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Official Notice

International Patent Classification (IPC) Changes for 2007

The next version of the advanced level of the IPC will come into effect on 1 January 2007. New IPC symbols for this version will have the version indicator 2007.01.

There are 65 new IPC codes for IPC 2007.01. Most are further subdivisions from existing codes. The affected existing codes are in A62D and H02M. Some cross-references have also changed in A61Q, A62D, B09C, C09K and H02J in light of the changes in A62D and H02M.

The advanced level of the IPC, which IP Australia classifies to, is only available in electronic form. The 2007.01 version of the IPC can be viewed on the WIPO web site at the following URL:

www.wipo.int/ipc8earlypub/ipcpub/index.php

The European Patent Office (EPO) has attended to the reclassification of Australia's back-file patent data for IPC8 (2006.01) and for IPC 2007.01. IP Australia expects to receive reclassified AU data for the 2007 version of the IPC from the EPO during the first half of 2007.

Previously, users were advised to continue having regard to previous IPC versions when searching patent data as small amounts of AU data were not captured in the reclassification process. Due to some outstanding issues of data exchange between the EPO and IP Australia with the AU data, users are advised to continue having regard to previous IPC editions.

The reclassification efforts principally cover AU data from 1970 to the present, though a small proportion of pre-1970 AU data is classified to IPC8. Searchers of pre-1970 AU data will continue to need to have regard to previous versions of the IPC indefinitely as well as the current version.

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