

EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE
U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

CPC NOTICE OF CHANGES 1902

DATE: MAY 1, 2026

PROJECT MP12083

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

| <u>Action</u> | <u>Subclass</u> | <u>Group(s)</u> |
|-----------------------|-----------------|--|
| SCHEME: | | |
| Titles Changed: | C21B | SUBCLASS, 3/06, 5/06, 7/00, 7/04, 9/12, 15/00 |
| | C21C | SUBCLASS, 5/52, 5/565, 7/00 |
| Warnings Deleted: | C21B | SUBCLASS |
| | C21C | SUBCLASS |
| DEFINITIONS: | | |
| Definitions New: | C21C | 5/565 |
| Definitions Modified: | C21B | SUBCLASS, 3/06, 3/08, 7/00, 7/12, 7/22, 7/24, 13/00, 15/00 |
| | C21C | SUBCLASS, 5/00, 5/28, 5/32, 5/34, 5/52, 5/56, 7/00, 7/072, 7/076 |

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

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)

CPC NOTICE OF CHANGES 1902

DATE: MAY 1, 2026

PROJECT MP12083

1. CLASSIFICATION SCHEME CHANGES

A. New, Modified or Deleted Group(s)

SUBCLASS C21B - MANUFACTURE OF IRON OR STEEL

| <u>Type*</u> | <u>Symbol</u> | <u>Indent Level Number of dots (e.g. 0, 1, 2)</u> | <u>Title</u> <u>“CPC only” text should normally be enclosed in {curly brackets}**</u> | <u>Transferred to[#]</u> |
|--------------|---------------|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| M | C21B | SUBCLASS | MANUFACTURE OF IRON OR STEEL (preliminary treatment of ferrous ores or scrap C22B1/00) | |
| M | C21B3/06 | 2 | Treatment of liquid slag | |
| M | C21B5/06 | 1 | using top gas in the blast furnace process | |
| M | C21B7/00 | 0 | Blast furnaces | |
| M | C21B7/04 | 1 | with special refractories | |
| M | C21B9/12 | 2 | Hot-blast valves or slides for blast furnaces | |
| M | C21B15/00 | 0 | Other processes for the manufacture of iron from iron compounds (by electrolysis C25C1/06) | |

SUBCLASS C21C - PROCESSING OF PIG-IRON, e.g. REFINING, MANUFACTURE OF WROUGHT-IRON OR STEEL; TREATMENT IN MOLTEN STATE OF FERROUS ALLOYS

| <u>Type*</u> | <u>Symbol</u> | <u>Indent Level Number of dots (e.g. 0, 1, 2)</u> | <u>Title</u> <u>“CPC only” text should normally be enclosed in {curly brackets}**</u> | <u>Transferred to[#]</u> |
|--------------|---------------|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| M | C21C | SUBCLASS | PROCESSING OF PIG-IRON, e.g. REFINING, MANUFACTURE OF WROUGHT-IRON OR STEEL; TREATMENT IN MOLTEN STATE OF FERROUS ALLOYS | |
| M | C21C5/52 | 1 | Manufacture of steel in electric furnaces {(C21C5/005 takes precedence)} | |
| M | C21C5/565 | 3 | {Preheating of scrap} | |
| M | C21C7/00 | 0 | Treating molten ferrous alloys, e.g. steel, not covered by groups C21C1/00 - C21C5/00 (treating molten metals during moulding B22D1/00, B22D27/00) | |

*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:

CPC NOTICE OF CHANGES 1902

DATE: MAY 1, 2026

PROJECT MP12083

- **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.

CPC NOTICE OF CHANGES 1902

DATE: MAY 1, 2026

PROJECT MP12083

B. New, Modified or Deleted Warning(s)

SUBCLASS C21B - MANUFACTURE OF IRON OR STEEL

| <u>Type*</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Old Warning</u> | <u>New/Modified Warning</u> |
|--------------|-----------------|---|-----------------------------|
| D | C21B | 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. |

SUBCLASS C21C - PROCESSING OF PIG-IRON, e.g. REFINING, MANUFACTURE OF WROUGHT-IRON OR STEEL; TREATMENT IN MOLTEN STATE OF FERROUS ALLOYS

| <u>Type*</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Old Warning</u> | <u>New/Modified Warning</u> |
|--------------|-----------------|---|-----------------------------|
| D | C21C | 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: MAY 1, 2026

PROJECT MP12083

2. A. DEFINITIONS (new)

C21C5/565

References

Informative references

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

| | |
|---|----------------------------|
| Apparatus for preheating scrap in general | F27D13/002 |
|---|----------------------------|

2. A. DEFINITIONS (modified)

C21B

Definition statement

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

- The production of iron or steel starting from iron ores, e.g. the production of pig-iron;
- The recovery of by-products, e.g. slag from these production methods;
- Apparatus specially adapted therefore, e.g. blast furnaces or air heaters.

Relationships with other classification places

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

General metallurgical processes for obtaining metal from ores, and non-ferrous ores in particular, are treated in [C22B](#).

Details of the apparatus which are of general interest to the group of installations, e.g. shaft furnaces, are also to be classified in [F27B](#) or [F27D](#).

[C21B2100/40](#) concerns the specific purification and reuse of exhaust gases in metallurgical processes, while [B01D2258/025](#) concerns only the purification process in general of waste gases from metallurgy plants.

References

Insert: The following new Limiting references section.

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Preliminary treatment of ferrous ores or scrap | C22B1/00 |
|--|--------------------------|

DATE: MAY 1, 2026

PROJECT MP12083

Informative references

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

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Filters comprising loose filtering material | B01D24/00 |
| Filtering devices having features not specifically covered by groups B01D24/00 - B01D33/00, or for applications not specifically covered by groups B01D24/00 - B01D33/00 | B01D35/00 |
| Separating solid materials using liquids or using pneumatic tables or jigs | B03B |
| Lift inclined, e.g. serving with blast furnaces | B66B9/06 |
| Manufacture or shaping of glass, or of mineral or slag wool; Supplementary processes in the manufacture or shaping of glass, or of mineral or slag wool | C03B |
| Lime; Magnesia; Slag; Cements; Compositions thereof, e.g. mortars, concrete or like building materials; Artificial stone; Ceramics; Refractories; Treatment of natural stone | C04B |
| Destructive distillation of carbonaceous materials for production of gas, coke, tar or similar materials, e.g. coke ovens | C10B |
| General processes of reducing to metals | C22B5/00 |
| Valves | F16K |
| Furnaces, kilns, ovens or retorts in general | F27B |
| Details or accessories of furnaces, kilns, ovens or retorts in general | F27D |
| Details of heat exchange or heat-transfer apparatus, of general application | F28F |
| Electric heating | H05B |

Special rules of classification

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

DATE: MAY 1, 2026

PROJECT MP12083

In the group [C21B2100/22](#), reforming is based on a reaction with other hydrocarbon containing gases. In the group [C21B2100/24](#), shift reactions involve steam, water vapor or water.

Insert: The following new Glossary of terms section.

Glossary of terms

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

| | |
|----------|---|
| pig iron | intermediate product of smelting iron ore with a high-carbon fuel, e.g. coke or charcoal |
| slag | partially vitreous by-product of smelting ore to separate the metal fraction from the unwanted fraction |
| tuyères | tubes, nozzles or pipes through which air is blown into a furnace |

C21B3/06

References

Delete: The entire Limiting references section.

Informative references

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

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Processes or devices for granulating material | B01J2/00 |
| Manufacture or shaping glass, or of mineral or slag wool; Supplementary processes in the manufacture or shaping of glass, or of mineral or slag wool | C03B |
| Lime; Magnesia; Slag; Cements; Compositions thereof, e.g. mortars, concrete or like building materials; Artificial stone; Ceramics; Refractories; Treatment of natural stone | C04B |

DATE: MAY 1, 2026

PROJECT MP12083

C21B3/08**References*****Informative references***

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

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| General arrangements of separating plants | B03B9/04 |
| Ingredients other than water added to the molten slag; Treatment with gases or gas generating material | C04B5/06 |
| Handling or treating discharged material in furnaces | F27D15/00 |

C21B7/00**Definition statement**

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

Features which relate to the lay-out of the blast furnace area or to repair.

Evacuation and treatment of exhaust gases and the control and regulation of the top pressure.

References***Informative references***

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

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| Filtering material for liquid or gaseous fluids | B01D39/00 |
| Separating dispersed particles from gases or vapours by gravity, inertia or centrifugal forces | B01D45/00 |
| Separation of gases or vapours; Recovery vapours of volatile solvents from gases; Chemical or biological purification of waste gases, e.g. engine exhaust gases, smoke, fumes, flue gases or aerosols | B01D53/00 |

DATE: MAY 1, 2026

PROJECT MP12083

| | |
|---|------|
| Centrifuges | B04B |
| Apparatus using free vortex flow, e.g. cyclones | B04C |
| Purifying or modifying the chemical composition of combustible gases containing carbon monoxide | C10K |

Special rules of classification

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

Groups [C21B7/002](#) and [C21B7/005](#) concern evacuating and treating of exhaust gases from blast furnaces in general. Further classification is mandatory in indexing codes [C21B2100/00](#) - [C21B2100/80](#).

C21B7/12

References

Informative references

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

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Details or accessories of converters | C21C5/46 |
| Tapping equipment; Equipment for removing slag | F27D3/15 |

C21B7/22

References

Informative references

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

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| Open-topped filter housing | B01D35/34 |
| Filtering material for liquid or gaseous fluids | B01D39/00 |
| Separating dispersed particles from gases or vapours by gravity, inertia or centrifugal forces | B01D45/00 |

DATE: MAY 1, 2026

PROJECT MP12083

| | |
|--|----------|
| Removal of waste gases or dust from converter | C21C5/38 |
| Offtakes or separating apparatus for converter waste gases or dust | C21C5/40 |

C21B7/24**Definition statement**

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

Any measuring, controlling or observation devices.

References***Informative references***

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

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Arrangements of monitoring devices, of indicators, of alarm devices for shaft furnaces | F27B1/28 |
| Arrangements of controlling devices of furnaces, kilns, ovens or retorts | F27D19/00 |
| Arrangements of monitoring devices in furnaces, kilns, ovens or retorts | F27D21/00 |
| Specific investigation or analysing means of materials by determining their chemical or physical properties | G01N |

C21B13/00**References*****Informative references***

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

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Chemical or physical processes according to "fluidised-bed" technique | B01J8/24 |
| General methods of reducing to metals by solid carbonaceous reducing agents | C22B5/10 |
| General methods of reducing to metals, by gases | C22B5/12 |
| Fluidised bed furnaces | F27B15/00 |

DATE: MAY 1, 2026

PROJECT MP12083

Delete: The entire Special rules section.

C21B15/00

Definition statement

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

Any other processes for the manufacture of iron from iron compounds not covered by other groups in [C21B13/00](#), e.g. processes involving nuclear energy or a chloride process.

References

Insert: The following new Limiting references section.

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Electrolytic production, recovery or refining of iron group metals | C25C1/06 |
|--|--------------------------|

Informative references

Delete: The “ – C22B5/20” in the right-hand column of the existing Informative references table, so that the updated table appears as follows.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| General methods of reducing to metals | C22B5/00 |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|

DATE: MAY 1, 2026

PROJECT MP12083

C21C

Definition statement

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

Refining of pig-iron and manufacturing of cast iron.

Manufacture of wrought-iron, wrought-steel, carbon-steel.

Treatment of molten ferrous alloys.

Apparatus therefore, e.g. mixers for pig-iron, converters or electric furnaces.

Insert: The following new Relationships section.

Relationships with other classification places

[C22B](#) covers general metallurgical or chemical processes for producing or recovering metals from metals compounds, ores, metalliferous waste or scrap metal and for refining metal.

Furnaces in general and details thereof are classified in [F27B](#) and [F27D](#), respectively.

References

Delete: The entire Limiting references section.

Insert: The following new Informative references section.

Informative references

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

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| Preventing escape of dirt or fumes from the area where they are produced | B08B15/00 |
|--|---------------------------|

CPC NOTICE OF CHANGES 1902

DATE: MAY 1, 2026

PROJECT MP12083

| | |
|--|-----------|
| General processes of refining or remelting of metals; Apparatus for electroslag or arc remelting of metals | C22B9/00 |
| Remelting metals | C22B9/16 |
| Apparatus for electroslag remelting of metals, e.g. furnaces | C22B9/18 |
| Arc remelting of metals | C22B9/20 |
| Making cast-iron alloys | C22C33/08 |
| Cast iron alloys | C22C37/00 |
| Ferrous alloy compositions | C22C38/00 |
| Furnaces, kilns, ovens or retorts in general | F27B |
| Arrangements for using, or disposing of, waste gases in furnaces | F27D17/00 |
| Stirring devices for molten materials in furnaces | F27D27/00 |
| Electric heating | H05B |

Insert: The following new Glossary of terms section.

Glossary of terms

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

| | |
|----------|---|
| pig iron | intermediate product of smelting iron ore with a high-carbon fuel, e.g. coke, charcoal |
| slag | partially vitreous by-product of smelting ore to separate the metal fraction from the unwanted fraction |
| tuyères | tubes, nozzles or pipes through which air is blown into a furnace |

DATE: MAY 1, 2026

PROJECT MP12083

C21C5/00

Definition statement

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

The manufacturing of stainless steels and ferro-alloys; apparatuses, in particular converters, which are specifically dedicated to the steel processing.

References

Delete: The entire Limiting references section.

Delete: The entire Special rules section.

C21C5/28

Definition statement

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

The full plant lay-out is also classified in this group.

Insert: The following new Limiting references section.

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Manufacture of stainless steel | C21C5/005 |
|--------------------------------|-----------|

DATE: MAY 1, 2026

PROJECT MP12083

C21C5/32

Definition statement

Insert: A period at the end of the existing Definition statement, so that the updated statement appears as follows.

Regulation or control of blowing ONLY from above, i.e. through a lance.

References

Limiting references

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

| | |
|---|----------|
| Blowing from above and through the bath | C21C5/35 |
|---|----------|

Insert: The following new Informative references section.

Informative references

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

| | |
|---|------------|
| Lance details | C21C5/4606 |
| Introducing a fluid jet or current into the charge of furnaces | F27D3/16 |
| Charging particulate material in furnaces using a fluid carrier | F27D3/18 |

C21C5/34

Definition statement

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

Regulation or control of blowing only through the melt, i.e. through a tuyère or bottom.

DATE: MAY 1, 2026

PROJECT MP12083

References***Limiting references***

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

| | |
|---|--------------------------|
| Blowing from above and through the bath | C21C5/35 |
|---|--------------------------|

Insert: The following new Informative references section.

Informative references

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

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| Bottoms or tuyères of converters | C21C5/48 |
| Injection assemblies for treatment of fused massed with gases | B22D1/005 |

[C21C5/52](#)**Definition statement**

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

Any type of electric heating: AC, DC, induction or plasma, including accessories as burners.

The manufacturing of alloyed steels, e.g. ferro-alloys.

The charging of the electric furnace.

Multiple hearth furnaces.

The general lay-out of the melt shop.

DATE: MAY 1, 2026

PROJECT MP12083

ReferencesInsert: The following new Limiting references section.***Limiting references****This place does not cover:*

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Manufacture of stainless steel | C21C5/005 |
|--------------------------------|-----------|

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

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Methods or apparatus for combustion using fluent fuel | F23C |
| Burners | F23D |
| Hearth-type furnaces, e.g. of reverberatory type; Electric arc furnaces | F27B3/00 |
| Arrangements of elements for electric heating in or on furnaces | F27D11/00 |
| Electric heating elements or system | F27D99/00 |

Special rules of classificationReplace: The existing Special rules text with the following updated text.

Specific orthogonal Indexing Codes exist for the presence/absence of a foam (C21C2300/02, C21C2300/04) or a molten heel in the electric furnace.

DATE: MAY 1, 2026

PROJECT MP12083

C21C5/56

Definition statement

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

Methods starting from scrap (with/without preheating) not treated in electric (arc) furnaces.

Insert: The following new Limiting references section.

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| Manufacture of stainless steel | C21C5/005 |
| Making spongy iron or liquid steel, by direct processes | C21B13/00 |

C21C7/00

Definition statement

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

Treatments of refining or alloying by means of the treatment agents, the form thereof, purpose or the circumstances.

Metallic, carbonaceous or exothermic treatment agents.

Loose or compacted agents or cored wires.

Treatments in a ladle, under pressure or in a current of streaming metal.

Special treatments of the slag.

DATE: MAY 1, 2026

PROJECT MP12083

References**Limiting references**

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

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Treatment of fused masses in the ladle or the supply runners before casting | B22D1/00 |
| Treating the metal in the mould while it is molten or ductile | B22D27/00 |

Informative references

Insert: The following one new row into the existing Informative references table.

| | |
|-----------------------------|------|
| Remelting of ferrous alloys | C22B |
|-----------------------------|------|

C21C7/072**References**

Insert: The following new Limiting references section.

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Deoxidising, e.g. killing | C21C7/06 |
| Dephosphorising; Desulfurising | C21C7/064 |
| Decarburising | C21C7/068 |

DATE: MAY 1, 2026

PROJECT MP12083

C21C7/076

References

Insert: The following new Limiting references section.

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Deoxidising, e.g. killing | C21C7/06 |
| Dephosphorising; Desulfurising | C21C7/064 |
| Decarburising | C21C7/068 |