Finnish Patent and Registration Office

CPC issues

18.2.2020 Pekka Laihanen

CPC RECLASSIFICATION OF FI-DOCUMENTS

- Almost all CPC-symbols of Finnish patent documents are now up-to-date

    - i.e. in our own databases
    - including the CPC-data that has been (earlier) sent to the EPO
    - but also comprising a lot of CPC-data that has never been sent

- Said reclassification was based on a list of valid CPC-symbols with dates

PRH generated a list of valid CPC-symbols with dates
from 672 CPC 2019.08 XML-schemes
259895 symbols and dates – no subclass level symbols

CPCValidityFile201908 – Muistio

Tiedosto Muokkaa Muotoile Näytä Ohje

CPC Symbol	Valid From Date	Valid To Date
A01B	2013-01-01	
A01B1/00	2013-01-01	
A01B1/02	2013-01-01	
A01B1/022	2013-01-01	
A01B1/024	2013-01-01	
A01B1/026	2013-01-01	
A01B1/028	2013-01-01	
A01B1/04	2013-01-01	
A01B1/06	2013-01-01	
A01B1/065	2013-01-01	
A01B1/08	2013-01-01	
A01B1/10	2013-01-01	
A01B1/12	2013-01-01	
A01B1/14	2013-01-01	
A01B1/16	2013-01-01	
A01B1/165	2013-01-01	
A01B1/18	2013-01-01	
A01B1/20	2013-01-01	
A01B1/22	2013-01-01	
A01B1/222	2013-01-01	
A01B1/225	2013-01-01	
A01B1/227	2013-01-01	
A01B1/24	2013-01-01	
A01B1/243	2013-01-01	

CPC201908allocatableSYMBOLSwithDATES – Muistio

Tiedosto Muokkaa Muotoile Näytä Ohje

A01B1/00	2017-08-01
A01B1/02	2013-01-01
A01B1/022	2013-01-01
A01B1/024	2013-01-01
A01B1/026	2013-01-01
A01B1/028	2013-01-01
A01B1/04	2013-01-01
A01B1/06	2013-01-01
A01B1/065	2013-01-01
A01B1/08	2013-01-01
A01B1/10	2013-01-01
A01B1/12	2013-01-01
A01B1/14	2013-01-01
A01B1/16	2013-01-01
A01B1/165	2013-01-01
A01B1/18	2013-01-01
A01B1/20	2013-01-01
A01B1/22	2013-01-01
A01B1/222	2013-01-01
A01B1/225	2013-01-01
A01B1/227	2018-01-01
A01B1/24	2013-01-01
A01B1/243	2013-01-01

Checking the CPC symbols together with their dates is also part of our "normal" classification
(here the symbol A61B5/72 is outdated (its current date is 2018.01))

Utilizing CPC symbol+date combinations is particularly advisable when the date relates to a scope change

EPO/USPTO "Guide to the CPC" seems to indicate that this is usually the case

GUIDE TO THE CPC

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4. SPECIFICITIES OF THE CPC SCHEME

4.1. INDICATIONS OF CHANGES

The date-stamp [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]

However…

it appears to be easy to find examples where the dates do not seem to relate to scope changes

e.g. A01K61/10 [2019-08]; the only change seems to be that warnings of incomplete reclassification have been removed

Based on the needs of our internal classification tools it would be beneficial to avoid date changes in this kind of cases.

It is also worth noting that usually we give a complete CPC-classification almost a year before the patent application is published (or the data is sent to the EPO)
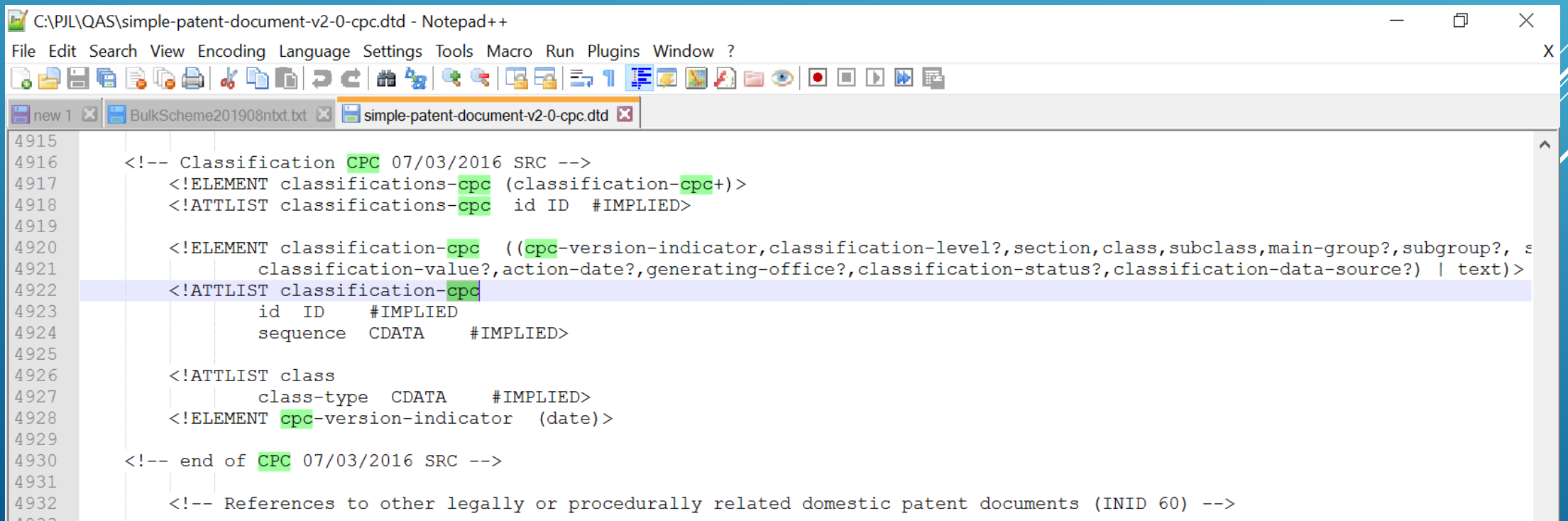
Data transfer

- from the beginning of 2018 also CPC data (of new applications) has been provided by a RESTful Web service
  - this "FI-NOPS" service provides the data but it is up to EPO to download the data

  - using FI-NOPS service also for older (now updated) CPC data? (not yet)
- old-fashioned alternative is to send CPC-XML-data separately to EPO Front Office

- it is worth noting that the used data formats (such as simple patent document) require CPC version indicator dates

Conclusions / open questions:

- how the date-stamps are used (together with CPC-symbols)

- data transfer – can FI-NOPS RESTful service be used for all (FI) CPC-data

- after all the (national) CPC data has been sent to EPO …
  what (user friendly web) tools are provided for reclassification (by EPO)