

EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE  
U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

CPC NOTICE OF CHANGES 1574

DATE: JANUARY 1, 2024

PROJECT RP12211

The following classification changes will be effected by this Notice of Changes:

<u>Action</u>	<u>Subclass</u>	<u>Group(s)</u>
<b>SCHEME:</b>		
Symbols Deleted:	B32B	1/02
	B32B	1/04
	B32B	1/06
Titles Changed:	B32B	1/00
	B32B	3/00
<b>DEFINITIONS:</b>		
Definitions Deleted:	B32B	1/02
Definitions Modified:	B32B	1/00
	B32B	1/08
	B32B	3/00

This Notice of Changes includes the following [Check the ones included]:

1. CLASSIFICATION SCHEME CHANGES

- A. New, Modified or Deleted Group(s)
- B. New, Modified or Deleted Warning(s)
- C. New, Modified or Deleted Note(s)
- D. New, Modified or Deleted Guidance Heading(s)

2. DEFINITIONS

- A. New or Modified Definitions (Full definition template)
- B. Modified or Deleted Definitions (Definitions Quick Fix)

3.  REVISION CONCORDANCE LIST (RCL)

4.  CHANGES TO THE CPC-TO-IPC CONCORDANCE LIST (CICL)

5.  CHANGES TO THE CROSS-REFERENCE LIST (CRL)

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1. CLASSIFICATION SCHEME CHANGES

A. New, Modified or Deleted Group(s)

**SUBCLASS B32B - LAYERED PRODUCTS, i.e. PRODUCTS BUILT-UP OF STRATA OF FLAT OR NON-FLAT, e.g. CELLULAR OR HONEYCOMB, FORM**

<u>Type*</u>	<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Indent Level</u> <u>Number of dots</u> <u>(e.g. 0, 1, 2)</u>	<u>Title</u> <u>“CPC only” text should normally</u> <u>be</u> <u>enclosed in {curly brackets}**</u>	<u>Transferred to<sup>#</sup></u>
T	B32B1/00	0	Layered products having a non-planar shape	
D	B32B1/02	1	Receptacles {, i.e. rigid containers}, e.g. tanks	<administrative transfer to B32B1/00>
D	B32B1/04	1	characterised by feature of form at particular places, e.g. in edge regions {(not used)}	<administrative transfer to B32B1/00>
D	B32B1/06	1	characterised by fillings or added members in hollow portions {(not used)}	<administrative transfer to B32B1/00>
U	B32B1/08	1	Tubular products	
M	B32B3/00	0	Layered products comprising a layer with external or internal discontinuities or unevennesses, or a layer of non-planar shape; Layered products comprising a layer having particular features of form	

\*N = new entries where reclassification into entries is involved; C = entries with modified file scope where reclassification of documents from the entries is involved; Q = new entries which are firstly populated with documents via administrative transfers from deleted (D) entries. Afterwards, the transferred documents into the Q entry will either stay or be moved to more appropriate entries, as determined by intellectual reclassification; T = existing entries with enlarged file scope, which receive documents from C or D entries, e.g. when a limiting reference is removed from the entry title; M = entries with no change to the file scope (no reclassification); D = deleted entries; F = frozen entries will be deleted once reclassification of documents from the entries is completed; U = entries that are unchanged.

NOTES:

- \*\*No {curly brackets} are used for titles in CPC only subclasses, e.g. C12Y, A23Y; 2000 series symbol titles of groups found at the end of schemes (orthogonal codes); or the Y section titles. The {curly brackets} are used for 2000 series symbol titles found interspersed throughout the main trunk schemes (breakdown codes).
- U groups: it is obligatory to display the required “anchor” symbol (U group), i.e. the entry immediately preceding a new group or an array of new groups to be created (in case new groups are not clearly subgroups of C-type groups). Always include the symbol, indent level and title of the U group in the table above.
- All entry types should be included in the scheme changes table above for better understanding of the overall scheme change picture. Symbol, indent level, and title are required for all types.
- “Transferred to” column must be completed for all C, D, F, and Q type entries. F groups will be deleted once reclassification is completed.

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- When multiple symbols are included in the “Transferred to” column, avoid using ranges of symbols in order to be as precise as possible.
- For administrative transfer of documents, the following text should be used: “<administrative transfer to XX>”, “<administrative transfer to XX and YY simultaneously>”, or “<administrative transfer to XX, YY, ...and ZZ simultaneously>” when administrative transfer of the same documents is to more than one place.
- Administrative transfer to main trunk groups is assumed to be the source allocation type, unless otherwise indicated.
- Administrative transfer to 2000/Y series groups is assumed to be “additional information”.
- If needed, instructions for allocation type should be indicated within the angle brackets using the abbreviations “ADD” or “INV”: <administrative transfer to XX ADD> , <administrative transfer to XX INV>, or <administrative transfer to XX ADD, YY INV, ... and ZZ ADD simultaneously>.
- In certain situations, the “D” entries of 2000-series or Y-series groups may not require a destination (“Transferred to”) symbol, however it is required to specify “<no transfer>” in the “Transferred to” column for such cases.
- For finalization projects, the deleted “F” symbols should have <no transfer> in the “Transferred to” column.
- For more details about the types of scheme change, see CPC Guide.

## 2. A. DEFINITIONS (modified)

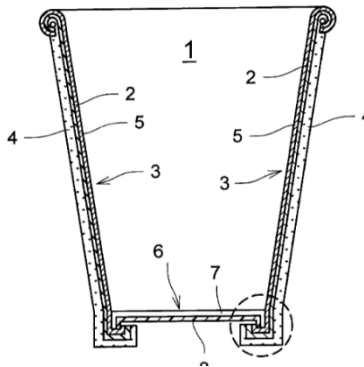
### B32B 1/00

#### Definition statement

Replace: The existing Definition statement text with the following updated text. The image should remain as-is.

Layered products having a non-planar shape, such as an article having a shape that defines an internal cavity, e.g. a container, or in the form of a tubular product.

Illustrative example of subject matter classified in this place:



Insert: The following new Relationships section.

#### Relationships with other classification places

A planar layered product having a cavity or internal void formed within a single layer should be placed in B32B 3/26 or its subgroups and not in B32B 1/00.

#### References

Insert: The following new Application-oriented references section.

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### 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:*

Containers for medical or pharmaceutical purposes	A61J 1/00
Fuel tanks	B60K 15/00
Containers; Packages	B65D
Vessels for containing or storing compressed, liquefied or solidified gases; Fixed capacity gas holders	F17C

### Special rules of classification

Replace: The existing Special rules text with the following updated text.

For classification of a product in this group, surface unevenness, surface non-uniformity and the shape of individual layers are ignored.

Layered products in the shape of a container or receptacle are also classified in B32B 2439/00 – B32B 2439/80.

### B32B 1/08

Insert: The following new Definition statement.

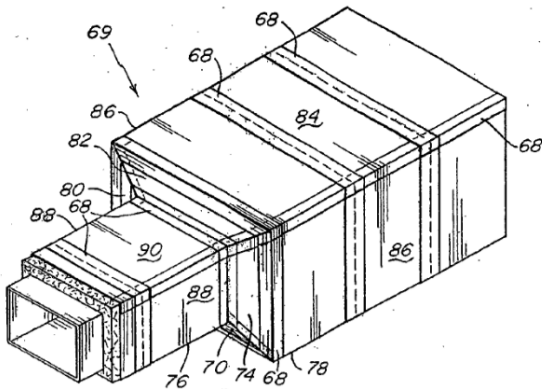
#### Definition statement

*This place covers:*

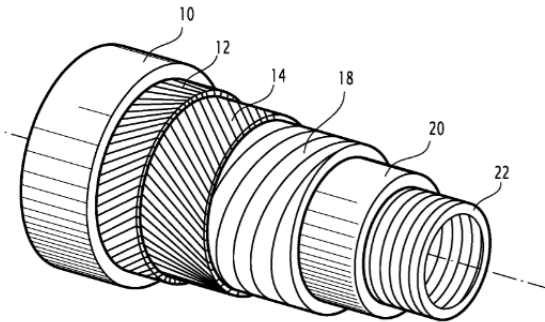
Layered products characterised by a hollow structure with an elongated length, e.g. a hose, pipe or sleeve, wherein the hollow structure may, or may not, be closed at one end.

Illustrative examples of subject matter classified in this place:

1.



2.



## References

Delete: The entire Informative references section.

Insert: The following new Application-oriented references section.

### 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:*

Sausage casings	<a href="#">A22C 13/00</a>
Catheters	<a href="#">A61M 25/00</a>
Tubes for medical use	<a href="#">A61M 39/00</a>
Rigid pipes	<a href="#">F16L 9/00</a>

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Hoses, i.e. flexible pipes	F16L 11/00
Thermal insulation sleeves	F16L 59/00

Insert: The following new Special rules section.

### Special rules of classification

Layered products in the shape of a tube, hose, pipe or sleeve are also classified in [B32B 2597/00](#).

Replace: The existing Synonyms and Keywords section text with the following updated text.

### Synonyms and Keywords

*In patent documents, the word/expression in the first column is often used instead of the word/expression in the second column, which is used in the classification scheme of this place:*

Tubular product	Tube, pipe or hose
-----------------	--------------------

### B32B 3/00

Insert: The following new Definition statement.

### Definition statement

*This place covers:*

Features of form of any of the individual layers of a layered product. Examples include:

- a layer with an edge feature, e.g. chamfered or beveled edge;

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- a discontinuous layer, e.g. a honeycomb or tiled floor layer;
- a layer having an internal cavity within the layer;
- a corrugated layer;
- an apertured layer; and
- a layer having a variation in thickness, e.g. roughened or grooved.

Insert: The following new Relationships section.

### **Relationships with other classification places**

[B32B 1/00](#) – [B32B 1/08](#) cover layered products where all the layers cooperate to define a non-planar shape, whereas [B32B 3/00](#) – [B32B 3/30](#) cover features related to the shape of individual layers in planar or non-planar layered products.

The following physical structure of an individual layer does not constitute a feature of form that is proper for this main group:

- A fibrous or filamentary layer, which is provided for in [B32B 5/02](#) – [B32B 5/12](#) and/or [B32B 5/22](#) – [B32B 5/2795](#);
- A particulate layer, which is provided for in [B32B 5/16](#) or [B32B 5/30](#); and
- A foamed layer, which is provided for in [B32B 5/18](#) – [B32B 5/20](#), [B32B 5/245](#) and/or [B32B 5/32](#).

However, if a layered product has a fibrous, filamentary, foamed or particulate layer having a feature of form proper for this main group, it should also be classified in this main group. For example, a layered product having a non-woven fibrous layer with apertures in the layer would be proper for [B32B 3/266](#) and [B32B 5/022](#).

### **References**

Delete: The entire Limiting references section.

Insert: The following new Special rules section.

### **Special rules of classification**

Layered products having a layer of regularly-arranged cells shall be placed in [B32B 3/12](#) regardless of whether the layer was formed from one piece or separate pieces of material juxtaposed side-by-side.



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Layered products having a layer with a feature of form that differs physically in different parts of the layer are provided for in both [B32B 3/00 – B32B 3/30](#) and [B32B 5/14 – B32B 5/147](#). For example, a layer having a density variation in apertures across its surface area would be provided for in [B32B 3/266](#) and [B32B 5/142](#).

Replace: The existing Glossary of terms table text with the following updated text.

**Glossary of terms**

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

added member	any discrete element(s) secured to the layered product that does not constitute a layer or adhesive as per the <a href="#">B32B</a> definitions, e.g. an insert or a spacer element.
juxtaposed side-by-side	in direct contact or with a bonding material, e.g. adhesive or mortar, in between.

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2. B. DEFINITIONS QUICK FIX

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Location of change</u> (e.g., section title)	<u>Existing reference symbol or text</u>	<u>Action; New symbol; New text</u>
B32B1/02	Definition		Delete the entire B32B1/02 Definition

NOTES:

- The table above is used for corrections or modifications to existing definitions, e.g. delete an entire definition or part thereof; propose new wording or modify wording of a section, change the symbol the definition is associated with, change or delete a reference symbol, etc.
- Do not delete (F) symbol definitions.

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3. REVISION CONCORDANCE LIST (RCL)

<b>Type*</b>	<b>From CPC Symbol (existing)</b>	<b>To CPC Symbol(s)</b>
D	B32B1/02	<administrative transfer to B32B1/00>
D	B32B1/04	<administrative transfer to B32B1/00>
D	B32B1/06	<administrative transfer to B32B1/00>

\* C = entries with modified file scope where reclassification of documents from the entries is involved; Q = new entries which are firstly populated with documents via administrative transfers from deleted (D) entries. Afterwards, the transferred documents into the Q entry will either stay or be moved to more appropriate entries, as determined by intellectual reclassification; D = deleted entries; F = frozen entries will be deleted once reclassification of documents from the entries is completed.

NOTES:

- Only C, D, F and Q type entries are included in the table above.
- When multiple symbols are included in the "To" column, do not use ranges of symbols.
- For administrative transfer of documents, the following text should be used: "<administrative transfer to XX>", "<administrative transfer to XX and YY simultaneously>", or "<administrative transfer to XX, YY, ...and ZZ simultaneously>" when administrative transfer of the same documents is to more than one place.
- Administrative transfer to main trunk groups is assumed to be the source allocation type, unless otherwise indicated.
- Administrative transfer to 2000/Y series groups is assumed to be "additional information".
- If needed, instructions for allocation type should be indicated within the angle brackets using the abbreviations "ADD" or "INV": "<administrative transfer to XX ADD>", "<administrative transfer to XX INV>", or "<administrative transfer to XX ADD, YY INV, ... and ZZ ADD simultaneously>".
- In certain situations, the "D" entries of 2000-series or Y-series groups may not require a destination ("To") symbol, however it is required to specify "<no transfer>" in the "To" column for such cases.
- RCL is not needed for finalization projects.

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4. CHANGES TO THE CPC-TO-IPC CONCORDANCE LIST (CICL)

<u>CPC</u>	<u>IPC</u>	<u>Action*</u>
B32B1/02		DELETE
B32B1/04		DELETE
B32B1/06		DELETE

\*Action column:

- For an (N) or (Q) entry, provide an IPC symbol and complete the Action column with "NEW."
- For an existing CPC main trunk entry or indexing entry where the existing IPC symbol needs to be changed, provide an updated IPC symbol and complete the Action column with "UPDATED."
- For a (D) CPC entry or indexing entry complete the Action column with "DELETE." IPC symbol does not need to be included in the IPC column.
- For an (N) 2000 series CPC entry which is positioned within the main trunk scheme (breakdown code) provide an IPC symbol and complete the action column with "NEW".
- For an (N) 2000 series CPC entry positioned at the end of the CPC scheme (orthogonal code), with no IPC equivalent, complete the IPC column with "CPCONLY" and complete the action column with "NEW".

NOTES:

- F symbols are not included in the CICL table above.
- T and M symbols are not included in the CICL table above unless a change to the existing IPC is desired.