B07C
POSTAL SORTING; SORTING INDIVIDUAL ARTICLES, OR BULK MATERIAL FIT TO BE SORTED PIECE-MEAL, e.g. BY PICKING (specially adapted for a specific purpose covered by another class, see the relevant place, e.g. A43D 33/06, B23Q 7/12)

Definition statement
This place covers:
• Postal sorting and sorting according to a destination
• Sorting of articles based on a detected feature or characteristic (e.g. weight or colour)

Relationships with other classification places
Subclass B07C covers sorting involving the detection of a feature/characteristic of the item (address, colour, appearance, weight, response to induction) and normally a decision into which destination or fraction the item is to be put.

Sorting without decision-making, e.g. sieving, sorting using air currents or centrifugal effects is covered by the subclass B07B

References
Limiting references
This place does not cover:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Machines for sorting heel lifts</th>
<th>A43D 33/06</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sorting arrangements</td>
<td>B23Q 7/12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Informative references
Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tube mail systems</th>
<th>B65G 51/04</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sorting information records, e.g. punched cards</td>
<td>G06F 7/10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B07C 1/00
Measures preceding sorting according to destination

Definition statement
This place covers:
Involving measures immediately/directly enabling postal sorting by spacing, orienting mail pieces for automated sorting/processing, separating mail pieces by type/size.

References
Informative references
Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Handling of sheet-like articles per se</th>
<th>B65H</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
B07C 3/00

Sorting according to destination {(collating the pages of a book B42C 1/00)}

Definition statement

This place covers:
Sorting of physical items (letters, parcels, photographic order bags, cheques) which will be routed according to a destination indicated on the item (address, barcode) or with the item (e.g. RFID tag).

Relationships with other classification places

G07B 17/00 usually covers handling and also sorting of mail piece content during production (i.e. before a letter or mailing is assembled), This main group, B07C 3/00, covers the sorting of entire/finished mail pieces.

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:
collating the pages of a book B42C 1/00

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Conveyors in general B65G
Character/pattern reading per se G06K 9/00

B07C 5/00

Sorting according to a characteristic or feature of the articles or material being sorted, e.g. by control effected by devices which detect or measure such characteristic or feature; Sorting by manually actuated devices, e.g. switches (sorting by hand only B07C 7/00; separating solids from solids by sieving, screening, or sifting or by using gas currents or other separating by dry methods applicable to bulk material B07B)

Definition statement

This place covers:
Sorting according to a detected property/feature/characteristic of the item into fractions (weight, shape, colour, optical properties, applied code, magnetic property)

Relationships with other classification places

Quality check after production into acceptable/defective goods is normally classified in the manufacturing process only. The way the characteristic/feature is measured/detected in relation to the sorting step is a key aspect for B07C 5/00.
References

**Limiting references**

*This place does not cover:*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sorting by hand only</th>
<th>B07C 7/00</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>separating solids from solids by sieving, screening, or sifting or by using gas currents or other separating by dry methods applicable to bulk material</td>
<td>B07B</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Informative references**

*Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weighing per se</th>
<th>G01G</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Material testing</td>
<td>G01N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optical detection</td>
<td>G01N 21/00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Bottle) return vending machines</td>
<td>G07F 7/00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**B07C 7/00**

*Sorting by hand only {e.g. of mail}*

**Definition statement**

*This place covers:*

Sorting by hand / by an operator, e.g. parcels, final manual mail sorting into pigeon holes or specific furniture.

Arrangements facilitating positioning of the articles, reading the address, marking the drop-off point or the fraction (e.g. lights indicating target area), reading or identifying the address (e.g. headsets)

**B07C 9/00**

*{Sorting, with or without orientating, not otherwise provided for, e.g. sorting of table equipment (washing and rinsing machines for tableware A47L 15/00, A47L 15/02; machines for polishing table equipment A47L 21/02)}*

**Definition statement**

*This place covers:*

Sorting, with or without orientating, not otherwise provided for, e.g. sorting of table equipment making use of their magnetic properties or shape

**References**

**Limiting references**

*This place does not cover:*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>washing and rinsing machines for tableware</th>
<th>A47L 15/00</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>machines for polishing table equipment</td>
<td>A47L 21/02</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>