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AMENDMENTS TO THE GUIDELINES FOR DETERMINING WHERE TO
CLASSIFY PATENT DOCUMENTS

Document prepared by the Secretariat

1. The text of the Guidelines for Determining Where to Classify Patent Documents was adopted by the IPC Committee of Experts at its thirty-fourth session in February 2004 (see Annex VII to document IPC/CE/34/10). As was discovered by certain industrial property offices, certain amendments are needed to some paragraphs of the Guidelines. Those amendments relate to clarification of the text of the Guidelines.

2. The Annex to this document contains proposed amendments to the text of the Guidelines. The text proposed for deletion has been stricken out and the new text is shown in bold characters.

3. *The Committee of Experts is invited to adopt the proposed amendments to the Guidelines for Determining Where to Classify Patent Documents.*

[Annex follows]

ANNEX

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE GUIDELINES FOR DETERMINING
WHERE TO CLASSIFY PATENT DOCUMENTS

Harmonization of the text relating to the first place priority rule and the last place priority rule

Section “First Place Priority Rule”, 1st paragraph

---This type of note states, “In this subclass / main group(s) / group(s), **at each hierarchical level, in the absence of an indication to the contrary**, classification is made ~~according to the first place priority rule (i.e., in the first appropriate place in the scheme)~~.” For example---

Section “Last Place Priority Rule”, 1st paragraph

---This type of note states, “In this subclass / main group(s) / group(s), **at each hierarchical level, in the absence of an indication to the contrary** ~~(e.g., a reference to another group, an exception stated in a note of the scheme)~~, classification is made ~~according to the last place priority rule (i.e., in the last appropriate place in the scheme for the inventive thing being classified)~~.” For example---

[End of Annex and of document]