EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE
U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

CPC NOTICE OF CHANGES 1803

DATE: JANUARY 1, 2026

PROJECT MP12774

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

Action	Subclass	Group(s)
SCHEME:		
Titles Changed:	G06E	SUBCLASS
	G06E	3/001
DEFINITIONS:		

Definitions Deleted:
    (no frozen (F) symbol definitions
    should be deleted)		

Definitions New:	G06E	3/001
Definitions Modified:	G06E	SUBCLASS
	G06E	1/00
	G06E	3/00

No other subclasses/groups are impacted by this Notice of Changes.

This Notice of Changes includes the following*:

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)

DATE: JANUARY 1, 2026

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1. CLASSIFICATION SCHEME CHANGES

     A.   New, Modified or Deleted Group(s)

SUBCLASS G06E - OPTICAL COMPUTING DEVICES

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	G06E	subclass	OPTICAL COMPUTING DEVICES (digital storage using optical elements G11C 13/04)	
U	G06E 3/00	0	Devices not provided for in group G06E 1/00, e.g. for processing analogue or hybrid data	
M	G06E 3/001	1	{Analogue devices in which mathematical operations are carried out with the aid of optical or electro-optical elements}	

*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.
*   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 finalisation 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 (new)

G06E 3/001

References

Informative references

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

Optical elements, systems or apparatus	G02B
Devices or arrangements for the control of the intensity, colour, phase, polarisation or direction of light arriving from an independent light source, e.g. switching, gating or modulating; Non-linear optics	G02F 1/00
Methods or arrangements for graph-reading or for converting the pattern of mechanical parameters, e.g. force or presence, into electrical signal	G06K 11/00

2. A. DEFINITIONS (modified)

G06E

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

Definition statement

This place covers:

All devices in which at least one computing function is performed by optical means. Optical computer is a device that uses the light beams, rather than electric current, to perform digital or analogue computations.

Insert: The following new Relationships section.

Relationships with other classification places

If other aspects, for example mechanical, fluid pressure or electrical computing, are of interest, classification is also made in the relevant subclass for such aspects, e.g. G06C, G06D.

References

Delete: The following two references from the Limiting references table.

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Optical logic elements per se	G02F3/00
Computer systems based on specific computational models	G06N

Insert: The following new Informative references section.

Informative references

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

Light guides	G02B 6/00
Optical logic elements	G02F 3/00
Holographic processes or apparatus	G03H
Computer systems based on biological models using optical means	G06N 3/067
Recording or reproducing by optical means	G11B 7/00
Logic circuits using opto-electronic devices	H03K 19/14
Transmission systems using electromagnetic waves of optical range	H04B 10/00
Semiconductor devices adapted for light emission	H10H
Semiconductor devices sensitive to infra-red, light, UV radiation and adapted for the conversion of the such energy into electrical energy	H10F 10/00, H10F 19/00
Devices consisting of a plurality of solid-state components, including light sensitive semiconductor components, formed in or on a common substrate	H10F 39/00

Delete: The entire Special rules section.

Insert: The following new Synonyms and Keywords section.

Synonyms and Keywords

In patent documents, the following words/expressions are often used as synonyms:

- "photonic computer" and "optic computer"

G06E 1/00

References

Delete: The entire Limiting references section.

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:

Optical logic elements	G02F 3/00
Electric digital data processing	G06F
Quantum computing, i.e. information processing based on quantum-mechanical phenomena	G06N 10/00

G06E 3/00

References

Delete: The entire Limiting references section.

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:

Optical logic elements	G02F 3/00
Electric digital data processing	G06F
Devices in which the computing operation is performed by varying electric or magnetic quantities	G06G 7/00
Hybrid computing arrangements	G06J
Quantum computing, i.e. information processing based on quantum-mechanical phenomena	G06N 10/00