

BUREAUX INTERNATIONAUX
RÉUNIS POUR LA PROTECTION
DE LA PROPRIÉTÉ INTELLECTUELLE
GENÈVE, SUISSE

BIRPI

UNITED INTERNATIONAL
BUREAUX FOR THE PROTECTION
OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

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(Geneva, September 22 to 26, 1969)

INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION OF PATENTS FOR INVENTION

Use of the Classification by Member States of the Paris Union

Report by the Director of BIRPI

1. As mentioned in document CEP/V/9, paragraph 9, a survey has been conducted by BIRPI as to the present and anticipated future use of the International Classification of Patents for Invention (hereinafter referred to as the Classification) in each country.
2. The Annex to this report contains the results of the survey, set out according to country in alphabetical order, in three parts:
 - (A) countries which use the Classification at present, indicating the extent to which they use it, as far as communicated to BIRPI.
 - (B) countries which intend to use the Classification in the future, indicating the date, where applicable.
 - (C) countries which have indicated they do not have any plans for using the Classification in the foreseeable future.
3. The Annex contains only a summary of detailed replies. The full text of these replies is available on request.

4. Additional replies received by BIRPI will be published in the form of a supplement to this document.

/End of document CEP/V/12
The Annex follows/

ANNEX
to Document CEP/V/12

Survey on Use of International Patent Classification

A. Countries Using the Classification

- ALGERIA Using International Classification from early 1969.
- AUSTRALIA All sections to subclass level from May 1958. All sections to subgroup level starting in early 1970. Domestic patent documents only. Use of International Classification for foreign patent documents as far as classified according to IPC by country of origin.
- AUSTRIA All sections to subclass level, from 1966. All sections to subgroup level, starting September 1969. Domestic patent documents only.
- BELGIUM All sections to subclass level, from January 1955. Domestic patents only.
- CHILE Using International Classification from July 1969.
- CUBA Using International Classification from January 1969 as secondary classification.
- CZECHOSLOVAKIA Domestic patent applications:
All sections to subgroup level from July 1, 1969.
Domestic patents:
All sections to subgroup level from January 1, 1970. Reclassification of earlier granted domestic patents as soon as possible thereafter.
Use of International Classification for foreign patent documents as far as classified according to IPC by country of origin.
- DENMARK All sections to subclass level from May 1958.
To subgroup level:
Section A from July 1964
Section B from July 1967
Section C from October 1966
Section D from September 1967
Section E from March 1965
Section F from September 1967
Section G from July 1967
Section H from April 1966
Domestic patent documents only.

- FINLAND** All sections to subclass level back to 1944.
To subgroup level:
Section A from 1964
Section B from 1966
Section C from 1965
Section D from 1967
Section E from 1964
Section F from 1967
Section G from 1966
Section H from 1965
Published patent applications from 1968.
In 1970, classifying of all other back dated patents to subgroup level. Domestic patent documents only.
- FRANCE** All sections to subclass level from January 1955 and selected subclasses to group level from January 1968. Starting January 1969, all sections to group level. Domestic patent documents only.
- GHANA** Registers granted United Kingdom (UK) patents; classification therefore same as applied by UK.
- GERMANY**
(Fed. Republic) Selected classes to subgroup level from 1966. Complete conversion of all sections to subgroup level by 1972 for all domestic patent documents as well as patent documents from Austria, Belgium, France, Germany (Dem. Rep.), Switzerland, UK and USA.
- HUNGARY** Selected classes from January 1915. During 1969, all sections to subgroup level. Domestic patent documents only. Foreign patents classified according to classification appearing thereon.
- IRELAND** All sections to subclass level back to 1929. From March 1969, all sections to subgroup level. By December 1969, all patents back to 1927, to group level. Domestic patent documents only.
- ISRAEL** All sections to subclass level from 1963. All sections to subgroup level starting January 1969. Domestic and foreign patent documents.
- JAPAN** All sections to subclass level from July 1969. International Classification used as secondary classification on domestic patent documents only.

- KENYA Registers granted UK patents; classification therefore same as applied by UK.
- MALAWI All sections, selected classes to subclass level from 1964. Domestic patent documents only.
- MONACO International Classification is used.
- NETHERLANDS A substantial number of classes to subgroup level back to 1912.
Remaining classes to subgroup level as follows:
Section A from July 1965
Section E from August 1965
Section H from July 1966
Starting March 1969, all Dutch patent documents classified to subgroup level. Most classes to subgroup level of Belgian, French, German, Luxembourg, Swiss, UK and USA patent documents.
- NIGERIA Registers granted UK patents; classification therefore same as applied by UK.
- NORWAY Sections A to H to subclass level from 1956.
To subgroup level:
Sections A, C and E from January 1966
Sections B, D, F, G and H from September 1968.
Reclassification of Danish, Finnish, German and Swedish patent documents according to lists received from these countries.
- OAMPI All sections to class level from 1966. OAMPI patent documents only.
- PHILIPPINES Adoption of International Classification, initially to class level. Continues to work toward full conversion.
- RUMANIA All sections to subclass level from July 1962. From January 1970, to subgroup level. Domestic patent documents only. At present International Classification used as secondary classification. Intention to institute International Classification as primary classification.
- SINGAPORE Registers granted UK patents; classification therefore same as applied by UK.
- SOUTH AFRICA Use of International Classification from January 1968.

- SPAIN** All sections to subclass level from January 1967.
Domestic patent documents only.
- SWEDEN** All sections to subclass level from January 1958
to 1967.
To subgroup level:
Sections A and E from December 1965
Section H from May 1966
Section C from October 1966
Sections B, D, F and G from 1967.
Published patent applications from April 1968
Domestic patent documents only.
- SWITZERLAND** All sections to subclass level from April 1965.
To subgroup level:
Sections B, D and H from March 1968
Section C from August 1968
Sections A, E, F, and G from December 1968
All patent documents classified to subgroup level
from January 1969. Domestic patent documents
only.
- TURKEY** All sections to subclass level from June 1956.
- UNITED KINGDOM** All sections to subclass level from January 1957.
To subgroup level:
Section A from April 1965
Section B from August 1967
Section C from May 1966
Section D from November 1967
Section E from August 1965
Section F from November 1967
Section G from May 1967
Section H from November 1965
Domestic patent documents only.
- USA** All sections to subgroup level, from January 1969.
International Classification used as secondary
classification. Domestic patents only.

USSR Selected classes to subgroup level back to 1924. Additional classes to be reclassified to subgroup level during 1969, using 1924 as starting date. Domestic patent documents only. Selected classes to subgroup level of US patents from January 1965 and German (Fed. Rep.) patent documents from January 1964.

YUGOSLAVIA All sections to subclass level from 1965. Domestic patent documents only.

ZAMBIA International Classification is used.

B. Countries Intending to Use the Classification

INDIA From January 1970

IRAN International Classification considered for future use.

C. Countries Not Intending to Use the Classification

ARGENTINA	See Footnote	LUXEMBOURG
BURUNDI		MALTA
CANADA	See Footnote	MEXICO
CYPRUS		MOROCCO
COSTA RICA		NEW ZEALAND
GUATEMALA		SUDAN
IRAQ		SYRIA
JAMAICA		TANZANIA
JORDAN		TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
KOREA		UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC
LIBYA		

Footnote: Argentina noted that it was studying the feasibility of converting its domestic classification to the International Classification.

Canada indicated that it was preparing a concordance between its domestic classification and the International Classification in order to assess the cost involved in placing International Classification symbols on its domestic patents.