Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC) is now available in INPADOCDB and INPAFAMDB

1 Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC) now available

The Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC) is a new patent classification system jointly developed and maintained by the European Patent Office (EPO) and the US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). This bilateral classification system will enter into force on the first of January 2013 and will replace the European patent classifications ECLA and ICO and also the US national patent classification USPC.

The CPC is an IPC-based classification system with about 250.000 subdivisions comprising the former ECLA- and ICO-codes plus an expanded scheme for business methods (G06Q) and special collections from the US patent classification.

From week 47/2012 onwards, CPC data are available for new and updated records of the INPADOC databases. Users have full access to all details of the CPC data including CPC codes and attributes. A CPC thesaurus feature supports classification searching, helping users to identify relevant codes and searching the hierarchy of the codes.

The European Patent Office also provides CPC data for the complete INPADOC backfile which will be loaded over the next couple of weeks. For the time being ECLA and ICO codes will be kept as historical classification data for all patent documents not being updated. From April 2013 onwards we expect monthly revisions of the CPC which will also be included in the INPADOC databases on STN.

New Search Options and Thesaurus Feature

CPC codes are provided in the same standard as IPC8 codes, having very similar attributes attached. Therefor, the implementation of the CPC follows closely the implementation of the IPC, providing similar search and display options.

The STN-standard format for CPC-codes is in line with the standard for IPC- and ECLA-codes, comprising 8 characters for the main group and a maximum of 6 digits for the subgroup. Unlike the ECLA notation, the CPC subgroup symbol does not include letters, only digits:

<div align="center">

ANNANNNN-NNnnnn

CPC main group   CPC subgroup

</div>
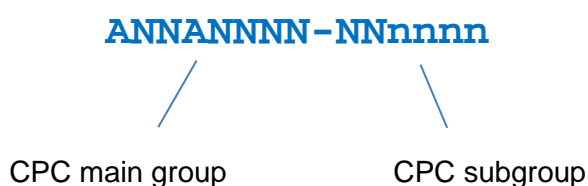
The search field /CPC has been added to the INPADOC databases to search for CPC symbols in full length or at main group or subclass level (see search examples below). The thesaurus feature attached to the field /CPC works similar to the ECLA- and ICO-thesaurus (see HELP THESAURUS, HELP RCODE). Narrower codes can automatically be included in the search with the relationship code +NT, e.g. the search A61K0009-7038+NT/CPC automatically includes the codes A61K0009-7046, A61K0009-7053, A61K0009-7061, A61K0009-7069, A61K0009-7076 (see CPC hierarchy below).

CPC-attributes provide additional details of the CPC codes which could be useful to narrow down CPC search results, e.g. the classification value attribute indicates which aspects of the invention have been classified (invention or additional). CPC search strategies can be refined with CPC attributes applying the search field /CPC.KW. Specific dates attached to the CPC-codes are searchable in the date-searchable fields /CPC.ACD (action date) and /CPC.VER (version of the CPC). All CPC-search fields can be linked with (S)-proximity.

CPC-hierarchy of A61K0009-7038 with all narrower CPC codes

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=> E A61K0009-7038+NT/CPC
E#   FILE        FREQUENCY   TERM
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E1   INPADOCDB       0   --> A61K0009-7038/CPC
                             CPC-specific-text: Transdermal patches of the
                             drug-in-adhesive type, i.e. comprising drug in
                             the skin-adhesive layer(2013-01-01)
E2   INPADOCDB       0   NT1 A61K0009-7046/CPC
                             CPC-specific-text: the adhesive
                             comprising macromolecular compounds(2013-01-01)
E3   INPADOCDB       0   NT2 A61K0009-7053/CPC
                             CPC-specific-text: obtained by reactions only involving
                             carbon to carbon unsaturated bonds, e.g. polyvinyl,
                             polyisobutylene, polystyrene(2013-01-01)
E4   INPADOCDB       0   NT3 A61K0009-7061/CPC
                             CPC-specific-text: Polyacrylates(2013-01-01)
E5   INPADOCDB       0   NT2 A61K0009-7069/CPC
                             CPC-specific-text: obtained otherwise than by reactions
                             only involving carbon to carbon unsaturated bonds, e.g.
                             polysiloxane, polyesters, polyurethane, polyethylene...
E6   INPADOCDB       0   NT1 A61K0009-7076/CPC
                             CPC-specific-text: the adhesive comprising
                             ingredients of undetermined constitution or reaction
                             products thereof, e.g. rosin or other plant resins...
********** END **********
```

CPC-Attributes and Search Fields

CPC-attributes	search term	search field	comments
classification value	I, invention A, additional	/CPC.KW	CPC codes classifying major aspects of the invention have the attribute "I" assigned (similar to ECLA), CPC codes classifying additional aspects of the invention have the attribute "A" assigned (similar to ICO)
classification status	O, original, initial R, reclassified	/CPC.KW	CPC codes of new documents and of documents of the INPADOC backfile have the attribute "O" (original) assigned
source of classification	H, human M, machine G, generated	/CPC.KW	CPC codes of new documents and of documents of the INPADOC backfile have the attribute "H" (human) assigned
generating office	ES, FI, GB, SE	/CPC.KW	the generating office is not available for CPC codes assigned by EPO or USPTO, just for the 4 national offices classifying with CPC (see comments below)
position attribute	F, first L, later	/CPC.KW	the position attribute is currently not available; it is expected for January 2013
version of the CPC	CCYYMMDD	/CPC.VER	date indicating the version of the CPC (date searchable)
action date	CCYYMMDD	/CPC.ACD	date indicating when the code was assigned to the publication (date searchable)

How to search for CPC codes and attributes

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=> S D03D0015-0011/CPC                    searching CPC-codes in STN-
standard

=> S D03D0015/CPC                         searching CPC-codes at main group
level

=> S D03D/CPC                             searching CPC-codes at subclass level

=> S D03D0015-0011+NT/CPC                 searching CPC-codes plus narrower terms

=> S D03D0015-0011/CPC(S)I/CPC.KW         searching CPC-codes plus attributes

=> S D03D0015-0011/CPC(S)20130101/CPC.ACD searching CPC-codes plus action
date

=> S D03D0015-0011/CPC(S)20130101/CPC.VER searching CPC-codes plus version
date
```

New Display Options

The display field CPC has been introduced to provide a deduplicated view on the CPC codes. CPC codes are part of the predefined display formats IND, STD, ALL, MAX, BRIEF and also of the family display formats FFAM, MFAM, IFAM.

The full CPC information can be displayed with the CPC.TAB display format providing a tabular format of all CPC codes and attributes.

```
=> D TI PI PA IND

L1    ANSWER 1 OF 1      INPADOCDB COPYRIGHT 2012 EPO/FIZ KA on STN
TI    Kleidungsstueck mit Sensor.
      Sensor garment.
      Vetement avec capteur.
PI    EP 2505090         A2 20121003
PA    ADIDAS AG
IPCI  A41D0001-00   [I,A]; A61B0005-00    [I,A]; A61B0005-0205  [I,A];
      H04B0001-38   [I,A]
CPC   A61B0005-6831; A41D0001-002; A41D0001-005; A41D0013-0007; A61B0005-01;
      A61B0005-0205; A61B0005-0402; A61B0005-0537; A61B0005-0816; A61B0005-11;
      A61B0005-4875; A61B0005-6805; A63B0024-0062; H04B0001-385
EPC   A61B0005-68B3B; A41D0001-00B; A41D0013-00H; A61B0005-00B; A61B0005-0205;
      A61B0005-68B1D1
ICO   K61B0005:01; K61B0005:0402; K61B0005:053J; K61B0005:08R; K61B0005:11;
      K61B0005:48W4
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CPC.TAB display for EP2505090 in INPADOCDB

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=> D CPC.TAB

CPC CODE          VERSION      INV CC ASSIGNMENT DATE     STAT
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A61B0005-6831     (20130101)   I      Human      20130101  O
A41D0001-002      (20130101)   I      Human      20121107  O
A41D0001-005      (20130101)   I      Human      20130101  O
A41D0013-0007     (20130101)   I      Human      20121107  O
A61B0005-01       (20130101)   A      Human      20130101  O
A61B0005-0205     (20130101)   I      Human      20130101  O
A61B0005-0402     (20130101)   A      Human      20130101  O
A61B0005-0537     (20130101)   A      Human      20130101  O
A61B0005-0816     (20130101)   A      Human      20130101  O
A61B0005-11       (20130101)   A      Human      20130101  O
A61B0005-4875     (20130101)   A      Human      20130101  O
A61B0005-6805     (20130101)   I      Human      20130101  O
A63B0024-0062     (20130101)   I      Human      20121107  O
H04B0001-385      (20130101)   I      Human      20130101  O
```

BRIEF display for EP2505090 in INPAFAMDB

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=> D BRIEF

L1     ANSWER 1 OF 1        INPAFAMDB COPYRIGHT 2012 EPO/FIZ KA on STN
AN     45529771 INPAFAMDB EDF 20121004 EWF 201240 UPFB 20121115 UWF 201246
TI     Sensor garment.
INS    SCHEFFLER KIMBERLY, US; MASLANY MELANIE M, US; SCHEFFLER KIM, US
PAS    ADIDAS AG, DE
IPCI   A61B0005-00    [I,A]; A41D0001-00    [I,A]; A61B0005-0205  [I,A];
       H04B0001-38    [I,A]; A41D0027-00    [I,A]; A41D0027-20    [I,A]
CPC    A61B0005-6831; A41D0001-002; A41D0001-005; A41D0013-0007; A61B0005-01;
       A61B0005-0205; A61B0005-0402; A61B0005-0537; A61B0005-0816; A61B0005-11;
       A61B0005-4875; A61B0005-6805; A63B0024-0062; H04B0001-385
EPC    A61B0005-68B3B; A41D0001-00B; A41D0013-00H; A61B0005-00B; A61B0005-0205;
       A61B0005-68B1D1
ICO    K61B0005:01; K61B0005:0402; K61B0005:053J; K61B0005:08R; K61B0005:11;
       K61B0005:48W4
INCL   INCLM 002/069.000
       INCLS 002/243.100
AB     (EP 2505090 A2)
       The present invention provides a sensor garment including a harness. In
       one exemplary embodiment, the sensor garment includes a textile portion,.....


PATENT FAMILY INFORMATION INPAFAMDB


 +-------- Publications --------+     +-------- Applications --------+
 CN 102727182       A  20121017      CN 2012-10092471    A  20120331
 EP 2505090         A2 20121003      EP 2012-162815      A  20120402
 US 20120246795     A1 20121004      US 2011-13077520    A  20110331


 +--------- Priorities ---------+
 US 2011-13077520    A  20110331                                        .....
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Which patent offices classify with CPC and what about the timeliness?

CPC codes are assigned by the EPO and USPTO and currently by the four national patent offices ES, FI, GB and SE. CPC codes are available at the day of publication for all EP- and US-patent documents, for PCT-publications with the EPO as searching authority and for all patent documents classified by the national patent offices. For all other documents classified by the EPO (i.e. PCT minimum documentation), there will be a delay of up to 6 month before the CPC is available. Users should be aware of this timeliness issue when setting up alerts including the CPC.

Recommendations for classification searching

ECLA- and ICO-codes will be kept as historical data for a transition period. However, every updated record and all new publications do not include ECLA and ICO codes any more. For a comprehensive classification search it is recommended to include CPC codes in the search strategy and keep ECLA/ICO search terms until the CPC backfile has been fully loaded.

The USPTO will have a transition períod of two years, during which newly filed US-applications (US A1-documents) will be classified in CPC and USPC and US-granted patents will be classified in USPC or in USPC and CPC. For that reason, CPC and US patent classification codes should be included in the search strategy for a more comprehensive retrieval of US patent documents.

From April 2013 onwards, the CPC will be revised and reclassified CPC codes will be made available in the INPADOC databases on STN. Users should follow the CPC revisions in their technical fields and enhance search strategies accordingly, especially users should check if the CPC codes they are using are still valid.

The hierarchy of CPC codes is less obvious than the hierarchy of ECLA codes because all letters of the ECLA subgroup have been converted to digits in the CPC. When searching with CPC codes from a higher hierarchical level, it is recommended to use the CPC thesaurus feature and not use truncations (e.g. D03D0015-0011+NT/CPC).

Background information on the CPC

The European Patent Office provides detailed information on the CPC at http://www.cpcinfo.org/.