

The JPO comments on the ANNEX3 "Proposed search index classification for furniture"

As the Summary of the Chair said, that a user is able to find all identical and similar designs no matter if real, toy or just a graphical element, by a single search is ideal. Because the introduction of the visual index system has a large influence on the users of WIPO and the contracting parties, it is necessary to introduce the visual index carefully.

The ANNEX3 "Proposed search index classification for furniture" is made by the different thought from ours (different definition of "furniture").

In case of Japanese Design Classification, we firstly made a definition on furniture.

The classification for furniture in the Japanese Design Classification is "D7", and its definition is that "The receiving box (i.e. mailbox, newspaper box) and a step ladder or the like for houses, offices, public facilities and so on" should be classified, excluding furniture for storage and cubby.

Doors for furniture is classified in "D9" (General Parts and accessories for household equipment) and its definition is that "The parts and accessories not for specific furniture within parts and accessories for household equipment", are classified. Mainly, parts and accessories for general purpose and, parts and accessories with common visual feature for furniture in various main classes, are classified.

Japanese Design Classification is posted on this URL.

http://www.jpo.go.jp/cgi/linke.cgi?url=/shiryou_e/s_sonota_e/j-classification_for_id.htm

Japanese Design Classification is classified into "Group", "Major class" and "Minor class" according to the concept of their usage. When D-term by visual index is needed, D-term is put under "Minor class".

Concerning furniture, "D0", "D3", "D4", "D5", "D6", "D7", "D9" are put under the Group "D" (Housing Equipment) . ("D1", "D2", "D8" are not put.)

- D0: Various Housing Equipments which do not belong to D3 – D9
- D3: Flashing and Lightning Equipment
- D4: Heating and Cooling Equipment, Air Conditioners and Ventilators
- D5: Kitchen Equipment and Sanitararies
- D6: Furniture and Equipment for storage
- D7: Furniture
- D9: General Parts and Accessories for Household Equipment

In case of Japanese Design Classification, furniture is classified in “D7” and General Parts and Accessories for Household Equipments are classified in “D9”, however mattress and cushion are classified in Group “C” as Goods for daily living.

In Locarno classification, making definition and administrative affairs by the International Bureau, of each main class, each sub class, and each indication of goods makes clear each contents of definition. In case of the introduction of the visual index system, the definition of each visual index should be defined and be managed by the International Bureau.