F21L
LIGHTING DEVICES OR SYSTEMS THEREOF, BEING PORTABLE OR SPECIALLY ADAPTED FOR TRANSPORTATION

Definition statement
This place covers:
• Lighting devices or systems of lighting devices which are specially adapted to be carried, e.g. by hand, or otherwise transported from place to place, e.g. on wheeled supports, in order to provide illumination where required. The light sources of the lighting devices may be either electrically powered (e.g. by electric batteries, electric cells, electric generators or cables for electric mains connection) or non-electrically powered (e.g. by combustion or daylight).
• Details and components specially adapted to be used for carrying or transporting lighting devices or systems of lighting devices.

Relationships with other classification places
The borderline between subclasses F21L and F21S is defined by the words "portable" and "fixed", not by "movable" and "non-movable". For example, lighting devices or systems used in the operation of vehicles, e.g. headlights, which are fixed on the vehicle and move together with the vehicle when it is travelling are considered to be non-portable, since they are components of the vehicle and fixed relative to the remainder of the vehicle at a permanent location. Such lighting devices are classified in subclass F21S. Lighting devices transported by a vehicle between locations and used for lighting purposes not related to the operation of the vehicle are classified in F21L.

Functional features or details of lighting devices or systems are classified in subclass F21V.

Structural combinations of lighting devices with other articles are classified in F21V 33/00, unless specifically provided for in this subclass or elsewhere in the CPC.

Light sources per se are covered in places indicated in the section "Informative references".

In this subclass, it is desirable to add the indexing codes of subclass F21W in order to indicate the uses or applications of lighting devices, and of F21Y in order to indicate the form of the light sources of lighting devices.

References

Application-oriented references
Examples of places where the subject matter of this place is covered when specially adapted, used for a particular purpose, or incorporated in a larger system:

| Light pointers | G02B 27/20 |
| Flash units for photography | G03B 15/03 |
| Transportable traffic lights | G08G 1/0955 |

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

| Arrangement or adaptation of portable emergency signal devices on vehicles to be placed on roadways or vehicles | B60Q 7/00 |
| Candles | C11C 5/00 |
| Incandescent bodies heated by combustion. e.g. mantles | F21H |
| Non-electric light sources using luminescence | F21K 2/00 |
| Light sources using electrochemiluminescence                        | F21K 2/08 |
| Light sources using charges of combustible material, e.g. illuminating flash devices | F21K 5/00 |
| Light sources using semiconductor devices as light generating elements, e.g. using light-emitting diodes [LED] or lasers | F21K 9/00 |
| Light sources not otherwise provided for                              | F21K 99/00 |
| Devices or systems intended for fixed installation, e.g. vehicle lighting, or for use essentially at a permanent location | F21S |
| Lighting devices intended to be free standing, e.g. table lamp or floor lamp | F21S 6/00 |
| Non-electric lighting devices intended to be free-standing, e.g. table lamp, floor lamp | F21S 13/12 |
| Details of portable lighting devices                                  | F21V |
| Structural combinations of lighting devices with other articles, not otherwise provided for | F21V 33/00 |
| Candle holders                                                        | F21V 35/00 |
| Burners                                                               | F23D |
| Fireworks                                                             | F42B 4/00 |
| Electric discharge tubes or discharge lamps                           | H01J |
| Electric incandescent lamps                                           | H01K |
| Semiconductor devices specially adapted for light emission            | H01L 33/00 |
| Organic semiconductor devices specially adapted for light emission    | H01L 51/50 |
| Fastening electric light sources solely by the coupling device        | H01R 33/00 |
| Masers, lasers                                                        | H01S |
| Electric arc lamps                                                    | H05B 31/00 |
| Electroluminescent light sources                                      | H05B 33/00 |
| Electric light sources using a combination of different types of light generation | H05B 35/00 |

**Special rules of classification**

Non-electric lighting devices are classified in groups F21L 17/00 - F21L 26/00 only if a special adaptation related to the use of a non-electric light source is of interest. If there is no such special adaptation, classification is made in a relevant general place. In this subclass, it is desirable to add the Indexing Codes of subclasses F21W and F21Y.

**Glossary of terms**

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

| Light source | The entity (e.g. light bulb, fluorescent tube, gas mantle or combustible charge) that generates light for a lighting device. |
F21L 2/00
Systems of electric lighting devices (systems employing both electric and non-electric light sources or exchangeable light sources F21L 27/00)

Definition statement
This place covers:
Set of plurality of identical portable lighting devices.

The following image shows an example of an identical portable lighting system.

References
Limiting references
This place does not cover:

| Systems employing both electric and non-electric light sources or exchangeable light sources | F21L 27/00 |

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

| Systems employing lighting devices with a built-in power supply, the lighting devices not being "portable" | F21S 9/00 |

F21L 4/00
Electric lighting devices with self-contained electric batteries or cells

Definition statement
This place covers:
Electrical portable lighting devices being self-powered
References

Informative references

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

Systems employing lighting devices with a built-in power supply, the lighting devices not being "portable"  F21S 9/00

F21L 4/005

{the device being a pocket lamp (F21L 4/022, F21L 4/045, F21L 4/085 take precedence)}

Definition statement

This place covers:

Ex.: US1315457

Flat type self-contained or battery-operated portable electric light

Ex.: US2010315808

Torch

Ex.: US2010220465

squeeze-activated flashlight
References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>CPC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pocket lamps characterised by the provision of two or more light sources</td>
<td>F21L 4/022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pocket lamps characterised by the provision of a light source housing</td>
<td>F21L 4/045</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>portion adjustably fixed to the remainder of the device</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pocket lamps characterised by means for in situ recharging of the batteries or cells</td>
<td>F21L 4/085</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Synonyms and Keywords

In patent documents, the following words/expressions are often used as synonyms:
- "flashlight", "pocket lamp" and "torch"

F21L 4/025

{the light sources being of different shape or type}

Special rules of classification

In this subclass, it is desirable to add the Indexing Codes of subclasses F21Y 2113/20

F21L 4/027

{the light sources being a LED}

Definition statement

This place covers:
Pocket lamp, the light emitter of which being one or more LED

Ex.: US2005007777

Ex.: US2007133199
Special rules of classification
In this subclass, it is desirable to add the Indexing Codes F21Y 2101/00

F21L 4/04
characterised by the provision of a light source housing portion adjustably fixed to the remainder of the device

Definition statement
This place covers:
Portable lighting device having a head portion mechanically attached to the body part and adjustably attached to it.

The following illustration shows light source housing (42) adjustably fixed to lantern body (22).

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Head portion attached to body part by means of flexible connecting sheath comprising electrical wires</th>
<th>F21L 4/06</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Head portion of a lighting device being adjustable</td>
<td>F21V 21/30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
F21L 4/06
with the light source coupled to the remainder of the device solely by cable

Definition statement
This place covers:
For example, note the following figure showing head portion (8) attached to body part (16) by means of flexible connecting sheath comprising electrical wires (14).

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

| Portable lighting device with a light source housing portion adjustably fixed to the remainder of the device F21L 4/04 |

F21L 4/08
characterised by means for in situ recharging of the batteries or cells

Definition statement
This place covers:
Portable lighting device provided with connectors to connect the device to external power supply in order to recharge the batteries, e.g. with built-in accumulators
Portable lighting device provided with accumulators (not shaped like conventional batteries) that can be dismounted in order to be recharged on an external recharging base
Portable lighting devices with solar cells integrated to the body of the lamp

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

| Circuit arrangements for charging or depolarising batteries or for supplying loads from batteries H02J 7/00 |
F21L 13/00
Electric lighting devices with built-in electric generators (with solar cells F21L 4/00)

References

Limiting references
This place does not cover:

| Electric lighting devices with solar cells | F21L 4/00 |

F21L 13/06
with mechanical drive, e.g. spring

Definition statement
This place covers:
Ex.: GB2408317
Flashlight having manual charging device

F21L 13/08
by reciprocating pusher actuated by hand

Definition statement
This place covers:
Ex.: EP1450478
Electric power device for portable device with a piezo-converter

Ex.: WO0247056

Portable signal light with a self-generator

**F21L 14/02**

capable of hand-held use, e.g. inspection lamps

**Definition statement**

This place covers:

Ex.: US2010061111
F21L 14/023
{having two or more, or different light sources}

Special rules of classification
In this subclass, it is desirable to add the appropriate Indexing Codes of subclasses F21Y 2113/00

F21L 14/026
{having a linear light source}

Special rules of classification
In this subclass, it is desirable to add the appropriate Indexing Codes of subclasses F21Y 2103/00
F21L 14/04
carried on wheeled supports

Definition statement

This place covers:
Ex.: US2009225536

Ex.: WO2006047836

Portable lighting tower
Ex.: US5418701

References

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

| Projector or searchlight on land vehicles | B60P 3/18 |

**F21L 15/02**
{concerned with light emission or distribution}

References

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

| Refractors for light sources applied to portable lighting devices | F21V 5/006 |
| Reflectors for light sources for portable lighting devices | F21V 7/0075 |
| Combination of reflectors and refractors for portable lighting devices | F21V 13/045 |
| Changing the characteristics or the distribution of the light emitted by adjustment of light sources in portable lighting devices | F21V 14/025 |
| Changing the characteristics or the distribution of the light emitted by adjustment of reflectors in portable lighting devices | F21V 14/045 |
| Changing the characteristics or the distribution of the light emitted by adjustment of refractors in portable lighting devices | F21V 14/065 |
| Changing the characteristics or the distribution of the light emitted by adjustment of refractors in portable lighting devices | F21V 14/085 |

Special rules of classification

**F21L 15/02** is not used for classification, the subclass **F21V** is used instead
F21L 15/04
{Arrangements of coloured filters or screens}

References

Informative references

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

| Light filters; selection of luminescent materials for light screens for producing coloured light for portable lighting devices | F21V 9/083 |
| Changing the characteristics or the distribution of the light emitted by adjustment of screens in portable lighting devices | F21V 14/085 |

Special rules of classification

F21L 15/04 is not used for classification, the subclass F21V is used instead

F21L 15/06
{concerned with the fitting}

References

Informative references

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

| Battery containers for portable lighting devices | F21V 15/01 |
| Arrangements of switches in or on portable lighting devices | F21V 23/0414 |

Special rules of classification

F21L 15/06 is not used for classification, the subclass F21V is used instead

F21L 15/08
{Supporting and suspending elements}

References

Informative references

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

| Supporting, suspending, or attaching arrangements lighting devices; hand grips | F21V 21/00 |

Special rules of classification

F21L 15/08 is not used for classification, the subclass F21V is used instead
### F21L 15/10

{without arrangements for adjustment}

**Special rules of classification**

F21L 15/10 is not used for classification, the subclass F21V is used instead

### F21L 15/14

{Clips; Clamps; Head fittings (for medical purposes A61B 1/06)}

#### References

**Limiting references**

*This place does not cover:*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Head fittings for medical purposes</th>
<th>A61B 1/06</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Informative references**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Supporting, suspending, or attaching arrangements for portable lighting devices: Head fittings</th>
<th>F21V 21/084</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supporting, suspending, or attaching arrangements for portable lighting devices: Clips, clamps</td>
<td>F21V 21/0885</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Special rules of classification**

F21L 15/14 is not used for classification, the subclass F21V is used instead

### F21L 19/00

Lanterns, e.g. hurricane lamps or candle lamps

#### References

**Informative references**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candle holders</th>
<th>F21V 35/00</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### F21L 19/003

{Fastening or lifting of the lamp glass (fastening of component parts of lighting devices F21V 17/00)}

#### References

**Limiting references**

*This place does not cover:*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fastening of component parts of the lighting devices</th>
<th>F21V 17/00</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
F21L 19/006

{Special adaptation for protection against draughts (in lighting devices employing combustion other than lanterns F21V 37/02)}

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

| In lighting devices employing combustion other than lanterns | F21V 37/02 |