COOPRATIVE PATENT CLASSIFICATION

Prepared by USPTO and EPO

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| **Date** | **By** | **Version** | **Status** | **Modification** |
| Nov 8, 2016 | USPTO | 1.0 | Current | Creation |
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# Introduction

The purpose of this specification is to provide and document the content of the Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC) validity file to conform to all the CPC current scheme versions. The CPC validity file is a cumulative file of CPC symbols validity as from the start of CPC (2013.01). The CPC validity file resembles the IPC validity file as much as possible to facilitate reuse of existing programs.

The validity file specified by this document is produced by the CPC Publication team, each time when a new version of the CPC becomes available.

A single reference file is produced for the CPC. From this reference file different forms of the same file or of a subset of this file can be easily produced. In the following, “validity file” refers to the reference validity file.

The format of this file is XML i.e. primarily an exchange format aiming at easy interface between IT systems of different types and infrastructure independent.

This document precisely describes the information exchanged while limiting the presence of redundant information. It will use, wherever possible, reference to CPC public Website, <http://cpcinfo.org>.

# Validity file version

By convention the version of a validity file corresponds to the date of entry into force of a new CPC version at the end of a revision period.

# Content of the file

## Complete history of CPC symbol validity

The validity file contains:

* all valid symbols for the current version of the CPC,
* all symbols which were valid in previous versions of the CPC (including indexing codes, “2000” series)

## CPC validity object

The file contains a list of compound CPC validity objects, each including

* One CPC symbol
* Descriptive part of the CPC symbol
* Properties of the CPC symbol
* One indication of the time period during which the symbol validity did not change, which is open if the end of the symbol validity period is not reached.

### **Information hierarchy**

Since no CPC symbol applies at the section and class level, the first level where valid CPC symbols appear is the subclass level. For each CPC subclass, the validity file gives all valid CPC symbols and their history.

### **Descriptive part of the CPC symbol**

A valid CPC symbol includes

#### Subclass part

The subclass part is mandatory and includes:

* Section : A to H and Y
* Class: 01 to 99
* Subclass: A-HJ-NP-Z

#### Group part

The group part is optional and always includes:

* Main group: 1 to 2999

and

* Subgroup: 00 to 999999

### **Time segment**

The time segment is defined as period of time during which the symbol did not change. It is described using “From” and “To” validity dates of each concerned CPC symbol.

#### From validity date

First date of the CPC on which the symbol and its properties are valid.

#### To validity date

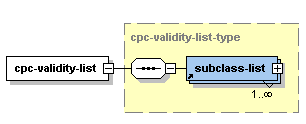
Last date on which the symbol or its properties are valid. The absence of the “To validity date” indicates that the symbol is valid in the current version of the validity file.

# Format

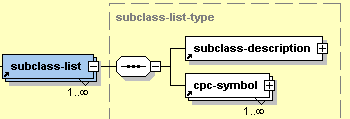
XML is used to facilitate the exchange of information. Therefore, this file is not expected to be opened entirely in an application (DOM model), but instead is expected to be parsed on the fly.

### **Tags**

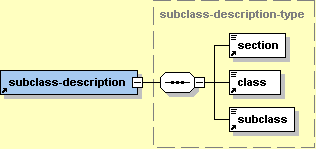
* The validity file is made of a set of subclass validity lists:



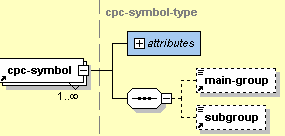
* Minimization of redundant information by factorization at subclass level: Each subclass list of valid symbols is described by one tag per subclass container (including the description of the subclass part of the contained symbols), and one tag for each valid symbol and its properties inside the subclass.



* The subclass description part is made of section, class, subclass:



* The <cpc-symbol > tag has the properties as attributes. It is made of optional main group (<main-group>), and subgroup (<subgroup>) tags. In the case of a subclass valid symbol, <main-group> and <subgroup> are absent:



### **Attributes**

Attributes are set for <cpc-symbol> tags:

* validity-date-from : Mandatory Value: valid date in YYYY-MM-DD format
* validity-date-to : Optional Value: valid date in YYYY-MM-DD format

# Samples: extracts of validity file for CPC 2016.11

### **Sample 1: Removing A47C 25/00, A47C25/02**

This example traces what happens to CPC 2016.08 symbols A47C25/00, in CPC 2016.11

The subclass part of the validity file is for example in A47C:

<subclass-description>

<section>A</section>

<class>47</class>

<subclass>C</subclass>

</subclass-description>

<CPC-symbol validity-date-from="2013-01-01" validity-date-to="2016-11-01" >

<main-group>25</main-group>

<subgroup>00</subgroup>

</CPC-symbol>

<CPC-symbol validity-date-from="2013-01-01" validity-date-to="2016-11-01 >

<main-group>25</main-group>

<subgroup>02</subgroup>

</CPC-symbol>

CPC Symbol A47C25/00 and A47C 25/02 were discontinued in 2016.11 version of CPC Scheme.

### **Sample 2: Adding A24B 15/167**

This example shows a newly added symbol

<subclass-description>

<section>A</section>

<class>24</class>

<subclass>B</subclass>

</subclass-description>

<CPC-symbol validity-date-from="2016-11-01>

<main-group>15</main-group>

<subgroup>167</subgroup>

</CPC-symbol>

End of document