



Europäisches
Patentamt
European
Patent Office
Office européen
des brevets

USPTO User Day 2012



Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC): General Introduction into CPC



CPC Outreach Group

Alexandria, 10 July 2012

F16G5/14

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CPC: General Introduction

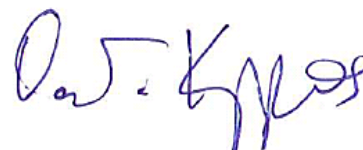
- **USPTO and EPO agree to cooperate on a joint classification system derived from IPC-based ECLA**
- **USPTO to move from USPC to CPC; EPO to move from ECLA to CPC**
- **CPC planned to be bi-laterally operational at EPO and USPTO**



USPTO and EPO Work Toward Joint Patent Classification System

"In view of the significant benefit to stakeholders of developing a transparent and harmonized approach to a global classification system for patent documents; in order to make the search process more effective; and in the belief that cooperation between their two offices will facilitate progress in undertaking classification harmonization projects under the IP5 Common Hybrid Classification initiative, the USPTO and the EPO have agreed together to 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 system would be aligned with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) classification standards and the International Patent Classification (IPC) structure. Accordingly, they have initiated discussions on governance and operational aspects of such a partnership.

The IP5 partner offices will be continually apprised of progress at appropriate IP5 forums. Stakeholders will receive regular updates on the substance and progress of classification partnership discussions between the two offices."



David J. Kappos



Benoît Battistelli

October 25, 2010

How will CPC affect me?

- CPC will change the source (i.e., different scheme) of patent classification information for users and stakeholders of the EPO and USPTO
- User search tools will be upgraded to seamlessly coordinate and communicate information
 - PatFT
 - AppFT
 - Pub-EAST
 - Pub-WEST
 - Espacenet
 - EPOQUENET



Agenda

- I. Background: Current Classification Systems
- II. CPC: What Does It Provide
- III. CPC Scheme: General Look and Feel
- IV. CPC Definitions: Overview
- V. CPC Implementation: Timeline and Milestones
- VI. Where To Find Additional Information on CPC

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I. Background

Current Classification Systems

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Major Intellectual Property Offices Classification Systems

IPC Based Classification Systems

Non-IPC based Classification Systems



European Patent Office (EPO)



Japan Patent Office (JPO)



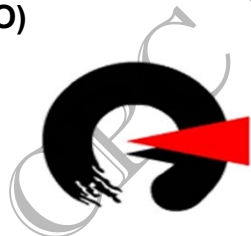
United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)



World Intellectual Property Office (WIPO)



State Intellectual Property Office of China (SIPO)



Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO)

Current Classification Systems

- The International Patent Classification (IPC)
 - Well established international classification standard; and
 - Strasbourg Agreement: any office signing the agreement shall publish its patent documents with IPC symbols
- The IPC (70K subdivisions) is insufficient to meet the needs of big patent offices, which need
 - more subdivisions;
 - flexibility; and
 - faster revision.

Current Classification Systems (continued)

- IPC based Classification Systems
 - European Classification System (ECLA)/Indexing Codes (ICO) at EPO, and
 - File Index (FI)/F-Terms (FT) at JPO
- None of these systems, including the current USPC, has an ideal classification scheme from a global work sharing perspective

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Current Classification Systems (continued)

- Efforts to establish a "global" classification system capable of accommodating the needs of all stakeholders
 - Harmony (Trilateral) project launched in 2000 to harmonize ECLA, USPC and FI into IPC
 - IPC reformed in 2006
 - IP5 Common Hybrid Classification (CHC) Foundation Project launched in 2008 to extend the original Trilateral cooperation to the IP5 offices
- Efforts to establish a faster global implementation process for scheme revision and reclassification projects

II. Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC)

What Does It Provide

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CPC: What does it provide

- CPC is specifically designed to be a **powerful, flexible, and easily manageable** classification scheme for internal, as well as external users:
 - It provides a classification scheme based on the International Patent Classification (IPC) standard
 - It provides classification flexibility in an ever growing globalized IP environment
 - It provides for more detailed scheme breakdowns
 - ~ 260,000 breakdowns in CPC vs. 150,000 breakdowns in USPC
 - It provides a consolidated search (merges PGPub and U.S. Patent databases)
 - It provides classification of patent documents by patent family

CPC: What does it provide

- It provides internal and external users with an up-to-date and internationally compatible classification scheme
- It provides an important step towards an internationally harmonized search and examination process, by:
 - Increasing document coverage for a single classified search
 - A single classification search yields results from the USPTO and EPO patent document collections
 - Sharing resources between EPO and USPTO
 - Sharing reclassification work between EPO and USPTO
 - Providing a classification scheme/system that is adaptive and more actively maintained
 - Providing a single classification symbol set for all USPTO and EPO documents

III. CPC Scheme

General “Look and Feel”

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Look and Feel: General

Current Classification Systems (IPC, ECLA, USPC and FI) vs. CPC

	USPC	IPC	ECLA	FI	CPC
<i>Office classifying documents into system</i>	USPTO	IPC Union Members (61)	EPO and EPO member states	Japan Patent Office	USPTO/EPO
<i>Relationship to IPC</i>	None	----	ECLA is an extension of IPC	FI is an extension of IPC	CPC is an extension of IPC
<i>Classification</i>	2 Standards for Classification*	Invention Information	Invention Information	Invention Information	Invention Information
<i>Rules for classification</i>	U.S. Classification Guidelines	IPC Guide	IPC Guide + Art Specific Rules	IPC Guide + Deep Indexing with F-Terms	IPC Guide + Art Specific Rules
<i>Number of Subdivisions</i>	150,000	69,000	145,000	180,000	260,000

- * • PG Publication – Invention Information (i.e., Disclosed Invention or Inventive Concept)
- Routing/Docketing & U.S. Patent Grant – Claim Scope

Look and Feel: General

- CPC will not change US standards of patentability
- CPC will be IPC based
- CPC will provide approximately 260,000 breakdowns
- In CPC, the alpha-numeric portion of the IPC based ECLA symbol after the “/”, will be changed into a numeric value and may make use of up to 6 digits
- CPC will include only Utility Inventions
 - CPC will not have Plant (PLT classes) and Design (D classes) USPC schemes
 - Plant and Design patent documents will be continue to be classified in (PLT classes) and Design (D classes) USPC schemes

Look and Feel: General (continued)

- Claimed Invention (USPC) vs. Invention Information (CPC)
- Document Classification (USPC) vs. Family Member Classification (CPC)
- CPC will have similar hierarchical structure to USPC and ECLA
- Some areas of USPC will be integrated into CPC (e.g., business methods)
- All U.S. Patent documents will be classified in ECLA and will be the basis for the CPC backfile

Look and Feel: General (continued)

- A Patent Family is a collection of documents sharing the same priority.
 - US PGPUB and US Patent from same application number, including CONs and DIVs
 - US patent document and foreign document having same priority information

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Look and Feel: Nomenclature

<u>USPC</u>		<u>IPC/ECLA/CPC</u>
Class	→	Section/Class/Subclass
Subclass	→	Main Group/ Subgroup
Schedule	→	Scheme
Original/Mandatory Cross(es)	→	Invention Information
Discretionary Cross(es)	→	Additional Information
References	→	Patent Documents
Line Notes	→	References, notes

Look and Feel: CPC Sections

(8 IPC+ 1 CPC)

A HUMAN NECESSITIES

B PERFORMING OPERATIONS; TRANSPORTING

C CHEMISTRY; METALLURGY

D TEXTILES; PAPER

E FIXED CONSTRUCTIONS

F MECHANICAL ENGINEERING; LIGHTING; HEATING; WEAPONS; BLASTING

G PHYSICS

H ELECTRICITY

Y GENERAL TAGGING OF NEW TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS; GENERAL TAGGING OF CROSS-OVER TECHNOLOGIES SPANNING OVER SEVERAL SECTIONS OF THE IPC

Look and Feel: CPC Symbol Format

A23G 9/086

- ▶ complete CPC group symbol; consists of different components

A	Section	(A, B, ... H, Y)
A 23	Class	(any 2 digits)
A 23 G	Subclass	(any letter)
A 23 G 9/00	Main Group	
:		
A 23 G 9/086	Subgroup	

Note:

- Documents are classified with main group and/or subgroup symbols

VI. CPC Definitions

Overview

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CPC Definitions

- CPC definitions are based on the IPC format
- CPC definitions may contain a statement referring to subject matter, search & line notes, specific rules, and glossary terms (similar to USPC)
- CPC definitions contain parts or all sections of a definition as needed, e.g. line notes, search notes, etc.
- CPC Subclasses (equivalent to USPC classes) and Main Groups will have definitions
- Definitions will be provided for Subgroups where needed
- CPC Subgroup titles are typically more descriptive than USPC Subclass titles

V. CPC Implementation

Timeline and Milestones

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CPC: Timeline and Milestones

25 October 2010: Joint statement launching the project

1 November 2010: Freeze of the USPC scheme

25 October 2011: Launch of the CPC website

1 July 2012: Freeze of the ECLA scheme

10 July 2012: USPTO User Day

Until July 2012:

- Develop training
- Document classification practices
- Design the collaborative environment

1 October 2012: "CPC launch scheme" available

1 January 2013:

- Launch of CPC
- USPTO starts applying CPC symbol to US applications (A docs)
- Begin Corps and early adopter training

After January 2013:

- Quality assurance
- CPC used by EPO and USPTO
- Harmonized classification practices
- Joint CPC revisions
- CPC available for use by other IP offices and the public
- Auto populate symbols on issuing applications ('B' docs) based on 'A' docs
- Examiners can add classifications (optional)

Until 2014:

- Conduct USPTO Corps training
- IT implementation at EPO and USPTO

After January 2015:

- Static USPC data available, Search in CPC mandatory

VI. Where to Find Additional Information

CPC Website

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CPC Internet site: www.cpcinfo.org

Cooperative Patent Classification

European Patent Office
United States Patent and Trademark Office

Home

- About CPC
- Objectives
- Timeline and milestones
- Deliverables
- Impact
- Events
- Publications
- Press releases
- Links
- FAQ

Sitemap

EPO and USPTO Work Toward Joint Classification System

The EPO and the USPTO have agreed together to 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.

News

The USPTO is hosting a **Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC) External User Day event** at its Alexandria Campus on July 10, 2012. [More information](#).

Search



United States Patent and Trademark Office

CPC: Website

- Launched October 25th 2011
- Jointly managed EPO-USPTO website
- Updated presentations and information material available
- "CPC launch scheme" and CPC Definitions to be published on the CPC website
- Up-to-date calendar of events
- Comprehensive FAQ section

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Questions

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