EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

CPC NOTICE OF CHANGES 1869

DATE: JANUARY 1, 2026

PROJECT MP12816

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

<u>Action</u>	Subclass	<u>Group(s)</u>
SCHEME:		
Titles Changed:	G04C	SUBCLASS
	G04C	1/00, 1/04, 1/10
	G04C	3/00,3/001,3/033,3/0335,3/04,3/104,
		3/105, 3/16, 3/165
	G04C	9/00, 9/04, 9/06, 9/08
	G04C	10/00, 10/04
	G04C	11/00, 11/04
	G04C	13/023, 13/10
	G04C	17/00, 17/0091
	G04C	21/00, 21/02, 21/04
	G04C	23/00
Warnings Deleted:	G04C	SUBCLASS
DEFINITIONS:		
Definitions New:	G04C	1/04, 1/10
	G04C	3/001, 3/033, 3/0335, 3/04, 3/104, 3/16,
		3/165
	G04C	10/04
	G04C	11/00, 11/04
	G04C	13/023, 13/10
	G04C	17/0091
	G04C	21/02, 21/04
Definitions Modified:	G04C	SUBCLASS
Definitions Modified.	G04C	1/00
	G04C	3/00
	G04C	9/00
	G04C	10/00
	G04C	17/00
	G04C	21/00
	G04C	23/00
	T 004C	25/00

DATE: JANUARY 1, 2026

PROJECT MP12816

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

1. CL	ASSIF	FICATION SCHEME CHANGES
	\boxtimes	A. New, Modified or Deleted Group(s)
	\boxtimes	B. New, Modified or Deleted Warning(s)
		C. New, Modified or Deleted Note(s)
		D. New, Modified or Deleted Guidance Heading(s)
2. DEI	FINIT	TONS
	\boxtimes	A. New or Modified Definitions (Full definition template)
		B. Modified or Deleted Definitions (Definitions Quick Fix)
3. 🗌	REV	VISION CONCORDANCE LIST (RCL)
4. 🔲	CHA	ANGES TO THE CPC-TO-IPC CONCORDANCE LIST (CICL)
5. 🗌	CHA	ANGES TO THE CROSS-REFERENCE LIST (CRL)

DATE: JANUARY 1, 2026

PROJECT MP12816

1. CLASSIFICATION SCHEME CHANGES

A. New, Modified or Deleted Group(s)

SUBCLASS G04C - ELECTROMECHANICAL CLOCKS OR WATCHES

Type*	<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Indent</u> Level	<u>Title</u> "CPC only" text should normally be	<u>Transferred to[#]</u>
		Number of	enclosed in {curly brackets}**	
		dots (e.g. 0.		
	G0.1G	1,2)		
M	G04C	SUBCLASS	ELECTROMECHANICAL CLOCKS OR WATCHES	
M	G04C 1/00	0	Winding mechanical clocks electrically	
M	G04C	1	by electric motors with rotating or with	
	1/04		reciprocating movement	
M	G04C 1/10	1	Protection against overwinding	
M	G04C	0	Electromechanical clocks or watches	
	3/00		independent of other time-pieces and in	
			which the movement is maintained by	
			electric means (clocks driven by	
			synchronous motors G04C 15/00)	
M	G04C	1	{Electromechanical switches for setting or	
	3/001	2	display }	
M	G04C 3/033	2	using torsion pendulums; using conical pendulums	
M	G04C	3	{using conical pendulums}	
IVI	3/0335	3	,	
M	G04C	1	wherein movement is regulated by a balance	
	3/04			
M	G04C	4	{of the pawl or the ratchet wheel}	
	3/104	_	(1 1 . 1 . 1 11 '	
M	G04C 3/105	5	{pawl and ratchet wheel being magnetically coupled}	
M	G04C	1	incorporating an electro-dynamic	
IVI	3/16	1	continuously rotating motor (G04C 3/02 -	
	5,10		G04C 3/12 take precedence)	
M	G04C	2	{comprising a mechanical regulating device	
	3/165		influencing the electromotor}	
M	G04C	0	Electrically-actuated devices for setting the	
	9/00		time-indicating means (of secondary clocks	
			G04C 13/03)	
M	G04C	1	by blocking the driving means	
	9/04			
M	G04C	1	by decoupling the driving means (combined	
1.4	9/06	1	with blocking means G04C 9/04)	
M	G04C 9/08	1	by electric drive	
	9/08			

DATE: JANUARY 1, 2026

PROJECT MP12816

Type*	Symbol	<u>Indent</u> <u>Level</u> Number of	<u>Title</u> "CPC only" text should normally be enclosed in {curly brackets}**	<u>Transferred to#</u>
		dots (e.g. 0, 1, 2)		
M	G04C	0	Arrangements of electric power supplies in	
	10/00		time-pieces {(Mounting, assembling of components G04C 3/008)}	
M	G04C	1	with means for indicating the condition of	
	10/04		the power supply	
M	G04C	0	Synchronisation of independently-driven	
	11/00		clocks	
M	G04C	1	over a line	
	11/04			
M	G04C	3	{via existing transmission lines}	
	13/023			
M	G04C	2	by electromechanical step-advancing	
	13/10		mechanisms {(independent clocks or	
			watches incorporating a stepping motor	
	~		G04C 3/14)}	
M	G04C	0	Indicating the time optically by electric	
	17/00		means (G04C 19/00 takes precedence)	
M	G04C	1	{Combined electro-optical and electro-	
	17/0091		mechanical displays}	
M	G04C	0	Producing a coustic time signals by electrical	
	21/00		means	
M	G04C	1	Constructional details (G04C 21/04, G04C	
	21/02		21/16 take precedence)	
M	G04C	1	Indicating the time of the day	
	21/04		a	
M	G04C	0	Clocks with attached or built-in means	
	23/00		operating any device at preselected times or	
			after preselected time-intervals (if restricted	
			to producing acoustic time signals by electrical means G04C 21/00)	
			electrical means G04C 21/00)	

*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 <u>subclasses</u>, 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} <u>are</u> 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 <u>must</u> be completed for all C, D, F, and Q type entries. F groups will be deleted once reclassification is completed.

DATE: JANUARY 1, 2026

PROJECT MP12816

- 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.

DATE: JANUARY 1, 2026

PROJECT MP12816

B. New, Modified or Deleted Warning(s)

SUBCLASS G04C - ELECTROMECHANICAL CLOCKS OR WATCHES

Type*	Location	<u>Old Warning</u>	New/Modified Warning
D	G04C	In this subclass non-limiting references (in the sense of paragraph 39 of the Guide to the IPC) may still be displayed in the scheme.	Delete the entire warning

^{*}N = new warning, M = modified warning, D = deleted warning

NOTE: The "Location" column only requires the symbol PRIOR to the location of the warning. No further directions such as "before" or "after" are required.

DATE: JANUARY 1, 2026

PROJECT MP12816

2. A. DEFINITIONS (new)

G04C 1/04

References

Informative references

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

Motors with reciprocating, oscillating or vibrating magnet,	H02K 33/00
armature or coil system	

G04C 1/10

References

Informative references

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

Protecting arrangements against rupture or overwinding of the mainspring located in the barrel or attached to the barrel	G04B 1/20
Keys or the like with means preventing overwinding	G04B 3/06
Protecting means preventing overwinding in manual or mechanical winding arrangements	G04B 3/10
Protecting means preventing overwinding in automatic winding arrangements	G04B 5/24
Devices controlled by such state, e.g. device affording protection means against overwinding	G04B 9/02

G04C 3/001

References

Informative references

DATE: JANUARY 1, 2026

PROJECT MP12816

Electric switches; Relays; Selectors; Emergency protective	H01H
devices	

G04C 3/033

References

Informative references

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

Mechanisms for stabilising frequency in mechanically-	G04B 17/00
driven clocks or watches, in mechanical parts of clocks or	
watches or in time-pieces using the position of the sun,	
moon or stars	

G04C 3/0335

References

Informative references

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

Rotating governors, e.g. centrifugal governors, fan	G04B 17/30
governors	

G04C 3/04

References

Informative references

Balance construction	G04B 17/063

DATE: JANUARY 1, 2026

PROJECT MP12816

G04C 3/104

References

Informative references

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

Pawl constructions for devices allowing the motion of a rotatable part in only one direction	G04B 11/04
Pawl-type clutch mechanisms with magnetic elements	G04B 11/005

G04C 3/16

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Electromechanical clocks or watches wherein movement is regulated by a pendulum	G04C 3/02
Electromechanical clocks or watches wherein movement is regulated by a pendulum using electromagnetic coupling between electric power source and pendulum	G04C 3/027
Electromechanical clocks or watches wherein movement is regulated by a pendulum using torsion pendulum	G04C 3/033
Electromechanical clocks or watches wherein movement is regulated by a balance	G04C 3/04
Electromechanical clocks or watches wherein movement is regulated using electromagnetic coupling between electric power source and balance	G04C 3/06
Electromechanical clocks or watches wherein movement is regulated by a mechanical oscillator other than a pendulum or balance, e.g. by a tuning fork	G04C 3/08
Electromechanical clocks or watches wherein movement is driven by electromagnetic means	G04C 3/10
Electromechanical clocks or watches wherein movement is driven by piezoelectric means; Driven by magnetostrictive means	G04C 3/12

DATE: JANUARY 1, 2026

PROJECT MP12816

Informative references

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

Clocks driven by synchronous motors	G04C 15/00
Time-interval measuring with electric driving mechanisms	G04F 3/06
Additional arrangements in connection with ordinary electric clocks	G04F 3/08
Apparatus for measuring unknown time intervals by electromechanical means	G04F 8/00

G04C 3/165

References

Informative references

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

Mechanisms for stabilising frequency in mechanically-	G04B 17/00
driven clocks or watches, in mechanical parts of clocks or	
watches or in time-pieces using the position of the sun,	
moon or stars	

G04C 10/04

References

Informative references

Arrangements for testing, measuring or monitoring the	G01R 31/36
electrical condition of accumulators or electric batteries,	30111101700
e.g. capacity or state of charges [SoC]	

DATE: JANUARY 1, 2026

PROJECT MP12816

G04C 11/00

References

Informative references

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

Radio-controlled time-pieces	G04R
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G04C 11/04

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Electrically-actuated devices for setting the time-indicating	G04C 9/00
means	

Informative references

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

Simultaneous speech and data transmission, e.g.	H04M 11/06
telegraphic transmission over the same conductors	

G04C 13/023

References

Informative references

Simultaneous speech and data transmission, e.g.	H04M 11/06
telegraphic transmission over the same conductors	

DATE: JANUARY 1, 2026

PROJECT MP12816

G04C 13/10

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Independent clocks or watches incorporating a stepping	G04C 3/14
motor	

Informative references

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

Motors with reciprocating, oscillating or vibrating magnet,	H02K 33/00
armature or coil system	

G04C 17/0091

References

Informative references

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

Visual time or date indication means by building-up	G04G 9/0082
characters using a combination of indicating elements	and
by selecting desired characters out of a number of	
characters or by selecting indicating elements the posi	tions
of which represents the time	

G04C 21/02

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

DATE: JANUARY 1, 2026

PROJECT MP12816

Indicating the time of the day	G04C 21/04
Producing the signals at adjustable fixed times	G04C 21/16

Informative references

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

Sound-producing devices	G10K
Devices in which sound is produced by striking a	G10K 1/00
resonating body, e.g. bells, chimes or gongs	

G04C 21/04

References

Informative references

Acoustic indication of time	G04B 21/00
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DATE: JANUARY 1, 2026

PROJECT MP12816

2. A. DEFINITIONS (modified)

G04C

Replace: The existing Relationships text with the following updated text.

Relationships with other classification places

Although an explicit link to G04B is present in the title of G04C, documents concerning mechanical parts of electromechanical timepieces could still be classified in G04C, especially if these mechanical parts cooperate to actuate or implement electronic and/or electromechanical functions.

A typical example of such a document involves a setting crown wherein a mechanical rotation (of the crown) is transformed into a sequence of electronic pulses.

The major overlaps of G04C are found with G04G. This depends on the fact that a clear distinction between the two has become less and less possible and also less and less important. To a certain extent, G04C and G04G should be regarded as two complementary classifications or like two sides of the same coin. For these reasons, some common aspects of these two subclasses shall be discussed here.

The following 1-to-1 correspondence between G04C and G04G subclasses is to be noted:

- G04C 9/00 is defined in parallel with G04G 5/00;
- G04C 11/00 is defined in parallel with G04G 7/00;
- G04C 17/00 is defined in parallel with G04G 9/00;
- G04C 19/00 is defined in parallel with G04G 11/00:
- G04C 21/00 is defined in parallel with G04G 13/00;
- G04C 23/00 is defined in parallel with G04G 15/00.

In all of the above groups, documents can be found which could belong to their corresponding parallel group. For example, documents could be found in G04C 9/00 which could also be in G04G 5/00 and vice-versa.

When classifying, a lot is left to the common sense of the classifier. If a document describes relevant electromechanical aspects of a timepiece, this document will usually receive at least a classification symbol in G04C. The "real life" situation is such that most often documents receive a double classification (both in G04C and in G04G).

Definitely, in cases of doubt, giving a classification symbol in both G04C and G04G is a preferred solution to choosing only one of them.

DATE: JANUARY 1, 2026

PROJECT MP12816

A typical example is given by the pair G04C 23/00, G04G 15/00. Here, timed switches, e.g. devices to execute a timed programme of switching on/off the heating system of a household are typically classified. A document showing mechanical jumpers to set the time-on and time-off, together with details concerning the mechanical connections of the jumpers with other parts of the mechanism is usually classified in G04C 23/00. Similarly, a document showing a fully programmable CPU-based thermostat with wireless connection to the main heater is typically classified in G04G 15/00.

References

<u>Insert</u>: The following new Informative references section.

Informative references

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

Mechanical parts of clocks or watches in general	G04B
Electronic time-pieces with no moving parts, electronic	G04G
circuitry for producing timing pulses	

Delete: The entire Special rules section.

G04C 1/00

References

<u>Delete</u>: The entire Limiting references section.

Insert: The following new Informative references section.

Informative references

Winding mechanically	G04B 3/00
Mechanical winding up; Winding up with special equipment	G04B 3/006

DATE: JANUARY 1, 2026

PROJECT MP12816

Driving; Starting; Stopping record carriers not specifically of	G11B 19/20
filamentary or web form; Control thereof	
Testing apparatus for complete clockworks with regard to	G04D 7/009
the functioning of the automatic winding-up device	

<u>Delete</u>: The entire Special rules section.

G04C 3/00

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

Definition statement

This place covers:

- Position sensitive switches integrated in timepieces (G04C 3/001).
- Electrically driven timepieces comprising electromechanical regulators (up to G04C 3/08).

Delete: The entire Relationships section.

References

<u>Insert</u>: The following new Limiting references table.

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Cleake driver by avachanous maters	C04C 4E/00
Clocks driven by synchronous motors	G04C 15/00

DATE: JANUARY 1, 2026

PROJECT MP12816

Insert: The following new Informative references table.

Informative references

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

Electric or magnetic means for converting	G04C 5/00
oscillatory to rotary motion in time-pieces	
Electrically-actuated devices for setting the time-indicating	G04C 9/00
means	
Motors with reciprocating, oscillating or vibrating with	H02K 33/16
polarised armatures moving in alternate directions by	
reversal or energisation of a single coil system	
Motors with rotor rotating step by step and without	H02K 37/00
interrupter or commutator driven by the rotor, e.g. stepping	
motors	

Delete: The entire Special rules section.

G04C 9/00

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

Definition statement

This place covers:

Documents dealing with setting the time (or the date) in an electromechanical timepiece or, by electromechanical means, in an electronic timepiece. With the exception of G04C 9/02, the key element of G04C 9/00 is a setting crown.

References

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

Limiting references

DATE: JANUARY 1, 2026

PROJECT MP12816

This place does not cover:

Pulse transmission systems with additional means for setting the	G04C 13/03
time indication of secondary clocks	

<u>Insert</u>: The following new Informative references section.

Informative references

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

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

Special rules of classification

G04C 9/02 contains many radio-controlled timepieces (which are nevertheless all double classified and shall be soon removed from here) and, in addition, it contains documents showing systems allowing to test or correct the running precision of a timepiece by establishing a wireless communication between the timepiece and an external control device. Typically, these control devices are available on timepiece manufacturing sites or in retailer shops, to perform calibration or re-calibration of some (otherwise inaccessible) of the timepiece elements.

Documents classified in the rest of G04C 9/00 should, as a general rule, contain details concerning the operations that a user needs to perform in order to set the time. On the contrary, if a document merely contains hardware details concerning the electromechanical setting element (the crown, most typically), then classification in G04C 3/001 should be considered. In the past, this has not always been a strict policy, therefore an overlap still exists and should always be considered.

G04C 10/00

<u>Insert</u>: The following new Limiting references section.

References

DATE: JANUARY 1, 2026

PROJECT MP12816

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Insert: The following new Informative references section.

Informative references

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

Structural details; Housings	G04G 17/00
Electric power supply circuits specially adapted for use in	G04G 19/00
electronic time-pieces	

Delete: The entire Special rules section.

G04C 17/00

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

Definition statement

This place covers:

Documents showing electromechanical time displays. The groups/subgroups are defined in terms of the technical features used to display time (bands, flaps, drums).

References

Insert: The following new Limiting references section.

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

DATE: JANUARY 1, 2026

PROJECT MP12816

Producing optical time signals at prefixed times by electric	G04C 19/00
means	

<u>Insert</u>: The following new Informative references section.

Informative references

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

Liquid crystal materials	C09K 19/00
Indicating the time by visual means	G04B 19/00
Indicating the time by numbered bands, drums, discs or	G04B 19/20
sheets	

<u>Delete</u>: The entire Special rules section.

G04C 21/00

References

Insert: The following new Informative references section.

Informative references

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

Sounding bodies; Whistles; Musical apparatus	G04B 21/08
Indicating the time by other means or by combined means	G04B 25/00

<u>Delete</u>: The entire Special rules section.

DATE: JANUARY 1, 2026

PROJECT MP12816

G04C 23/00

References

Insert: The following new Limiting references section.

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Producing acoustic time signals by electrical means	G04C 21/00
I FIDUUCING ACCUSIIC IIITE SIGNAIS DY EIECTNEAL MEANS	G040 21/00

<u>Insert</u>: The following new Informative references section.

Informative references

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

Producing optical time signals at prefixed times by	G04C 19/00
electric means	
Mechanical alarm clocks	G04B 23/02
Apparatus which can be set and started to measure-off	G04F 3/06
predetermined intervals	
Time or time-programme switches which automatically	H01H 43/00
terminate their operation after the programme is completed	

<u>Delete</u>: The entire Special rules section.