

AMENDMENTS TO THE *GUIDE TO THE IPC*

INTERNATIONAL PATENT CLASSIFICATION (Version 2015)

SUBCLASS

21. Each class comprises one or more subclasses which are the third hierarchical level of the Classification.

(a) **Subclass Symbol** – Each subclass symbol consists of the class symbol followed by a capital letter.

Example: H01S

(b) **Subclass Title** – The subclass title indicates as precisely as possible the content of the subclass.

Example: H01S DEVICES USING STIMULATED EMISSION

(c) **Subclass Index** – Most subclasses have an index which is merely an informative summary giving a broad survey of the content of the subclass.

(d) **Guidance Heading** – Where a large part of a subclass relates to a common subject matter a guidance heading indicating that subject matter may be provided at the beginning of that part.

51. Other explanatory graphic illustrations have also been introduced in the electronic layer of the IPC (see, for example, graphic illustrations under main group F23B 50/00).

VI. TERMINOLOGY

Standard expressions; Glossary

COMMON RULE

141. ---

142. As opposed to the first and last place priority rules described in paragraphs 146 to 154, below, no general priority rules apply in the common rule areas of the IPC. Classification should be made in all appropriate places (see, for example, paragraphs 88 to 91, above). However, the following principles of priority can be applied to limit unnecessary multiple classification and to select groups that most adequately represent the technical subject to be classified:

(a) Groups for more complex matter take priority over groups for less complex matter. For example, groups for combinations take priority over groups for subcombinations and groups for “whole things” take priority over groups for “details”.

(b) Groups for more specialised subject matter take priority over groups for less specialised subject matter. For example, groups for unique types of matter or groups for matter with means for solving particular problems take priority over more general groups.

143. - - -

TECHNICAL TERMS AND EXPRESSIONS USED IN THE CLASSIFICATION

- - -

187. The following abbreviations are used:

- - -

chemical compound = - - -

=

control; controlling
(in contexts where a
variable as defined below,
for example a speed or a
voltage, is affected)

affect a variable in any way, e.g. changing its direction or its value (including changing it to or from zero), maintaining it constant or limiting its range of variation. Control does not need to be automatic and does not need to involve any measuring or testing. See also the meaning of “regulation”.

engine = - - -

- - -

product = - - -

regulate; regulation = maintain a variable automatically at a desired value or within a desired range of values. The desired value or range may be fixed, or manually varied, or may vary with time according to a predetermined "programme" or according to variation of another variable. Regulation is a form of “control”. The expression "automatic control" is sometimes used in the art as a synonym for "regulation".

stock = - - -

[Annex IV follows]