

Introduction to the Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC)

EPO and USPTO bi-lateral classification system



**Presentation to the
Biotechnology/Chemical/Pharmaceutical
Customer Partnership**



February 2012



Objectives



- By the end of this overview, you should understand
 - ↪ General features of the Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC) System
 - ↪ Why the USPTO is pursuing this initiative
 - ↪ Draft CPC timeline
 - ↪ General look and feel of CPC



Objectives



- General features of Cooperative Patent Classification System (CPC)
- Why the USPTO is pursuing this initiative
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- General look and feel of CPC



General Features of CPC



- CPC is a joint USPTO/EPO classification system
- CPC will be kept up to date
- Ability to search a unified classification system
 - ↪ Reduces searching redundancy by providing a comprehensive patent document database
 - ↪ *Merges PGPub and U.S. Patent databases*
 - ↪ Patent documents classified by patent family
 - ↪ Permits search of *foreign* language document collection
 - ↪ Seamless integration of CPC symbols into current examination search tools
- US and EP patent documents are already classified in ECLA and this backfile will be used as a basis for CPC



General Features of CPC



- Ability to search a unified classification system (Continued)
 - ↪ More refined breakdowns in many art areas yield more focused results
 - ↪ 155,000 breakdowns in USPC vs. 200,000 breakdowns in CPC, initially
- Collaborative maintenance of CPC Classification
 - ↪ EPO and USPTO will jointly undertake revision (reclassification) projects
 - ↪ EPO and USPTO will work together with our counterparts
 - ↪ More frequent and timely updates
 - ↪ Greater examiner involvement in revision projects



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Major Intellectual Property Offices and Patent Classification Systems



IPC Based Classification Systems

Non-IPC based Classification Systems



European Patent Office (EPO)



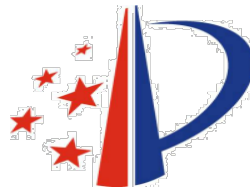
Japan Patent Office (JPO)



United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)



World Intellectual Property Office (WIPO)



State Intellectual Property Office of China (SIPO)



Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO)



Comparison of Patent Classification Systems



	USPC	IPC	ECLA	FI	CPC
<i>Documents classified into system by</i>	USPTO	IPC Union Members (61)	EPO, member states	Japan Patent Office	USPTO/EPO
<i>Relationship to IPC</i>	None	----	ECLA is an extension of IPC	FI is an extension of IPC	CPC is an extension of IPC
<i>Classification</i>	2 Standards for Classification*	Invention Information	Invention Information	Invention Information	Invention Information
<i>Rules for classification</i>	U.S. Classification Guidelines	IPC Guide	IPC Guide + Art Specific Rules	IPC Guide + Deep Indexing with F-Terms	IPC Guide + Art Specific Rules
<i>Number of Subdivisions</i>	150,000	69,000	145,000	180,000	200,000

- * • PG Publication – Invention Information
(i.e., Disclosed Invention or Inventive Concept)
- Routing/Docketing & U.S. Patent Grant – Claim Scope



Why the USPTO is pursuing this initiative



- Provides the examination corps and stakeholders with:
 - ↪ International classification system based on International Patent Classification (IPC) standards
 - ↪ More comprehensive access to prior art
 - ↪ A classification scheme/system that is adaptive and more actively maintained
 - ↪ A single classification symbol set for all USPTO and EPO documents



Why the USPTO is pursuing this initiative



- Aligns with USPTO strategic goals
 - Implement IPC-based classification system at USPTO
 - Accelerate classification harmonization efforts with other major IP offices
 - Promote resource sharing
- Improves global harmonization for examination and search
 - Classification is the foundation for all global harmonization efforts
- Increases document coverage for classified search
 - A single classification search yields results from the USPTO, EPO and EPO member states

Note: USPTO is currently the only major IP office not using an IPC-based primary classification system



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High Level CPC Time Line



CPC Milestone	Timeframe
Introduction to CPC for all examiners.	2012
Develop and deliver detailed examiner training in concert with EPO.	2012-2014
Contractor applies CPC symbols to PGPUB pipeline documents.	January 1, 2013
USPC and CPC symbols will be searchable in EAST/WEST, while routing remains based on USPC.	2013
CPC symbols will propagate from PGPUB to Grants	2013
Examiners will begin to add CPC symbols as needed on issued applications, with voluntary search capability of CPC symbols in EAST/WEST.	2013-2014
Final stage of CPC implementation.	2015



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CPC Sections



▶ Sections: 8 Sections

- A SECTION A — HUMAN NECESSITIES
- B SECTION B — PERFORMING OPERATIONS; TRANSPORTING
- C SECTION C — CHEMISTRY; METALLURGY
- D SECTION D — TEXTILES; PAPER
- E SECTION E — FIXED CONSTRUCTIONS
- F SECTION F — MECHANICAL ENGINEERING; LIGHTING; HEATING; WEAPONS; BLASTING
- G SECTION G — PHYSICS
- H SECTION H — ELECTRICITY



Format of CPC Symbols



A23G 9/0202

- ▶ complete **group symbol**; consists of different components

A	Section (A, B, ... H)
A23	Class (any 2 digits)
A23G	Subclass (any letter)
A23G9/00	Main Group
A23G 9/0202	Subgroup

Note:

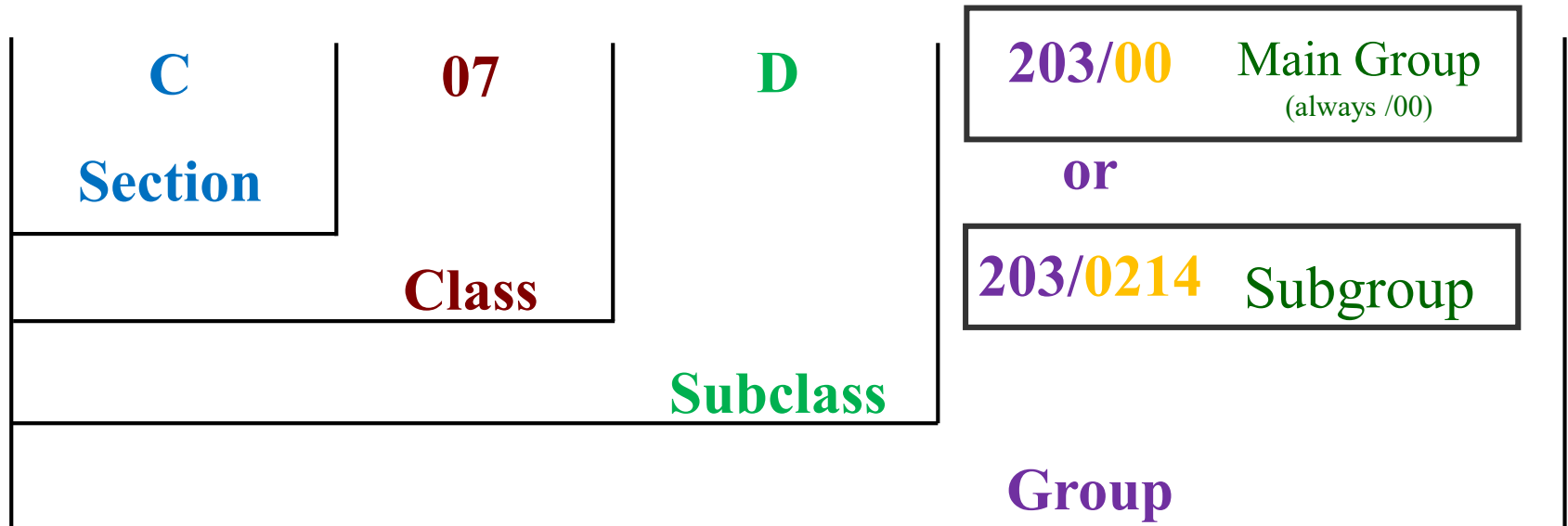
- Documents are classified with main group and/or subgroup symbols



Nomenclature: CPC Symbols



Example of a CPC classification symbol





Espacenet
Patent search

Deutsch English Français

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◀ About Espacenet Other EPO online services ▼

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Search

Find description for a symbol

Search

HUMAN NECESSITIES	A <input type="checkbox"/>
PERFORMING OPERATIONS; TRANSPORTING	B <input type="checkbox"/>
CHEMISTRY; METALLURGY	C <input type="checkbox"/>
TEXTILES; PAPER	D <input type="checkbox"/>
FIXED CONSTRUCTIONS	E <input type="checkbox"/>
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING; LIGHTING; HEATING; WEAPONS; BLASTING ENGINES OR PUMPS	F <input type="checkbox"/>
PHYSICS	G <input type="checkbox"/>
ELECTRICITY	H <input type="checkbox"/>
GENERAL TAGGING OF NEW TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS; GENERAL TAGGING OF CROSS-OVER TECHNOLOGIES SPANNING OVER SEVERAL SECTIONS OF THE IPC [N0403] [M1103]	Y <input type="checkbox"/>

show notes

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Website: http://worldwide.espacenet.com/eclasrch?locale=en_EP&classification=ecla



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Conclusion: Next Steps



- Collaborate with POPA throughout the development and implementation phases
- Provide opportunities for examiners to participate and share feedback
- Develop CPC training
- Finalize IT requirements to accommodate CPC



Conclusion: CPC Resources



- CPC General Website:
<http://www.CPCinfo.org>
- Link to Classification Homepage:
<http://ptoweb:8081/#a>
- Until CPC is available, ECLA searches can be conducted online using ESPACENET, the EPO's public search tool:
↳ <http://worldwide.espacenet.com/>
- Look for EIC/STIC Demos on ESPACENET & ECLA
- Feedback
↳ Email: CPC@USPTO.gov



Thank you!

