

ANNEX IV/ANNEXE IV

GLOSSARY OF TERMS FOR THE REFORMED IPC

**Aspect** – a particular perspective from which technical information, particularly invention information, may be viewed, and according to which the information may be classified.

The “Categories of Subject Matter” delineated below represent possible “aspects” of invention information.

**Apparatus** – a category of subject matter which is a machine or device, described in terms of its functional capabilities or structural features, that is used

- to make a product of manufacture or composition of matter, or
- to carry out a non-manufacturing process.

**Basic Subject Matter of a Subclass** – the fundamental subject matter covered by the subclass title and its definition.

**Borderline (Line)** – A clearly stated boundary between classification places.

**Parallel (Coordinate) Group** – one of plural groups in a subclass scheme that (1) depend on the same parent classification place (i.e., subclass, main group, or subgroup) and (2) have the same hierarchical (indentation) level.

Note that all main groups in the same subclass are parallel (coordinate) with each other.

**General Top-Down Order of Selection** – a practice in which subject matter is classified in a particular group in a subclass scheme by

- determining the topmost appearing main group in the scheme which provides for the subject matter,
- determining, under the main group, the highest parallel (coordinate) subgroup in its one-dot subgroups that provides for the subject matter, and
- repeating the methodology of the previous step through successive levels of subgroups until the highest appropriate coordinate subgroup in the deepest (greatest number of dots) appropriate subgroup level is determined.

See the heading for “Inclusive Nature of Groups,” which is the classification principle that permits successful application of this practice.

**Genus** – a grouping of embodiments within a category of subject matter which share a common limitation.

A **subgenus** (i.e., **species**) is a subgrouping within a genus.

An **ultimate species** is the most specific embodiment within a genus, i.e., an embodiment with no explicit variables. This expression is primarily used in the chemical arts.

Considering “inorganic compounds” as a genus, “inorganic salts” or “sodium salts” would be a “subgenus” or “species,” and “sodium chloride” would be an “ultimate species.”

**Group Branch (Array)** – a segment of a classification subclass consisting of

- a particular main group or subgroup, and
- all the subgroups indented under it.

[Annex V follows/  
L’annexe V suit]