

ANNEX VII

GUIDE TO THE IPC

CONTENTS

**I. FOREWORD**

OBJECTIVES OF THE IPC

HISTORY OF THE IPC

REFORM OF THE IPC

**II. LAYOUT AND USE OF CLASSIFICATION SYMBOLS**

SECTION

Section Symbol

Section Title

Contents of Section

Subsection

CLASS

Class Symbol

Class Title

Class Index

SUBCLASS

Subclass Symbol

Subclass Title

Subclass Index

GROUP

Group Symbol

Main Group Symbol

Main Group Title

Subgroup Symbol

Subgroup Title

COMPLETE CLASSIFICATION SYMBOL

**III. HIERARCHICAL STRUCTURE OF THE CLASSIFICATION**

PRINCIPLE OF HIERARCHY

TWO LEVELS OF THE IPC

Core level

Advanced level

#### **IV. USER INFORMATION**

GUIDE HEADINGS

MULTI-PART TITLES

REFERENCES

    Functions of References

        Limitation of scope

        Guidance

    Use and Interpretation of References

NOTES

INDICATION OF CHANGES WITH RESPECT TO PREVIOUS EDITIONS

ELECTRONIC LAYER OF THE IPC

    Classification definitions

    Chemical formulae

    Structured subclass indexes

    Informative references

#### **V. TERMINOLOGY**

STANDARD EXPRESSIONS

GLOSSARY

#### **VI. SCOPE OF PLACES**

CLASSES

SUBCLASSES

MAIN GROUPS

SUBGROUPS

#### **VII. PRINCIPLES OF THE CLASSIFICATION**

INVENTION INFORMATION

OTHER INFORMATION

TECHNICAL SUBJECTS OF INVENTIONS

    PLACES IN THE CLASSIFICATION FOR TECHNICAL SUBJECTS OF  
    INVENTIONS

        Function-oriented Places and Application Places

CLASSIFICATION OF TECHNICAL SUBJECTS OF INVENTIONS

General Observations  
Chemical Compounds  
Chemical Mixtures or Compositions  
Preparation or Treatment of Compounds  
Apparatus or Processes  
Articles of Manufacture  
Multistep processes, Plants  
Combinations  
Details, Constructional Parts  
More than one Technical Subject  
General Chemical Formulae

**VIII. MULTIPLE CLASSIFICATION; HYBRID SYSTEMS**

MULTI-ASPECT CLASSIFICATION OF TECHNICAL SUBJECTS

SECONDARY CLASSIFICATION SCHEMES

INDEXING SCHEMES

APPLICATION OF SECONDARY CLASSIFICATION SCHEMES AND  
INDEXING SCHEMES

**IX. OBLIGATORY CLASSIFICATION; NON-OBLIGATORY  
CLASSIFICATION AND INDEXING**

GENERAL APPROACH

CLASSIFICATION OF GRANTED PATENTS

CLASSIFICATION OF PUBLISHED PATENT APPLICATIONS

CLASSIFICATION OF NON-PATENT LITERATURE

**X. SPECIAL CLASSIFICATION RULES**

LAST PLACE RULE

OTHER RULES

**XI. PRESENTATION OF IPC SYMBOLS**

REPRESENTATION OF INVENTION INFORMATION AND OTHER  
INFORMATION

PRESENTATION OF CLASSIFICATION AND INDEXING SYMBOLS

X-NOTATIONS

**XII. USE OF THE IPC FOR SEARCH PURPOSES**

DIFFERENT KINDS OF SEARCH

SEARCH PROCEDURE

MASTER CLASSIFICATION DATABASE

TEXT DATABASES

**XIII. GLOSSARY**

[Annex VIII follows]