AMENDMENTS TO THE *GUIDE TO THE IPC*

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VIII. PRINCIPLES OF THE CLASSIFICATION

Invention information; Additional information; Categories of subject matter; Places in the Classification for technical subjects of inventions; Function-oriented and application-oriented places; Classification of technical subjects of inventions

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CATEGORIES OF SUBJECT MATTER

81. Technical subject matter may represent processes, products, apparatus or materials (or the way these are used or applied). ----

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CLASSIFICATION OF TECHNICAL SUBJECTS OF INVENTIONS

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General Chemical Formulae

100. Large sets of related chemical compounds are often expressed or claimed using general formulae. The general formulae are presented in the form of a chemical compound genus with at least one component of the formula being a variable selected from a specific collection of alternatives (for example, “Markush”-type compound claims). The use of general formulae causes classification problems when an enormous number of compounds are within their scope and are separately classifiable in a large number of classification places. When this situation occurs, only the individual chemical compounds most useful for searches are classified. If chemical compounds are specified using a general chemical formula, the following classifying procedure is applied:

Step 1: Classification should be given to all “fully identified” compounds that are novel and unobvious if they are:

(i) specifically claimed as such or in a composition,

(ii) products of a claimed process, or

(iii) derivatives of either of these.

A compound is considered to be “fully identified” where:

(a) the structure is given by exact chemical name or formula, or can be deduced from its preparation from specified reactants, not more than one of which is selected from a list of alternatives, and

(b) the compound is characterised by a physical property (for example, its melting point), or its preparation is described in a worked example giving practical details.

Compounds identified only by an empirical formula are not considered to be “fully identified”.

Step 2: If no “fully identified” compounds are disclosed, e.g. in the situation of compounds derived from computer-generated models and which have not undergone actual experiments, classification should only be given to compounds with exact chemical name or developed chemical formula. Classification should be limited to a single or a very small number of groups.

Step 3: When only the general Markush formula is disclosed, classification is made in the most specific group(s) that cover(s) all or most of the potential embodiments. Classification should be limited to a single or a very small number of groups.

Step 4: In addition to the above obligatory classification, non-obligatory classification may be made when other compounds within the scope of the general formula are of interest or compounds derived directly from computer-generated models.

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XVI. GLOSSARY

CLASSIFICATION TERMS AND EXPRESSIONS

183. This part of the glossary presents a list of terms or expressions relating to principles and rules of the Classification, as requiring some explanation of their meaning and use.

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subcombination	– – –
(technical) subjects of inventions	= (technical) information that describes processes, products, apparatus or materials, which are novel and unobvious.
the state of the art	– – –

– – –

[Technical Annexes follow]