

EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE
U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

CPC NOTICE OF CHANGES 1581

DATE: JANUARY 1, 2024

PROJECT RP12112

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

<u>Action</u>	<u>Subclass</u>	<u>Group(s)</u>
SCHEME:		
Symbols Deleted:	A61F	13/00004, 13/00008, 13/00012, 13/00017, 13/00021, 13/00025, 13/00029, 13/00034, 13/00038, 13/00042, 13/00046, 13/00068, 13/0216
Symbols New:	A61F	13/01, 13/01008, 13/01012, 13/01017, 13/01021, 13/01025, 13/01029, 13/01034, 13/01038, 13/01042, 13/01046, 13/05
Titles Changed:	A61F	13/00, 13/02, 13/0203, 13/0206, 13/0213, 13/022, 13/0223, 13/023, 13/0246
DEFINITIONS:		
Definitions New:	A61F	13/02, 13/05
Definitions Modified:	A61F	13/00, 13/15

The following subclasses/groups are also impacted by this Notice of Changes (indicate subclasses/groups outside of the project scope, such as those listed in the CRL): A41C 3/065, A61L 15/00, A61M 1/00, A61M 1/90, A61M 2025/0266, C09J 7/00

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 A61F - FILTERS IMPLANTABLE INTO BLOOD VESSELS; PROSTHESES; DEVICES PROVIDING PATENCY TO, OR PREVENTING COLLAPSING OF, TUBULAR STRUCTURES OF THE BODY, e.g. STENTS; ORTHOPAEDIC, NURSING OR CONTRACEPTIVE DEVICES; FOMENTATION; TREATMENT OR PROTECTION OF EYES OR EARS; BANDAGES, DRESSINGS OR ABSORBENT PADS; FIRST-AID KITS

Type*	Symbol	Indent Level Number of dots (e.g. 0, 1, 2)	Title “CPC only” text should normally be enclosed in {curly brackets}**	Transferred to#
M	A61F13/00	0	Bandages or dressings (radioactive dressings {A61N5/1029}); Absorbent pads	
D	A61F13/00004	1	{Non-adhesive dressings}	<administrative transfer to A61F13/01>
D	A61F13/00008	2	{characterized by the material}	<administrative transfer to A61F13/01008>
D	A61F13/00012	3	{being made of natural material, e.g. cellulose-, protein-, collagen-based}	<administrative transfer to A61F13/01012>
D	A61F13/00017	3	{synthetic, e.g. polymer based}	<administrative transfer to A61F13/01017>
D	A61F13/00021	2	{characterized by the structure of the dressing}	<administrative transfer to A61F13/01021>
D	A61F13/00025	3	{made of a single layer}	<administrative transfer to A61F13/01025>
D	A61F13/00029	3	{made of multiple layers}	<administrative transfer to A61F13/01029>
D	A61F13/00034	2	{characterized by a property}	<administrative transfer to A61F13/01034>
D	A61F13/00038	3	{Flexibility, stretchability or elasticity}	<administrative transfer to A61F13/01038>
D	A61F13/00042	3	{Absorbency}	<administrative transfer to A61F13/01042>
D	A61F13/00046	3	{Air-vapor permeability}	<administrative transfer to A61F13/01046>
D	A61F13/00068	2	{specially adapted for application or removal of fluid, e.g. irrigation or drainage of wounds, under-pressure wound-therapy (A61F13/0216 takes precedence; drainage appliances for wounds in general A61M27/00)}	<administrative transfer to A61F13/05>
U	A61F13/00995	3	{for mechanical treatments}	
N	A61F13/01	1	Non-adhesive bandages or dressings	
N	A61F13/01008	2	{characterised by the material}	
N	A61F13/01012	3	{being made of natural material, e.g. cellulose-, protein-, collagen-based}	

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N	A61F 13/01017	3	{synthetic, e.g. polymer based}	
N	A61F 13/01021	2	{characterised by the structure of the dressing}	
N	A61F 13/01025	3	{made of a single layer}	
N	A61F 13/01029	3	{made of multiple layers}	
N	A61F 13/01034	2	{characterised by a property}	
N	A61F 13/01038	3	{Flexibility, stretchability or elasticity}	
N	A61F 13/01042	3	{Absorbency}	
N	A61F 13/01046	3	{Air-vapor permeability}	
M	A61F 13/02	1	Adhesive bandages or dressings	
M	A61F 13/0203	2	with fluid retention members	
M	A61F 13/0206	3	with absorbent fibrous layers, e.g. woven or non-woven absorbent pads or island dressings	
M	A61F 13/0213	3	{the fluid retention member being a layer of hydrocolloid, gel forming material}	
D	A61F 13/0216	3	{the fluid handling member being non absorbent, e.g. for use with sub- or over-pressure therapy, wound drainage or wound irrigation systems}	<administrative transfer to A61F13/05>
M	A61F 13/022	3	{having more than one layer with different fluid retention characteristics}	
M	A61F 13/0223	3	{characterized by parametric properties of the fluid retention layer, e.g. absorbency, wicking capacity, liquid distribution}	
M	A61F13/023	2	{wound covering film layers without a fluid retention layer}	
M	A61F 13/0246	2	characterised by the skin-adhering layer	
U	A61F 13/048	3	{Braces for connecting two cast parts, e.g. hinged cast braces (orthoses A61F 5/0102)}	
N	A61F 13/05	1	specifically adapted for use with sub-pressure or over-pressure therapy, wound drainage or wound irrigation, e.g. for use with negative-pressure wound therapy [NPWT]	

*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.

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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.
- 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.

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2. A. DEFINITIONS (new)

A61F 13/02

References

Informative references

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

Bandages or dressings or absorbent pads specially adapted for feet or legs; Corn-pads; Corn-rings	A61F 13/06
Bandages or dressings or absorbent pads specially adapted for fingers, hands or arms; Finger-stalls; Nail-protectors	A61F 13/10
Bandages or dressings or absorbent pads specially adapted for the head or neck	A61F 13/12
Bandages or dressings or absorbent pads specially adapted for the breast or abdomen	A61F 13/14
Absorbent pads, e.g. sanitary towels, swabs or tampons for external or internal application to the body; Supporting or fastening means therefor; Tampon applicators	A61F 13/15
Vaccination diagnosis other than by injuring the skin, e.g. allergy test patches	A61B 10/0035
Surgical adhesives or cements; Adhesives for colostomy devices	A61L 24/00
Devices for applying media, e.g. remedies, on the human body	A61M 35/00

A61F 13/05

References

Informative references

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

Negative pressure wound therapy devices, i.e. devices for applying suction to a wound to promote healing, e.g. including a vacuum dressing	A61M 1/90
Drainage appliances for wounds in general	A61M 27/00

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2. A. DEFINITIONS (modified)

A61F 13/00

Replace: The existing Definition statement with the following updated text.

Definition statement

This place covers:

Articles intended to be in contact with the human skin and absorb fluids excreted by the human body other than sweat, i.e. wound dressings and bandages adapted to be attached to the injured skin or to be held against the injured place. In addition to the wound dressings, this group covers also articles which are intended to be used for injured parts of the body, e.g. plaster of Paris and any kind of stiffening bandage.

Articles intended to be attached to the body or worn in conjunction with another garment or being held in place by their shape and intended to absorb excretions from a natural opening (genital, anal, nose, mouth, ear) and during surgery.

Method and apparatuses of manufacturing these articles.

References

Replace: The existing Limiting references table with the following updated table.

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Radioactive dressings	A61N5/1029
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Replace: The existing Informative references table with the following updated table.

Informative references

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

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Suspensory bandages	A61F5/40
Contact avoiding wound protectors	A61F15/008
Undergarments, e.g. garments that do not absorb excretions from a natural opening	A41B9/00
Articles intended to absorb sweat	A42C5/02, A41D20/00, A41D27/13
Bandages, poultices, compresses special adapted for veterinary purposes	A61D9/00
Tissues, wipes or patches for cleaning the skin (e.g. wet wipes)	A61K8/0208
Chemical aspects of, or use of materials for, bandages, dressings or absorbent pads	A61L15/00
Bandages or dressings with incorporated medicaments	A61L15/44, A61M35/006
Chemical aspects of, or use of materials for, liquid, gel or powder form wound dressings or bandages	A61L26/00
Absorbent pads for tracheostomy	A61M16/047

A61F 13/15

Replace: The existing Definition statement with the following updated text.

Definition statement

This place covers:

Articles intended to be worn or held against the human body for absorbing excretions from natural openings.

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References

Delete: The entire Limiting references section.

Replace: The existing Application-oriented references table with the following updated table.

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:

Articles for absorbing wound excretions	A61F13/00 - A61F13/02
Bandages or dressings specially adapted for absorbing wound excretions for feet or legs	A61F13/06
Bandages or dressings specially adapted for absorbing wound excretions for fingers, hands or arms	A61F13/10
Bandages or dressings specially adapted for absorbing wound excretions for head or neck	A61F13/12
Bandages or dressings specially adapted for absorbing wound excretions for breast or abdomen	A61F13/14

Replace: The existing Informative references table with the following updated table.

Informative references

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

Non-absorbent catamenial devices	A61F5/44
Pessaries	A61F6/08
Underwear	A41B9/00

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Absorption of sweat	A42C5/00 , A43B17/00 , A41D20/00
Tissues, wipes or patches for cleaning the skin (e.g. wet wipes)	A61K8/0208

Insert: The following new Special rules of classification section.

Special rules of classification

Looping references between A61F5/44 and A61F 13/15 have been identified. Until this inconsistency is resolved in IPC, the current classification practice in CPC is as follows:

A61F13/15 and A61F5/44 are informative references to each other. The title of A61F13/15 will be updated once this inconsistency is resolved in IPC.

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3. REVISION CONCORDANCE LIST (RCL)

Type*	From CPC Symbol (existing)	To CPC Symbol(s)
D	A61F 13/00004	<administrative transfer to A61F 13/01>
D	A61F 13/00008	<administrative transfer to A61F 13/01008>
D	A61F 13/00012	<administrative transfer to A61F 13/01012>
D	A61F 13/00017	<administrative transfer to A61F 13/01017>
D	A61F 13/00021	<administrative transfer to A61F 13/01021>
D	A61F 13/00025	<administrative transfer to A61F 13/01025>
D	A61F 13/00029	<administrative transfer to A61F 13/01029>
D	A61F 13/00034	<administrative transfer to A61F 13/01034>
D	A61F 13/00038	<administrative transfer to A61F 13/01038>
D	A61F 13/00042	<administrative transfer to A61F 13/01042>
D	A61F 13/00046	<administrative transfer to A61F 13/01046>
D	A61F 13/00068	<administrative transfer to A61F 13/05>
D	A61F 13/0216	<administrative transfer to A61F 13/05>

* 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 finalisation projects.

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

<u>CPC</u>	<u>IPC</u>	<u>Action*</u>
A61F 13/00004		DELETE
A61F 13/00008		DELETE
A61F 13/00012		DELETE
A61F 13/00017		DELETE
A61F 13/00021		DELETE
A61F 13/00025		DELETE
A61F 13/00029		DELETE
A61F 13/00034		DELETE
A61F 13/00038		DELETE
A61F 13/00042		DELETE
A61F 13/00046		DELETE
A61F 13/00068		DELETE
A61F 13/01	A61F 13/01	NEW
A61F 13/01008	A61F 13/01	NEW
A61F 13/01012	A61F 13/01	NEW
A61F 13/01017	A61F 13/01	NEW
A61F 13/01021	A61F 13/01	NEW
A61F 13/01025	A61F 13/01	NEW
A61F 13/01029	A61F 13/01	NEW
A61F 13/01034	A61F 13/01	NEW
A61F 13/01038	A61F 13/01	NEW
A61F 13/01042	A61F 13/01	NEW
A61F 13/01046	A61F 13/01	NEW
A61F 13/0203	A61F 13/0203	UPDATED
A61F 13/0206	A61F 13/0206	UPDATED
A61F 13/0209	A61F 13/0206	UPDATED
A61F 13/0213	A61F 13/0203	UPDATED
A61F 13/0216		DELETE
A61F 13/022	A61F 13/0203	UPDATED
A61F 13/0223	A61F 13/0203	UPDATED
A61F 13/0226	A61F 13/0203	UPDATED
A61F 13/0246	A61F 13/0246	UPDATED
A61F 13/025	A61F 13/0246	UPDATED
A61F 13/0253	A61F 13/0246	UPDATED
A61F 13/0256	A61F 13/0246	UPDATED
A61F 13/05	A61F 13/05	NEW

*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.

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- 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.

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5. CROSS-REFERENCE LIST (CRL)

Definitions references impacted by this revision project

<u>Location of reference to be changed</u>	<u>Referenced subclass or group to be changed</u>	<u>Section of definition</u>	<u>Action; New reference symbol; New text</u>
A41C 3/065	A61F 13/02	Informative references	<u>Replace</u> reference text with the following. Adhesive bandages or dressings
A61L 15/00	A61F 13/02	Informative references	<u>Replace</u> reference text with the following. Non-chemical aspects of adhesive bandages or dressings
A61M 1/00	A61F 13/00068	Application-oriented references	<u>Replace</u> reference text and symbol with the following. Bandages or dressings specially adapted for use with sub-pressure or over-pressure therapy, wound drainage or wound irrigation, e.g. for use with negative-pressure wound therapy [NPWT] A61F13/05
A61M 1/90	A61F 13/00068	Application-oriented references	<u>Replace</u> reference text and symbol with the following. Bandages or dressings specially adapted for use with sub-pressure or over-pressure therapy, wound drainage or wound irrigation, e.g. for use with negative-pressure wound therapy [NPWT] A61F13/05
A61M 1/90	A61F 13/0216	Application-oriented references	<u>Delete</u> the reference.
A61M 2025/0266	A61F 13/02	Informative references	<u>Replace</u> reference text with the following. Adhesive bandages or dressings

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<u>Location of reference to be changed</u>	<u>Referenced subclass or group to be changed</u>	<u>Section of definition</u>	<u>Action; New reference symbol; New text</u>
C09J7/00	A61F 13/02	Application-oriented references	<p><u>Replace</u> reference text with the following.</p> <p>Adhesive bandages or dressings</p>

NOTES:

- The CRL tables above are used for changes to locations **outside** of the project scope. Changes to references in scheme titles or definitions **inside** the project scope will be reflected in the “scheme change” template or one of the “definition” templates.
- In addition to other changes proposed in the tables above, in the column titled “Referenced subclass or group to be changed,” **referenced** D symbols should indicate an action of “delete” or should indicate a replacement symbol and **referenced** F symbols should indicate a replacement symbol.
- When a reference is deleted, text related to that reference will also be deleted unless other references or a range of references associated with the same text remain.