# Guide to the CPC (Cooperative Patent Classification)

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# 1. HISTORY

On 25 October 2010, the European Patent Office (EPO) and the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) issued a joint statement that both Offices would "work toward the formation of a partnership to explore the development of a joint classification system based on the European Classification system (ECLA) that will incorporate the best classification practices of the two offices" This marked the beginning of the development of what is now known as the Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC), a patent classification system based on the European classification system, but including practices from the United States Patent Classification (USPC). Brief histories of these two systems are now presented.

## 1.1. EUROPEAN CLASSIFICATION (ECLA)

Initially, the former "Institut International des Brevets" (IIB) used a classification system called "Indeling der Techniek" (IdT), developed by the Dutch Patent Office, and largely based on the "Deutsche Patentklassifikation" (DPK). After the first edition of the International Patent Classification (IPC) had entered into force in 1968, the IIB decided to convert its search documentation from IdT to a system based on IPC. This classification system would later become the "European Classification" (ECLA) system. In view of the large differences between both systems, and in order to guarantee the quality of the system, it was decided to transfer the documents gradually, by "closing" the IdT at a certain date (different per technical field), and "opening" ECLA at the same time. Subsequently, new documents were then classified according to ECLA, the "backfile" being reclassified systematically or "ad hoc", e.g. during searches.

From 1991 all the documents were classified via EC codes according to ECLA only. An additional indexing system of "In Computer Only" codes (ICO codes) was also developed.

## 1.2. UNITED STATES PATENT CLASSIFICATION (USPC)

In 1898, the U.S. Congress directed the Commissioner of Patents to "revise and perfect" the classification of patents and authorized him to appoint personnel to accomplish this task. Four months later, the Classification Division was created. This was the first time at USPTO that personnel were organized and directed to work exclusively on the classification of patents. In 1899, the Classification Division issued Class 20, Wooden Buildings, the first patent classification to be issued by professional classifiers at USPTO.

From this beginning, the USPC developed into a system consisting of over 400 classes and 160,000 subclasses that was used successfully for over 100 years to organize and search U.S. patent, and other, documents.

# 2. THE COOPERATIVE PATENT CLASSIFICATION (CPC)

The CPC system consists of the Scheme complemented by the Definitions, which further define the

subject matter and related references of the classification place under consideration.

Operational aspects of the CPC scheme are further defined in the CPC Concept of Operations document (CPC-OPS) that can be found on LINK.

Questions related to the CPC system and the cooperation with other patent offices should be directed to Directorate Classification & Documentation (CPC@epo.org) and Classification Standards and Development Division (CPC@uspto.gov).

The structure of the CPC Scheme and Definitions is generally similar to that of the IPC (http://www.wipo.int/classifications/ipc/en/), though with a more detailed hierarchical structure.

Information on the structure, classification rules and principles of the IPC can be found in the "Guide to the IPC", available at www.wipo.int/classifications/ipc/en/guide/guide_ipc.pdf.

Additional information on the IPC classification rules, such as "Guidelines for Determining Subject Matter to be Classified" and "Guidelines for Determining Where to Classify Patent Documents" are available at http://www.wipo.int/classifications/ipc/en/general/guidelines.html.

**Unless otherwise stated, CPC structure, rules and principles are identical to the IPC ones.**

**Therefore, only the distinguishing features of CPC with regard to IPC will be described in this Guide.**

**For each technical field, all special classification practice will be further specified in the CPC Definitions.**

# 3. THE CPC SCHEME

The CPC Scheme is divided into three parts:

- the “main trunk” symbols;
- the “indexing codes” or “2000-series”;
- the “Y-section”.

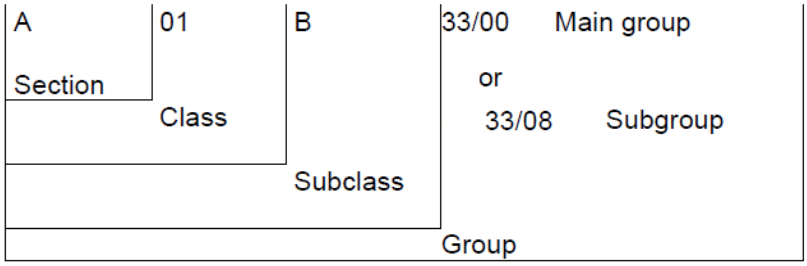
In the following the three parts are explained in more detail.

## 3.1. MAIN TRUNK

CPC is in most of the cases a refinement of the current IPC, namely a scheme which brings more subdivisions and more text additions, compared to the IPC.

CPC symbols in the "*main trunk*" consist of a string of letters and numbers compliant with the IPC standard, wherein a subclass symbol is followed by a one- to three-digit number, an oblique stroke, and a two- to six-digit number.

A complete classification symbol comprises the stringed symbols representing the section, class, subclass and main group or subgroup.
Example:




In the main trunk, the title of each level of CPC is normally the same as that of the corresponding IPC level (if this IPC level exists). Any CPC specific title or CPC specific addition of text to an existing IPC title is captured between **curly brackets { }.**

***Example:***

| Explanation | Symbol | Hierarchical level | Title |
|---|---|---|---|
| IPC main group and CPC corresponding main group (unchanged) | A01C 15/00 | | Fertiliser distributors |
| CPC-only subgroup | A01C 15/005 | • | {Undercarriages, tanks, hoppers, stirrers specially adapted for seeders or fertiliser distributors} |
| CPC-only subgroup | A01C 15/006 | • • | {Hoppers} |
| IPC subgroup {with CPC additions} | A01C 15/06 | • | with distributing slots, {i.e. for dosing, e.g. adjustable openings} |
| IPC subgroup and CPC corresponding subgroup (unchanged) | A01C 15/08 | • • | with pushers or stirrers in the slots |
| IPC main-group {with CPC additions} | C07C 403/00 | | Derivatives of cyclohexane or of a cyclohexene {or of cyclohexadiene}, having a side-chain containing an acyclic unsaturated part of at least four carbon atoms, this part being directly attached to the cyclohexane or cyclohexene {or cyclohexadiene} rings, e.g. vitaminA, beta-carotene, beta-ionone |

**As in the IPC, hierarchy among CPC subgroups is solely determined by the number of dots, and not by the numbering of the subgroups.**

## 3.2. 2000 SERIES: (FURTHER) BREAKDOWN INDEXING CODES AND ORTHOGONAL INDEXING CODES; IPC INDEXING CODES; COMBINATION SETS

CPC symbols in the "*2000 series*" are similar to main trunk CPC symbols, but the subclass symbol is followed by a **four-digit number beginning with '2'**.

There are no 2000 series symbols in the Y section (see below).

The 2000-series symbols can be used only for allocation of "**additional information**". There are three different kinds of indexing codes: the "(further) breakdown" indexing codes, the "orthogonal" indexing codes, indexing codes stemming from IPC indexing codes.. All of these types of classification indices are additional to the INV main trunk classification.

### 3.2.1. (Further) Breakdown indexing codes

The (further) breakdown indexing codes are subdivisions dependent on a hierarchically superior main-trunk group and cover deeper-refined technical aspects of that group. They provide "further breakdowns" of the technical subject under consideration.

It is the EPO and USPTO policy to progressively reduce the number of (further) breakdown indexing codes in the CPC Scheme (in favour of "main-trunk" symbols) and not to allow the creation of new breakdown indexing codes.

Curly brackets {...} are used for the breakdown indexing codes, as they are interspersed within CPC main-trunk symbols.

***Example:***

Further breakdown code G08B 2001/085

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Main trunk | G08B 1/00 | | Systems for signalling characterised solely by the form of transmission of the signal |
| Main trunk | G08B 1/08 | • | using electric transmission; {transformation of alarm signals to electrical signals from a different medium, e.g. transmission of an electric alarm signal upon detection of an audible alarm signal} |
| Further breakdown code | G08B 2001/085 | • • | {Partner search devices} |

### 3.2.2. Orthogonal indexing codes

The orthogonal (indexing) codes do not depend on a single hierarchically superior main- trunk group, as it is the case for the further breakdown indexing codes.

As a matter of fact, they usually relate to multiple groups of the subclass in question, and hence they are called "orthogonal" in the sense that they offer further dimensions to the classification: they are "orthogonal" to the classification line of the main trunk.

Typically they link to a very "high" level classification place, e.g. subclass or main group.

New orthogonal indexing codes should be created only if the creation of new groups in the main-trunk is not feasible.

Curly brackets {...} are not used for the orthogonal indexing codes..

***Example:***

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Main trunk | H05K 1/00 | | |
| Orthogonal code | H05K 2201/00 | | Indexing scheme relating to printed circuits covered by H05K1/00 |
| Orthogonal code | H05K 2201/01 | • | Dielectrics |

***Example:***

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Main trunk | F05 | | Indexing schemes relating to Engines or Pumps in various subclasses of Classes F01-F04 |
| Main trunk | F05B | | Indexing scheme relating to machines or engines other than non-positive-displacement machines or engines, to wind motors, to non-positive displacement pumps, and to generating combustion products of high pressure or high velocity |
| Orthogonal code | F05B 2200/00 | | Mathematical features |
| Orthogonal code | F05B 2200/10 | • | Basic functions |

### 3.2.3. IPC indexing codes

IPC indexing schemes are also copied (if appropriate) into CPC.

For the sake of consistency with the numbering used for any CPC indexing code (2000+), IPC indexing codes carry a 2 in front of the original IPC number.

***Example:***

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| IPC | F21Y 101/00 | Point-like light sources |
| CPC | F21Y **2**101/00 | Point-like light sources |

### 3.2.4 Combination Sets

In certain CPC areas, the examiner has the ability to classify and search with combinations of CPC symbols (provided as groupings of symbols), each symbol in a grouping having a defined relationship to the other symbols in its grouping. These groupings are termed Combination Sets (C-Sets), and provide an enhanced mechanism for storing and retrieving classification information from patent documents.

The C-Set indicates linked features for which no single unlinked symbol exists in CPC.
The first symbol in a Combination Set is termed the “base” classification symbol, and determines the authorization for creation or deletion of combination sets within the field of the base symbol. The other members of a Combination Set possess the same Invention or Additional information value, i.e. INV/ADD attribute, as the base symbol, with an ordered ranking to denote their positioning within the Combination Set.

The construction of the C-Set must comply with the instructions given at the place of the scheme where the base symbol belongs.

When the base symbol is selected in the main trunk, the C-Set as a whole may be considered as “Invention Information C-Set” or “Additional Information C-Set” and is indicated by the symbols 'INV' or 'ADD' at the end.

When the base symbol is an indexing code, the C-Set as a whole is considered as “Additional Information C-Set” only and is indicated by the symbol 'ADD' at the end.

Only one of these two modes can be assigned to a specific Combination Set.

The symbols in the C-Set must all be valid symbols of the CPC scheme and may independently be taken across same or different sections, classes, subclasses groups or subgroups and may be classification (main trunk) symbols or indexing codes.

Examples:

C08L23/06, C08L77/00

C08F220/14, C08F220/20, C08F2220/1825, C08F212/08

C04B28/02, C04B14/062, C04B14/42, C04B24/06, C04B24/383

Guidance on the creation of Combination Sets is detailed in the CPC classification definitions. For example, the C-Set in a given field may denote the sequence of operations in a multi-step process or the order of layers in a layered product, while in another field, the C-Set may denote the product and its method of manufacture. It is even possible to have the same CPC symbol appear more than once in a given C-Set, with the ordering thereof to reflect the occurrence of multiple steps provided for by the repeated CPC symbol.

A CPC patent family may have more than one C-Set as needed to classify the relevant technical disclosure. In addition, further CPC symbols may be allocated in conjunction with the Combination Set(s) in order to characterize features of interest.

Contrary to single unlinked symbols, duplicate symbols in a C-Set are allowed.

In some technical areas, the C-Sets may be accompanied by one or more unlinked indexing code(s) as specified at appropriate place of the Scheme and Definitions.

In some technical areas, when creating a Combination Set, the base symbol may also automatically be allocated as a single symbol with the same or different allocation value (INV or ADD) as specified at appropriate place of the Scheme and Definitions.

A note in the Scheme signals the use of Combination Sets in a particular technical area. Definitions will further elaborate about the intended usage. General instructions for creating C-Sets in a technical area are generally found at subclass level, specific or particular information at group or sub-group level.

In some technical areas certain C-Ssets are mandatory, in others recommended as specified at appropriate place in the Scheme and Definitions. Prior to introducing for the first time the use of Combination Sets in any technical area, the CPC Definition of that area has to be checked to confirm that the use of these Combination Sets has already been indicated, Should this not be the case, a CPC Revision request should be completed prior to any new use of Combination Sets.

## 3.3. SECTION Y: GENERAL TAGGING; FORMER USPC CODES

The IPC sections A to H are complemented by a CPC-specific section Y. Symbols of the Y section are allocated for **"additional information"** only**.**

This section for example includes subclasses Y10S and Y10T which accommodates for former USPC subclasses, cross-reference art collections [XRAC], and Digests. Allocations were derived directly from existing USPC. No intellectual allocation is possible with Y10S and Y10T symbols. Y10T was meant as a temporary subclass and is planned to disappear by end of 2016.

The rest of the Y section includes subclasses for the “tagging” of emerging technologies, which span many sections of the IPC (cross-sectional).

By “tagging” is meant a process where relevant documents are captured automatically by search strategies (developed by EPO specialists) and given relevant symbols from the Y-section. Hence, there is no direct intellectual allocation in the Y-section. The only direct intellectual investment is in the intellectual allocation of CPC symbols in other areas of CPC and in the development and update of the search strategies, which are run periodically (almost on a monthly basis). Hence the allocation of Y symbols should not be done by the EPO classifiers during the normal process of classification.

In the Y-section curly brackets {...} are not used.

# 4. SPECIFICITIES OF THE CPC SCHEME

## 4.1. INDICATIONS OF CHANGES

The tag [YYYY-MM] is added to end of the titles of groups in order to indicate the year and month of introduction or scope change of a CPC group — note that editorial changes with no impact on the scope of the group are not date stamped.

***Example***

B41M 7/0063 --- {archival material, e.g. by de-acidifying} [2013-01]

## 4.2. REFERENCES OR ADDITIONS TO IPC REFERENCES

IPC references can be modified, and/or CPC references can be added to the original IPC titles.

As in the IPC, references are always put between round brackets, and references to groups in the same subclass should include the full subclass symbol.

The order for the types of references remains as in the IPC:

I. precedence references (i.e. “takes precedence” references);

II. references within the same subclass;

III. references to other subclasses.

Additionally within each type, references follow the alphanumerical order.

***Example:***

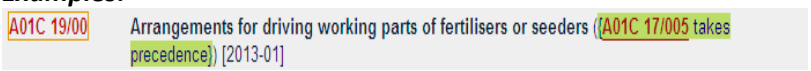
G02F 1/0147 . . based on thermo-optic effects (G02F1/132 takes precedence; tenebrescent compositions C09K9/00; radiation pyrometry G01J5/00; thermometers using change of colour or translucency G01K11/12)

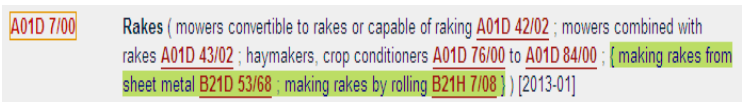
Any CPC addition to a reference of an IPC title can have the effect of misaligning the IPC and CPC in that area.

These scope-affecting additions should only be used when there is no other possibility, e.g. creation of a CPC subgroup, to cover the subject matter in question.

The CPC text is always put between curly brackets { }.

***Examples:***




References to the indexing codes of the 2000-series are not allowed, as indexing schemes are by construction secondary to the CPC main trunk. Moreover, indexing codes are meant for classification of Additional Information only, thus further reducing the need for references to the indexing codes.

The availability and intended usage of indexing codes in an area should be signalled by Notes and Definitions in that area.

## 4.3. NOTES OR ADDITIONS TO IPC NOTES

IPC Notes can be modified and/or CPC-specific Notes can be added into the original IPC text. As for the references, care should be taken not to misalign the coverage of the affected IPC and CPC groups.

The CPC text is always put between curly brackets { }.

## 4.4. WARNINGS

A warning is a "tag" specific to CPC, not available in the IPC.

Generally speaking, a warning is needed in CPC to draw the attention of the user to incompleteness or deviations from the standard practice.

There are a number of typical situations, which are listed below.

See Annex I for the standardized wording of Warnings and Notes in CPC.

### 4.4.1. Reclassification in progress

Whenever a new group is introduced in CPC, while the corresponding reclassification work has not been completed, i.e. when reclassification is “in progress”, a warning is needed to signal the “incompleteness” of the group in question and of its predecessor(s). The warning appears just below the group affected or, in case of a list of groups, under the hierarchically highest group of the list.

The warning shall be removed as soon as reclassification is completed.

Another typical situation is a group that will eventually be deleted, and therefore no longer used for the classification of front-file documents, This group is still available for search, which means that there are still documents in the group that are being continuously reclassified. These groups are called “frozen” (for classification). Also in this case a warning is needed to signal the “incompleteness” of the group.

The group, together with the warning, shall be removed as soon as reclassification is completed.

### 4.4.2. Groups not present in the current version of the IPC

Some groups in CPC are not based on the current IPC, but on former or “pre-published” editions/versions – "pre-published" means that the new IPC schemes were already adopted at WIPO and will be published with the next IPC version.

Such groups are indicated in Warnings.

### 4.4.3. With regard to former IPC editions/versions, such “deviations” from the IPC should progressively, and insofar as possible, be eliminated, in order to progressively reduce the differences between the IPC and CPC.IPC groups not in use in CPC

IPC groups that are not used in CPC are currently not published in the CPC scheme.

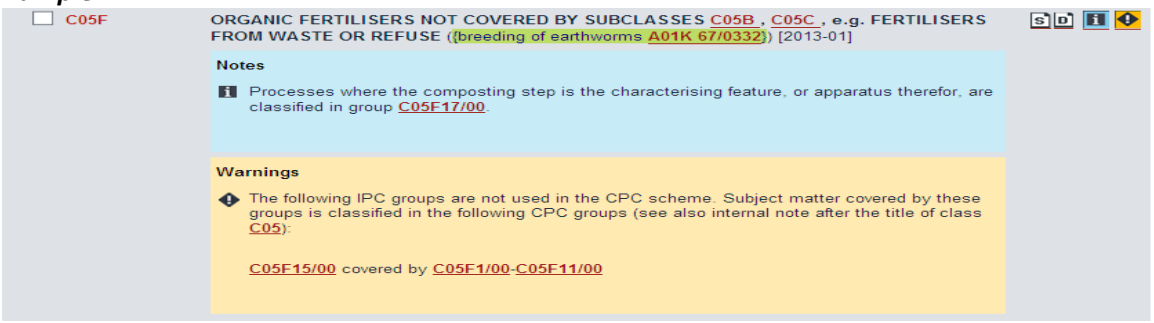
The general policy of CPC is to reduce when possible divergence between the two systems.

Yet in some exceptional cases, for historical reasons, it was decided to deviate from the IPC in some

areas.

In this case, a warning is used after the subclass title to inform the users of the deviation from the IPC practice, and to indicate where the corresponding subject matter is classified.

***Example:***



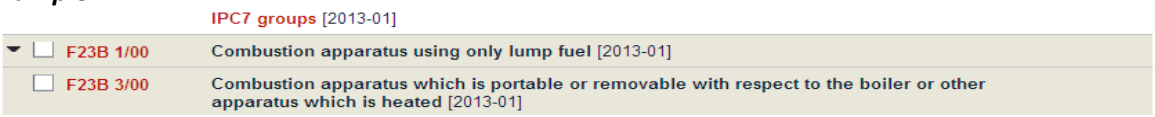

## 4.4.4. IPC groups entering into force or no longer in force

IPC groups already adopted at WIPO (i.e. pre-published) can be pre-introduced in CPC.

This should be indicated by a warning, which shall be removed as soon as the new IPC version comes in force.

Similarly IPC groups no longer in force are left temporarily in CPC, whenever possible with a descriptive guidance heading, like "**IPC7 groups**".

***Example:***



# 5. CPC CLASSIFICATION RULES

As in the IPC, CPC symbols from the “main-trunk” of the Scheme are called “classification symbols”.

CPC symbols from the 2000-series, as well as symbols from the Y-section, are called “indexing codes”.

As in the IPC (see §§77-78 of the Guide to the IPC), "Invention information" is technical information in the total disclosure of a patent document (for example, description, drawings, claims) that represents an addition to the state of the art (i.e. all novel and unobvious subject matter specifically disclosed in a document).

Also as in the IPC (Guide to the IPC, §§79-80) "Additional information" is non-trivial technical information which does not in itself represent an addition to the state of the art but might constitute useful information for the searcher.

Moreover, as in the IPC, “invention information” (Guide to the IPC, §116) is only represented by classification symbols, i.e. other than indexing codes.

Furthermore, as in the IPC, “additional information” (Guide to the IPC §117) is represented by classification symbols, by indexing codes or by both. Classification symbols from any place in the scheme, together with any indexing codes associated with those symbols, may be used for indicating additional information.

It is important to note that, as in the IPC (Guide to the IPC §§141-142), the CPC adopts the “common rule” of classification as the default classification rule in all CPC areas where priority classification rules (first place priority rule; last place priority rule) or special classification rules are not specified.

Besides, still as in the IPC (Guide to the IPC §143), when classifying subject matter characterised by several aspects or when assigning additional classification symbols representing useful information for searching, principles of “multiple classification” (Guide to the IPC §§102-106) apply.

## 5.1. ALLOCATION OF CPC INDEXING CODES FROM THE 2000-SERIES, I.E (FURTHER) BREAKDOWN AND ORTHOGONAL INDEXING CODES

In the IPC, indexing codes may be applied (IPC Guide, §113) when it is desirable for search purposes to identify elements of information about a technical subject of the invention already classified as such.

In the CPC, it remains the practice to assign the indexing codes of the 2000-series, i.e. (further) breakdown and orthogonal indexing codes, to identify further elements of information about a technical subject of the invention already classified as such by main-trunk classification symbols. In particular, allocation of the indexing codes allows more accurate classification than the main-trunk symbols or reflects another aspect of the inventive subject matter.

However, application of CPC indexing codes can be either desirable only (as in the IPC) or obligatory, and the specifications as to the intended usage of the indexing codes (namely desirable vs. obligatory) should be found in the Definitions.

In absence of information about the usage of indexing codes, it shall be deemed that their usage is desirable only.

The classification value of applied indexing codes remains of the type “additional information”.

# 6. CPC DEFINITIONS

The CPC Scheme is complemented by Definitions that form an integral part of the CPC system.

They provide complementary information in respect of classification entries and serve for their clarification, without changing their scope. Special rules of classification may be clarified in the CPC Definitions. CPC Definitions follow a similar structure as that of IPC Definitions, with seven headings:

- Definition statement
- Relationships between large subject matter areas (*usually at subclass level*)
- References relevant to classification
- Informative references
- Special rules of classification within the subclass / group
- Glossary of terms
- Synonyms and keywords

The official Definitions are available on the CPC website (www.cpcinfo.org) for each subclass (including all main groups and many subgroups).

They are also available at the EPO and USPTO sites.
For example, as far as the EPO is concerned, in Espacenet (http://worldwide.espacenet.com/) they are displayed per subclass and available main group or subgroup.

Definitions are not normally used to further define indexing-only subclasses (e.g. A23V, F05B) and the whole of section Y (e.g. Y04S, Y10S).

# 7. CONCORDANCE LIST BETWEEN CPC AND IPC SYMBOLS

A CPC to IPC concordance list (CICL) is available in XML, PDF and TXT formats on the CPC website:

http://www.cooperativepatentclassification.org/cpcConcordances.html

The list offers the concordance between the current CPC version (e.g. 2014.07) and the current IPC one (e.g. 2014.01).

In the CICL, CPC symbols of section Y and “orthogonal indexing codes” (2200+) do not have any corresponding IPC symbol. Therefore they are marked with "CPCONLY" in the IPC column of the table.

On the other hand, a further breakdown indexing code maps to the same IPC symbol as the hierarchically superior main-trunk symbol on which it depends.

***Example:***

| **CPC** | **IPC** |
|---|---|
| G06K 9/685 | G06K 9/68 |
| G06K 9/6857 | G06K 9/68 |
| G06K 2009/6864 | G06K 9/68 |
| G06K 2009/6871 | G06K 9/68 |
| G06K 9/6878 | G06K 9/68 |
| G06K 2207/00 | CPCONLY |

The CICL is revised whenever the CPC changes (left column) or the IPC changes (right column).

# 8. COVERAGE OF THE CPC SYSTEMATICALLY CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTATION

The table illustrates (as of July 2014) the documents belonging to the **"CPC systematically classified documentation"**. Usually one document per simple family is classified.

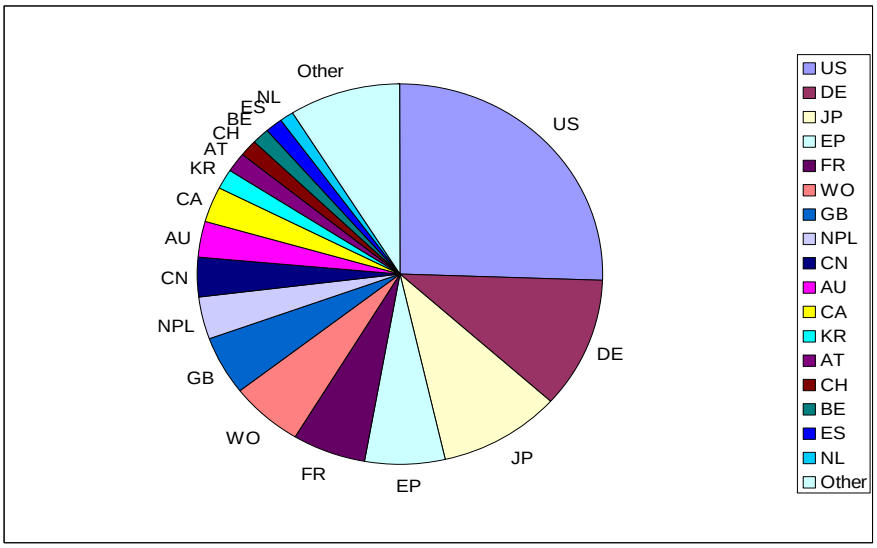
For updated information, please consult the CPC internet pages at www.cpcinfo.org.

| Country | CC | Code | Systematically classified** | Non-systematically classified |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ARIPO | AP | | complete from 1 (3/7/1985) | |
| Austria | AT* | A,B | from 288 286 (15/1/1971) | from 100 022 (1925) |
| Australia | AU* | B,D | from 18/1/1973 (first filing: 1971) | from 1 019 332 (1933) |
| Belgium | BE | | from 100 486 (1892) | years 1959-1962 |
| Canada | CA* | | from 848 159 (4/8/1970)<br>for first filling residents from 939 101 (1/1/1974) | from 114 746 (1908) |
| Switzerland | CH | A,B<br>D | from 208 320 (31/1/1939)<br>from 1968 | from 1 (1888) |
| Germany | DE | A,B,C<br>U | from 1 (1877)<br>from 6 609 798 (04/1/1973) | from 1 037 492 (1928) |
| EPO | EP | A | complete from 1 (20/12/1978) | |
| France | FR | A,B<br>E | from 292 (1844)<br>from 92 701 (20/12/1968) | |
| United Kingdom | GB | A,B | from 1909 02 488 (27/1/1910) | from 1817 04 136 (1817) |
| Luxembourg | LU | | from 555 (<1920) | |
| The Netherlands | NL | | from 28 (1913) | |
| OAPI | OA | | complete from 1 (15/01/1966) | |
| The United States | US | A,B<br>E<br>I (defensive)<br>I (trial, project)<br>H | complete from 1 (13/07/1836)<br>complete from 8 (23/4/1839)<br>complete from 120 (04/10/1855)<br>complete from 1 (03/12/1985) | |
| World(PCT) | WO | | complete from 7800001 (19/10/1978) | |

* for first filings only ie. without foreign priorities

** when the indication "complete" is not present, this means that some documents in the collection may not be classified in CPC

Breakdown by country of the 40 million EPODOC records classified in CPC (NPL stands for "Non Patent Literature").



# 9. ANNEX: STANDARDIZED WORDING FOR WARNINGS AND NOTES IN CPC

1. Warnings for ongoing reclassification in an area

These warnings should be located in the scheme at "source" groups XX-XX, at the hierarchically most relevant place, e.g. after the head-group when a number of sub-groups are impacted, or after the main-group or even after the subclass when many groups are impacted:

**F group(s) XX-XX (source)**
Group(s) XX-XX is/are no longer used for the classification of documents as of Month Day, Year (e.g. August 1, 2013). The content of this/these group(s) is being reclassified into group(s) YY-YY. Groups XX-XX and YY-YY should be considered in order to perform a complete search.

**C group(s) XX-XX (source)**
Group(s) XX-XX is/are impacted by reclassification into group(s) YY-YY. Group(s) XX-XX and YY-YY should be considered in order to perform a complete search.
To condense the warning language for F and C groups in cases where there are a large number of groups involved in the reclassification, the last sentence “Group(s) XX-XX and YY-YY should be considered in order to perform a complete search” in the above F and C group warnings may be substituted with the following:

All groups listed in this Warning should be considered in order to perform a complete search.

This warning should be located in the scheme at "destination" groups YY-YY, at the hierarchically most relevant place, e.g. after the head-group when a number of sub-groups is impacted, or after the main-group or even after the subclass when many groups are impacted:

**N or E group(s) YY-YY (destination)**
Group(s) YY-YY is/are incomplete pending reclassification of documents from group(s) XX-XX. Groups XX-XX and YY-YY should be considered in order to perform a complete search.

Classification symbols XX-XX and YY-YY should be indicated in full, i.e.:
Subclass/group-Subclass/group

2. Warnings indicating areas where IPC groups are not used in CPC: The following IPC group(s) is/are not used in the CPC scheme. Subject matter covered by this/these group(s) is classified in the following CPC group(s): "IPC subclass/group (e.g. A61K 9/133)" covered by "CPC subclass/group (e.g. A61K 9/127)"

3. Notes relating to the subject matter covered by the place in question should be presented as follows:

(a) This subclass covers:

– apparatus which is not provided for in----;

– the working of materials which----;

– features specific to----.

(b) This subclass does not cover:

– multi-step processes, which are covered by class (or subclass)---- ;

– details or accessories which form part of ----, e.g.----, which are covered by subclass----.

4. Notes defining terms or expressions (referred to under 1(b), above) should be presented as follows:

In this subclass, the following terms or expressions are used with the meaning indicated:

– "working" covers also----;

– "combined operation" means----.

5. Notes stating general priority rules should be presented as follows:

(a) First place priority rule:

In this subclass / main group(s) / group(s), the first place priority rule is applied, i.e. at each hierarchical level, in the absence of an indication to the contrary, classification is made in the first appropriate place.

(b) Last place priority rule:

In this subclass / main group(s) / group(s), the last place priority rule is applied, i.e. at each hierarchical level, in the absence of an indication to the contrary, classification is made in the last appropriate place.

6. Notes prescribing multiple classification should be presented as follows:

(a) Obligatory multiple classification:

"----, when it is determined to be novel and non-obvious, must also be classified in----".

(b) Nonobligatory multiple classification:

"----, which is considered to represent information of interest for search, may also be classified in----".

7. Notes stating other classification rules can, for example, be presented as follows:

In this subclass:

– Groups----to---- are limited to----;

– after-treatment of materials is classified in groups----;

– subject matter relating to both----is classified in groups----.

8. The following model wordings of the different notes relating to indexing schemes should be observed:

(a) Note for a class containing a subclass which constitutes an indexing scheme:

The codes of subclass----are only for use as indexing codes associated with subclass(es)----, so as to provide information concerning----.

(b) Note for an area to which an indexing scheme is associated:

In this----, it is desirable to add the indexing code(s) of----.