see the next Annex for the incorporated changes.

Subclass title (third line)

This now reads “Arrangement of braking elements *on vehicles in general*”.

“Arrangement(s)”

There are three instances in the current proposed definition (Annex 15) where the word “arrangements” is mistakenly in the plural, whereas it really should be in the singular. (We discussed this point at WG/8). These corrections have been made.

The first instance is in the third line of the subclass title (see above). The second instance is in the first line of the definition statement. The third instance is in the first line of the “Relationship between large subject matter areas” section.

Special rules of classification within this subclass

The text of the special rule relating to B60T 8/00 has undergone minor rewording, to improve clarity. Our expert has seen the amended wording and approves.

Another question has occurred to us, as follows.

References relevant to classification in this subclass

We flagged up a query about 2 of these references some time ago but seem to have had no feedback on it. These references relate to “*Electrodynamical brake systems ...*” and “*Dynamo-electric brakes*” (see the second and last references in this section).

These wordings appear in the titles of 2 subclasses, viz B60L and H02K, and therefore *no action can be taken in respect of this definition project until the wording of the IPC is clarified here*. However our expert thinks that these terms (electrodynamical and dynamo-electric) are probably equivalent terms; see for example B60L 7/28 and H02K 49/04, both of which refer to eddy-current braking. There is no need for 2 different expressions for denoting the same thing.

The IPC seems unclear and/or inconsistent here, and appears to need a change. Perhaps a Maintenance procedure is needed, or project C355 could be reopened to take account of this.

Martin Price

Title - B60T

Vehicle brake control systems or parts thereof;

Brake control systems or parts thereof in general;

Arrangement of braking elements on vehicles in general;

Portable devices for preventing unwanted movement of vehicles;

Vehicle modifications to facilitate cooling of brakes.

Definition statement

This subclass covers:

Arrangement of braking elements on vehicles except cycles, rail vehicles and aircraft.

Portable devices for preventing unwanted movement of vehicles, e.g. chocks.

Vehicle modifications to facilitate cooling of brakes.

Control systems or parts thereof, in general or specially adapted for vehicles, for processing variables which influence the extent or duration of a braking event, for the following purposes:

- For adjusting wheel-braking force to meet varying vehicular or ground-surface conditions, e.g. limiting or varying distribution of braking force.
- For continuous braking making use of fluid or powdered medium, e.g. when descending a long slope.
- For transmitting braking action from initiating means to ultimate brake actuator.

Component parts, details or accessories of brake control systems, for example:

- Brake-action initiating means, e.g. manually or automatically-operated.
- Construction, arrangement or operation of valves incorporated in power brake systems.

Relationship between large subject matter areas (e.g. special rules of classification between subclasses)

B61H covers brakes or other retarding apparatus peculiar to rail vehicles, and arrangement or disposition of brakes or other retarding apparatus in rail vehicles, but the following aspects thereof in relation to rail vehicles are covered in **B60T**:

- Arrangements in rail vehicles for adjusting wheel-braking force to meet varying vehicular or permanent way conditions (B60T 8/00).
- Transmitting braking action from initiating means to ultimate brake actuator with power assistance or drive, brake systems incorporating such transmitting means, e.g. air-pressure brake systems (B60T 13/00).
- Construction, arrangement or operation of valves incorporated in power brake systems (B60T 15/00).
- Component parts, details or accessories of brake systems (B60T 17/00).

References relevant to classification in this subclass

This subclass does not cover:

Brakes or other retarding apparatus peculiar to rail vehicles; Arrangement or disposition of brakes or other retarding apparatus in rail vehicles (see above)	B61H
Electrodynamic brake systems and control thereof for vehicles, and in general	B60L
Conjoint control of brakes and other drive units of vehicles, such as engine, gearing or clutch (this may be particularly significant when traction control systems operating on more than just brakes are being classified)	B60K
Arrangement of braking elements on cycles	B62L
Arrangement of braking elements on aircraft	B64C 25/42
Dynamo-electric brakes	H02K 49/00

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Brakes themselves, i.e. the devices where the braking effect actually occurs, and actuators directly acting on those devices	F16D
Railway stops, track brakes or retarding apparatus, fixed to permanent way	B61K 7/00
Safety arrangements on roads for slowing, redirecting or stopping errant vehicles, e.g. guard posts, bollards	E01F 15/00

Special rules of classification within this subclass

In group B60T 8/00, when the subject matter to be classified is characterised by both electronic and non-electronic aspects, it should be classified both in group 8/17 or its subgroups, and in group 8/18.

Glossary of terms

In this subclass, the following terms or expressions are used with the meaning indicated:

- boosters** means for providing power assistance to the braking effort
- vehicle** means all vehicles except those restricted to one of the following types of vehicles: rail vehicles, waterborne vessels, aircraft, space vehicles, hand carts, cycles, animal-drawn vehicles, and sledges, which are covered by the relevant subclasses of B61 to B64. The term “vehicle” also includes (i) vehicular characteristics which are common to more than one of the above-listed types, and (ii) certain characteristics restricted to automobiles, road or cross-country trailers.

Synonyms and Keywords

- Antilock, anti-lock, anti-skid, antiskid, anti-blocking, ABS
- Wheel slip, wheel-slip, wheel spin, wheel-spin, traction control, ASR
- Electronic Brake Assist (EBA)
- Electronic Brakeforce Distribution (EBD)



IPC/D 017/00

ORIGINAL: English/French

DATE: May 15, 2003

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RAPPORTEUR : US

TECHNICAL FIELD/DOMAINE TECHNIQUE :

M

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United States Patent and Trademark Office

Project: D017

Subclass – B66B

Date: February 24, 2003

RAPPORTEUR REPORT

Rapporteur has placed the modified definition into the new format based on the finally approved “Guidelines for Drafting Classification Definitions” in IPC/WG/8/8, Annex F.

There does not seem to be any significant remaining issue based on previous comments.

Title – B66B

Elevators;

Escalators or moving walkways

Definition statement

This subclass covers:

Transporting apparatus of the types specified herein for people or discrete loads when used in conjunction with buildings, complexes of buildings, mines, or similar scale manmade structures or natural formations (e.g. caves).

Elevating apparatus (i.e., elevators or lifts) for shifting a discrete load (e.g., person, freight), in its entirety, a significant distance (e.g., at least the height of a normal floor of a building) from an entry level (e.g., **landing**) to a vertically spaced exit level along a **shaft**. To be proper for this subclass, the elevating apparatus must include:

- a support surface (e.g., elevator car/lift cage) that underlies the load and to which the load is confined during travel,
- rigid or semirigid means for contacting and limiting the travel of the load support surface to back and forth travel along its vertically extending **shaft** (e.g., inclined way), and
- **drive means** (e.g., fluid motors, manually operated **cable**) for transmitting to the load support surface the force necessary to shift the load between the levels or motion resisting means (e.g., **cable** linked counterweights) for slowing the travel of the load-supporting surface when moving from a higher load entry level to a lower load exit level.

Conveying apparatus (i.e., an assemblage of elements for moving a load along a predetermined path) for transporting pedestrians (i.e., escalators or moving walkways) from an entrance location to at least one horizontally spaced egress location. To be proper for this subclass, the conveying apparatus must:

- include an underlying surface, or a series of interlinked underlying surfaces, that is intended to **normally** support and carry individuals to their egress location,
- be arranged or constructed either with structure that specially adapts the conveying apparatus to the transporting of people or to facilitate potential alternative traversal of the surface(s) by the individuals carried thereon utilizing their standard mode of locomotion (e.g., stepping, walking, manually powering their wheelchair)

whenever the underlying surface is idle or the pedestrian wishes to supplement their pace of travel over the underlying surface,

- include rigid or semirigid means for limiting the travel of the supporting surface to a fixed horizontally extending path along which individuals are carried when traveling between the spaced locations, and
- include **drive means** (e.g., endless chain) for transmitting to the underlying surface the force necessary to shift people between the horizontally spaced locations.

Components of the elevating or conveying apparatus when:

- no specific place for the components exists in another subclass and
- the components are limited to use with the above types of apparatus by a structural modification (e.g., escalator handrails or guards).

Ancillary devices (e.g., elevator call registration systems) for either the elevating or conveying apparatus which are:

- used exclusively with and
- have their operations influencing or being influenced by the operation of the elevating or conveying apparatus.

Explanatory Notes or Graphics

(1) Note. Examples of special adaptations for escalators or moving walkways that facilitate the transport of pedestrians are:

- moving steps,
- conveyors combined with handrails,
- conveyors having serrated foot engaging surfaces,
- entrance or exit comb plates,
- passenger operated control of **drive means**, or
- special layouts facilitating walking along conveying apparatus' path.

(2) Note. Elevating or conveying apparatus otherwise proper for the definition which is either specially modified for use with, or combined with, apparatus for doing work on or treating (e.g., machine tools, furnaces) the discrete loads carried (e.g., tools for shaping load during elevation, transporting human body during its cremation) are covered in appropriate subclasses for this subject matter.

(3) Note. The load support surfaces of elevators or lifts are intended to support their loads only for a short period of time during handling. Surfaces intended to either support an article in a nonuse storage location, support a useable machine or tool, or move one portion of a machine or article relative to another portion thereof are covered in appropriate subclasses for this subject matter.

(4) Note. The discrete load transported by the elevating apparatus of this subclass is either

- a human,
- an animal or other living thing,
- an article,
- unitized bulk material (e.g., cotton bail, ice block), or
- a group or mix of the above types of loads that is moved as a unit between levels.

Relationships between large subject matter areas (e.g. special rules of classification between subclasses)

None

References relevant to classification in this subclass

This subclass does not cover:

Life-saving devices used as an alternative to normal egress means (e.g., stairs) during rescue to lower persons in cages, bags, or similar supports from buildings or other structures	A62B1/02
Amusement rides (e.g., roundabouts, and Ferris wheels) that are, or may include as a part of their structure, elevating or conveying apparatus	A63G
Arrangements of ammunition handlers in military-type sea vessels	B63G
Equipment for handling freight or for facilitating passenger embarkation or the like to aircraft	B64D9/00
Hoists, lifts, or conveyers for loading or unloading in general	B65G
Hoists, lifts, or conveyers for storing articles, individually or in orderly arrangement, in warehouses or magazines	B65G1/00
Braking or detent devices controlling normal movements of winding drums or barrels for capstans, hoist, or winches	B66D
Lifting or elevating devices for ships	E02C

Multi-vehicle garages provided with mechanical means for lifting vehicles	E04H6/12
Hoists for feeding ammunition or projectiles to launching apparatus or to loading mechanisms for weapons	F41A9/00

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

For lifting and lowering devices for moving disabled persons or patients	A61G
For hoisting or lowering devices for coffins	A61G19/00
For funicular rail-bound systems with rigid ground-supported tracks and cable traction (e.g., cliff railways)	B61B9/00
For ski-lift, sleigh-lift, or the like trackless systems with only guided towing cables	B61B11/00
For devices for lifting or lowering bulky or heavy goods for loading or unloading purposes	B66F

Special rules of classification within this subclass

None

Glossary of terms

In this subclass, the following terms or expressions are used with the meaning indicated:

Cable	a flaccid, elongated, flexible element that can transmit force only when under tension (e.g., rope, wire, chain).
Drive means	means for supplying motive force to an element to be moved which includes both force generating means (e.g., motor) and structural linkage (e.g., gears) needed to transmit the force from the generating means to the element.
Landing	an in situ floor within a structure (e.g., building) (a) that is located adjacent to an elevator shaft or the entrance or egress points of the conveying apparatus' path and (b) to or from which a load (e.g., passenger, cargo, pedestrian) transfers during the charging or discharging of the load-underlying support surface of an elevator or conveying apparatus.

Shaft

a long, narrow, in situ passageway within a structure (e.g., building, ship, mine) which defines the fixed path between the vertically spaced load entrance and exit levels traveled by the load-underlying support surface of an elevator.

Synonyms and Keywords

In patent documents the terms **elevator** and **lift** are often used as synonyms.

In patent documents the term **dumbwaiter** is often used with the meaning of a very small **elevator** or **lift** (e.g., normally the support is too small for a person unless they are being chased by a murderer) for moving housekeeping or food items between floors.

UK Patent Office**Date: 2 May 2003**

Comments on Project D017 , Subclass B66B

A number of fairly minor comments about this project, mostly to do with use of English:

- **Definition statement**, first page, second entry (Elevating apparatus), first line: “person” should probably read “person(s)”.
- **Definition statement**, top of second page, third line: “traveling” is incorrect spelling - it should be “travelling”.
- **Definition statement**, middle of second page, under “Ancillary devices”, first bullet point: “used exclusively with” is unclear - with what?
- **Definition statement**, second page, “Explanatory Notes or Graphics”: there don’t seem to be any graphics (all 4 notes are labelled “Note”). The word “Note” is also not necessary here and should be deleted.
- **Informative references**: The word “For” at the beginning of each reference is superfluous.
- **Synonyms and Keywords - dumbwaiter**: we feel this should be moved to the Glossary section. Further the passage “unless they are being chased by a murderer”, while being one of the more unusual statements I have seen in my years in the IPC business, seems to be *de trop* here, in an IPC definition, and should be deleted.

Martin Price



IPC/D 018/00
ORIGINAL: English/French
DATE: May 15, 2003

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 DEFINITION PROJECT FILE/DOSSIER DE PROJET DE DÉFINITION DE LA CIB

PROPOSAL BY: PROPOSITION DE :	EP	IPC AREA: DOMAINE DE LA CIB :	F 04 C
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ANNEX/ ANNEXE	CONTENT/CONTENU	ORIGIN/ ORIGINE	DATE
1	Proposal / Proposition	EP	12.01
2	Proposal / Proposition	EP	12.01
3	Comments / Observations	JP	12.01
4	Comments / Observations	RO	12.01
5	Comments / Observations	US	12.01
6	Rapporteur report / Rapport du rapporteur	EP	12.01
7	Comments / Observations	US	01.02
8	Comments / Observations	RO	02.02
9	Comments / Observations	RO	02.02
10	Rapporteur report / Rapport du rapporteur	EP	03.02
11	Rapporteur proposal / Proposition du rapporteur	EP	03.02
12	Proposal / Proposition	EP	04.02
13	Rapporteur proposal / Proposition du rapporteur	EP	09.02
14	Comments / Observations	DE	10.02
15	Comments / Observations	JP	10.02
16	Rapporteur report / Rapport du rapporteur	EP	10.02

RAPPORTEUR : EP TECHNICAL FIELD/DOMAINE TECHNIQUE : M

ANNEX/ ANNEXE	CONTENT/CONTENU	ORIGIN/ ORIGINE	DATE
17	Rapporteur proposal / Proposition du rapporteur	EP	10.02
18	Comments / Observations	US	01.03
19	Rapporteur report / Rapport du rapporteur	EP	05.03
20	Rapporteur proposal / Proposition du rapporteur	EP	05.03

Project: D018/00 Subclass: F04C

There had been no comments on the last Rapporteurs proposal.
To take in account the remarks and suggestions during discussion in the working group
Rapporteur made some slight amendments and added some examples in the Glossary.
Rapporteur hope that this new version can give a better understanding of subclass F04C to
the user of the IPC.

H. Mende

Title - F04C

**Rotary-piston, or oscillating-piston, positive-displacement machines for liquids;
Rotary-piston, or oscillating-piston, positive-displacement pumps**

Definition statement

This subclass covers:

Pumps with rotary or oscillating pistons for liquids, for elastic fluids, or for combination of liquid and elastic fluid.

Positive displacement machines with rotary or oscillating pistons for liquids.

Relationship between large subject matter areas

Related subclasses **F01C** and **F04C** cover the same type of machine. The distinguishing characteristic used for classifying between these subclasses is the working fluid used.

Positive displacement machines with rotary or oscillating pistons for working fluids containing elastic fluids, e.g. a combination of liquids and elastic fluids are classified in **F01C**.

F04B covers machines or pumps with reciprocating pistons, or other kinds of positive displacement mechanisms with the exception of rotary or oscillating piston type machines or pumps.

Subject matter like cyclically operating valves, lubricating or cooling are classified in subclasses **F01L**, **F01M**, **F01P** irrespective of their stated application, unless their classifying features are peculiar to their application, in which case they are classified only in the relevant subclass of **F04**. The subclasses **F01L**, **F01M**, **F01P** do not cover pump or machine features per se.

Class **F15** covers hydraulic or pneumatic systems in general.

Limiting references

This subclass does not cover:

Rotary-piston or oscillating piston machines for elastic fluids, e.g steam and for liquids and elastic fluids **F01C**

Rotary-piston or oscillating piston machines for elastic fluids for liquids and elastic fluids **F01C**

Positive displacement machines for liquids, or pumps in which the working- **F04B**

fluid is displaced by one or more reciprocating pistons or by flexible working members

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Cyclically operating valves for machines or engines	F01L
Lubrication of machines or engines in general	F01M
Gas-flow silencer or exhaust apparatus for machines or engines in general	F01N
Cooling of machines or engines in general	F01P
Combustion engines with pumps for charging	F02B33/34 F02B53/08
Rotary fluid gearing using pumps and motors of the volumetric type for conveying rotary motion	F16H
Sealing in general	F16J
Means for thermal insulation in general	F16L
Refrigeration machines, plants or systems	F25B

Glossary

In this subclass, the following terms or expressions are used with the meaning indicated:

- pump** means a device for continuously raising, forcing, compressing, or exhausting fluid by mechanical means
- machine** means a device that could equally be both an engine and a pump and not a device which is restricted to an engine or one which is restricted to a pump
- positive displacement** means the way the energy of a working fluid is transformed into mechanical energy, in which variations of volume created by the working fluid in a working chamber produce equivalent displacements of the mechanical member transmitting the energy, the dynamic effect of the fluid being of minor importance, and vice versa
- oscillating piston machine** means a positive-displacement machine in which a fluid-engaging, work-transmitting member oscillates, e.g. a vane piston oscillating around a fixed axis
- rotary piston machine** means a positive-displacement machine in which a liquid-engaging, work-transmitting member rotates about a fixed axis or about an axis moving along a circular or similar orbit, e.g. machine with a rotor having vanes or teeth

rotary piston means the work-transmitting member of a rotary-piston machine or pump, of any suitable form, e.g. rotor having vanes or teeth

cooperating members means the "oscillating piston" or "rotary piston" and another member, e.g., the working-chamber wall, which assists in the pumping action or machine's action

movement of the cooperating members is to be interpreted as relative, so that one of the "cooperating members" may be stationary, even though reference may be made to its rotational axis, or both may move

teeth or tooth equivalents include lobes, projections or abutments

internal axis type means that the rotational axes of the inner and outer co-operating members remain at all times within the outer member, e.g., in a similar manner to that of a pinion meshing with the internal teeth of a ring gear

working fluid means the driven fluid in a pump or driving or driven liquid in a machine. The working fluid can be in a compressible, gaseous state, e.g. steam, called elastic fluid, a liquid state, or a state where there is coexistence of elastic fluid and liquid state



IPC/D 029/01
ORIGINAL: English/French
DATE: May 16, 2003

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 DEFINITION PROJECT FILE/DOSSIER DE PROJET DE DÉFINITION DE LA CIB

PROPOSAL BY: PROPOSITION DE :	US	IPC AREA: DOMAINE DE LA CIB :	A 61 G
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ANNEX/ ANNEXE	CONTENT/CONTENU	ORIGIN/ ORIGINE	DATE
1	Proposal / Proposition	US	12.01
2	Comments / Observations	JP	12.01
3	Comments / Observations	EP	12.01
4	Comments / Observations	RO	12.01
5	Rapporteur report / Rapport du rapporteur	US	12.01
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7	Comments / Observations	EP	02.02
8	Rapporteur report / Rapport du rapporteur	US	04.02
9	Rapporteur proposal / Proposition du rapporteur	US	04.02
10	Comments / Observations	US	05.02
11	Rapporteur report / Rapport du rapporteur	US	05.03
12	Rapporteur proposal / Proposition du rapporteur	US	05.03
13	Decision of the Working Group / Décision du groupe de travail	WG	05.03
14	Comments / Observations	EP	05.03
15	Comments / Observations	GB	05.03

RAPPORTEUR : US TECHNICAL FIELD/DOMAINE TECHNIQUE : M

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Project: D029

Subclass – A61G

Date: February 26, 2003

RAPPORTEUR REPORT

Rapporteur has placed the modified definition into the new format based on the finally approved “Guidelines for Drafting Classification Definitions” in IPC/WG/8/8, Annex F.

Rapporteur has included within the newly proposed definition all changes that were recommended in the previous Rapporteur Report.

No significant issues remain regarding the definition of A61G.

Title – A61G

Transport, personal conveyances, or accommodation specially adapted for disabled persons or patients;

Operating tables or chairs;

Chairs for dentistry;

Funeral devices

Definition statement

This subclass covers:

Specially adapted vehicles (e.g., ambulances), handling apparatus (e.g., wheelchair lifts), or methods or devices (e.g., stretchers) for moving **patients** or **disabled persons** who are passive participants in their relocation (e.g., the persons are handled in a manner similar to loads).

Personal conveyances

Specially adapted structures (e.g., hospital or treatment rooms for medical purposes, baby incubators) or devices (e.g., bedpans, hospital beds, trapeze or pull-up bars) used

- by **patients** or **disabled persons** for their personal physical needs and convenience or
- for controlling the local environment of **patients** or **disabled persons** during treatment or recovery.

Specially adapted supporting surfaces for sustaining **patients** in a recumbent or seated position during recovery, surgery, dental work, or similar types of medical treatment.

Funereal devices

Auxiliary appliances (e.g., trolleys for medicine) or accessories (e.g., prescription list) specially adapted for use with the other invention information covered by this subclass.

Relationships between large subject matter areas (e.g. special rules of classification between subclasses)

General relationship of A61G with subclasses for care or alteration of the human body

A61G does not cover apparatus or methods that are directly used on an individual's body to perform medical care and therapy or to alter it after death. The types of medical care, therapy, and body alterations not covered by A61G consist of:

- treating a part of the body (e.g., filling teeth - A61C),
- monitoring the body (e.g., eye testing - A61B),
- determining a medical condition or illness of the body (e.g., radiation diagnosis – A61B),
- investigating the body (e.g., autopsy equipment – A61B),
- physically correcting or altering the body of living individuals (e.g., cataract surgery – A61F), and
- physically preparing or altering the body of deceased individuals (e.g., embalming equipment - A01N, cremation furnaces – F23G).

Subclasses A01N, A61B, A61C, A61F, A61H, A61K, A61M, A61N, and F23G provide appropriately for apparatus or methods for medical care, therapy, or body alterations of these types. The specific classifications that are of interest for search purposes are specified in the references of A61G or its groups.

However, A61G does provide for specific structural modifications that merely facilitate the use of apparatus or methods of these types for medical care or therapy when in combination with subject matter that is otherwise appropriate for this subclass (e.g., special supports for patients with burns).

A61G also provides for life supporting or sustaining devices that control the local environment during treatment or recovery of patients (e.g., baby incubators).

General relationship of A61G with vehicles adapted for use by disabled

A61G covers **personal conveyances** and 'vehicle-like' conveyances (e.g., wheelchairs, stretchers) that are explicitly designed for use by only a single patient or disabled person and intended to normally travel relatively short distances along the ground or similar support surface (e.g., hallway).

The subclass for a specific type of standard roadway vehicle (i.e., vehicles designed and intended for general thoroughfare usage over long distances, such as B62K for cycles) covers their vehicles that have been specially adapted for use by a disabled operator.

The subclass for a specific type of ‘special-utility’ vehicle (i.e., vehicles that have another primary purpose other than transport, such as riding lawn mowers or forklifts) covers their vehicles that have been specially adapted for use by a disabled operator.

References relevant to classification in this subclass

This subclass does not cover:

Devices per se for enabling <i>disabled persons</i> to operate an apparatus or device not forming part of the body	A61F4/00
Restraining devices for the body or for body parts and restraining shirts that are used for non-surgical treatment of <i>patients’</i> bones or joints	A61F5/37
Equipment for beds, treatment tables, floor frames or the like for extending or stretching	A61F5/045
Appliances for aiding invalids to walk about	A61H3/00
Bathing devices for special therapeutic or hygienic purposes	A61H33/00
Inclined lifts associated with stairways for transporting disabled persons or wheelchairs	B66B9/08

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

For preserving of the dead bodies of humans, animals, or the parts thereof	A01N1/00
For appliances for supporting or fettering animals during operations	A61D3/00
For vehicles adapted to transport meat	B60P3/05
For vehicles adapted to transport refrigerated goods	B60P3/20
For bicycles specially adapted for disabled riders	B62K3/16

Special rules of classification within this subclass

None

Glossary of terms

In this subclass, the following terms or expressions are used with the meaning indicated:

Disabled person	a human being that is unable to do a basic physical task (e.g., walking) due to a physical or mental impairment/condition.
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Funereal device

apparatus associated with (e.g., coffin) or for performing (e.g., casket lowering device) activities connected with the burial, cremation, entombment, or other methods of honoring or disposing of (e.g., freeze drying) the remains of the body of a deceased individual.

Patient

a human being awaiting or undergoing any form of (a) medical care (e.g., testing) or treatment by medical staff (e.g., doctors, dentists, midwives, chiropractors) or (b) physical tending (e.g., feeding) by caretakers (e.g., hospice or nursing home staff) due to impairment.

Personal conveyance

a vehicle-like device (e.g., wheelchairs) that is:

- not specifically adapted for traveling significant distances (e.g., between cities) along thoroughfares (e.g., railways, roads, sidewalks) with normal traffic (e.g., trucks),
- explicitly designed (i.e., not merely adaptations of a standard production vehicle) for carrying, and intended to be limited to use by, a single **patient** or **disabled person** at any given time, and
- potentially capable of having either its movement controlled or powered by the **patient** or **disabled person** carried by it.

Synonyms and Keywords

None

EXCERPT FROM DOCUMENT IPC/CE/32/12/
EXTRAIT DU DOCUMENT IPC/CE/32/12

11. When considering the amendments proposed under Project C 386, the Committee noted that there were discrepancies between the English and the French versions of group A61G 7/00 and some of its subgroups, where the term “disabled persons” was translated into French as “les malades ou les personnes handicapées.” The IPC Revision Working Group was requested to clarify, within the scope of Definition Project D 029, whether in this subclass the term “disabled persons” includes also “patients.”

11. Lors de l'examen des modifications proposées dans le cadre du projet C386, le comité a relevé des divergences entre la version anglaise et la version française du groupe A61G 7/00 et de certains de ses sous-groupes, notamment en ce qui concerne l'expression “disabled persons” qui a été traduite en français par “les personnes handicapées ou les malades”. Le Groupe de travail sur la révision de la CIB a été prié de préciser, dans le cadre du projet de définition D 029, si l'expression “disabled persons” comprend aussi les “malades” dans cette sous-classe.

Project: 386 Subclass: A61G

Comments were invited by the Committee of Experts on the discrepancies between the English and French versions of group A61G7/00 and some of its subgroups.

After studying the glossary of Definition Project D029 we believe that the term "disabled persons" do not include the term "patients" because there is a clear difference in the scope. Transporting apparatus or lifting devices can be used for both: for the patients awaiting or undergoing any form of medical care and for disabled persons. To clearly indicate the broader use of the concerned groups, we believe that both terms: "disabled persons or patients" should be included in the English titles of these groups.

H. Mende

UK Patent Office**Date: 2 May 2003**

Comments on Project D029 , Subclass A61G

We have a number of comments on the Rapporteur report of Annex 12.

· **Title.** The last line of the title mentions “Funeral devices”, whereas the word in the IPC, and in the rest of this definition, is “funereal”. Consistency is required here.

Having said this, we tend to think that “funeral” would be the better word. “**Funereal**” is an adjective defined in the Shorter Oxford English Dictionary as “*Of, pertaining to, or appropriate to, a funeral. Hence, dark, dismal, melancholy, mournful.*” Meanwhile, the word “**funeral**” when used as an adjective is defined as “*Of or pertaining to the ceremonial burial (or cremation) of the dead; used etc. at a burial*”.

It seems that the second of these definitions is the more appropriate one here. From hearing the term “funereal” used only in a limited number of conversations, this word is essentially descriptive and non-technical, and not necessarily connected with the process of conducting burials etc. We would therefore prefer the IPC and Catchword Index etc. to use only the word “funeral”, but would welcome comments from other English-speaking offices.

· **Definition statement.** The expressions “Personal conveyances” and “Funereal devices” are used on their own in the definition statement, and displayed in blue. When printed using a black-and-white printer, these expressions look short and uninformative, and a little confusing. It would be better if these expressions were displayed as follows:

“*Personal conveyances* [in blue] as defined in the Glossary section below”

· **Definition statement - bed pans etc.** Nowhere in this definition is there a mention of the contents of A61G 9/00 (bed-pans, urinals or other sanitary devices for bed-ridden persons). We think there should be a mention of this subject matter in the definition statement, and there should also be a reference (limiting or informative) to the related matter of A47K 11/00.

· **Disabled persons/patients.** We agree with EP (Annex 14) that these terms are not of the same scope, and that both should be used in the titles of relevant groups eg A61G 7/00 and some of its subgroups.

Martin Price