

EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE
U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

CPC NOTICE OF CHANGES 1030

DATE: JANUARY 1, 2021

PROJECT MP0377

The following classification changes will be effected by this Notice of Changes:

<u>Action</u>	<u>Subclass</u>	<u>Group(s)</u>
SCHEME:		
Titles Changed:	B32B	9/00, 9/04
	B32B	11/04
	B32B	13/04
	B32B	15/04
	B32B	19/04
	B32B	21/04
	B32B	23/04, 23/046, 23/08
	B32B	25/00, 25/04, 25/042, 25/08
	B32B	27/00, 27/06, 27/08, 27/16, 27/32
	B32B	29/002, 29/005, 29/06
	B32B	37/144
	B32B	38/0008
	B32B	2260/00, 2260/04
Notes Deleted:	B32B	38/0008, 38/0012, 38/0036, 38/04, 38/164
Notes Modified:	B32B	Subclass
	B32B	3/10
	B32B	18/00
Guidance Headings Deleted:	B32B	2255/00
	B32B	2307/00
	B32B	2310/00
	B32B	2313/00
	B32B	2318/00
	B32B	2323/00
Guidance Headings New:	B32B	2250/00
	B32B	2305/00
	B32B	2309/00
	B32B	2311/00
	B32B	2317/00
	B32B	2319/00
DEFINITIONS:		
Definitions Deleted:	B32B	2260/00
Definitions New:	B32B	38/0008
Definitions Modified:	B32B	Subclass
	B32B	7/03, 9/00, 11/02, 13/02, 15/00, 15/01, 19/00, 19/02, 21/00, 23/00, 25/00, 25/02, 27/00, 27/30, 27/32, 27/36, 29/00, 38/00, 38/0032, 38/14, 39/00, 43/00

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No other subclasses/groups are impacted by this Notice of Changes.

This Notice of Changes includes the following *[Check the ones included]:*

1. CLASSIFICATION SCHEME CHANGES

- A. New, Modified or Deleted Group(s)
- B. New, Modified or Deleted Warning(s)
- C. New, Modified or Deleted Note(s)
- D. New, Modified or Deleted Guidance Heading(s)

2. DEFINITIONS

- A. New or Modified Definitions (Full definition template)
- B. Modified or Deleted Definitions (Definitions Quick Fix)

3. REVISION CONCORDANCE LIST (RCL)

4. CHANGES TO THE CPC-TO-IPC CONCORDANCE LIST (CICL)

5. CHANGES TO THE CROSS-REFERENCE LIST (CRL)

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1. CLASSIFICATION SCHEME CHANGES

A. New, Modified or Deleted Group(s)

SUBCLASS B32B - LAYERED PRODUCTS, i.e. PRODUCTS BUILT-UP OF STRATA OF FLAT OR NON-FLAT, e.g. CELLULAR OR HONEYCOMB, FORM

<u>Type*</u>	<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Indent Level Number of dots (e.g. 0, 1, 2)</u>	<u>Title</u> <u>“CPC only” text should normally be enclosed in {curly brackets}**</u>	<u>Transferred to#</u>
M	B32B 9/00	0	Layered products comprising a {layer of a} particular substance not covered by groups B32B 11/00 - B32B 29/00	
M	B32B 9/04	1	comprising such {particular} substance as the main or only constituent of a layer, {which is} next to another layer of {the same or of} a {different material (next to a glass layer B32B 17/06; layered products with at least two ceramic layers composed mainly of ceramic B32B 18/00)}	
M	B32B 11/04	1	comprising such {bituminous or tarry} substance as the main or only constituent of a layer, {which is} next to another layer of {the same or of} a {different material (next to a glass layer B32B 17/06)}	
M	B32B 13/04	1	comprising such {water setting} substance as the main or only constituent of a layer, {which is} next to another layer of {the same or of} a {different material (next to a glass layer B32B 17/06)}	
M	B32B 15/04	1	comprising metal as the main or only constituent of a layer, {which is} next to another layer of {the same or of} a {different material (next to a bituminous or tarry layer B32B 11/08; next to a water-setting substance layer B32B 13/06; next to a glass layer B32B 17/061; next to a cellulosic plastic layer B32B 23/042)}	
M	B32B 19/04	1	next to another layer of {the same or of} a {different material (next to a glass layer B32B 17/067)}	
M	B32B 21/04	1	comprising wood as the main or only constituent of a layer, {which is} next to another layer of {the same or of} a {different material (next to a layer of a particular substance B32B 9/042; next to a bituminous or tarry layer B32B 11/042; next to a water setting substance layer	

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<u>Type*</u>	<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Indent Level Number of dots (e.g. 0, 1, 2)</u>	<u>Title</u> <u>“CPC only” text should normally be enclosed in {curly brackets}**</u>	<u>Transferred to#</u>
			B32B 13/10; next to a metal layer B32B 15/10; next to a glass layer B32B 17/062; next to a layer formed of natural mineral fibres or particles B32B 19/042; next to a cellulosic plastic layer B32B 23/044)}	
M	B32B 23/04	1	comprising such {cellulosic plastic} substance as the main or only constituent of a layer, {which is} next to another layer of {the same or of} a {different material (next to a glass layer B32B 17/08)}	
M	B32B 23/046	2	{of natural rubber or synthetic rubber}	
M	B32B 23/08	2	of synthetic resin	
M	B32B 25/00	0	Layered products comprising{ a layer of} natural or synthetic rubber{ (fibrous or filamentary layer made of a natural or synthetic rubber B32B 5/02; particulate layer made of a natural or synthetic rubber B32B 5/16; foamed layer made of a natural or synthetic rubber B32B 5/18)}	
M	B32B 25/04	1	comprising rubber as the main or only constituent of a layer, {which is} next to another layer of {the same or of} a {different material (next to a layer of a particular substance B32B 9/043; next to a bituminous or tarry layer B32B 11/044; next to a water setting substance layer B32B 13/042; next to a metal layer B32B 15/06; next to a glass layer B32B 17/063; next to a layer formed of natural mineral fibres or particles B32B 19/043; next to a wood layer B32B 21/045; next to a cellulosic plastic layer B32B 23/046)}	
M	B32B 25/042	2	{of natural rubber or synthetic rubber}	
M	B32B 25/08	2	of synthetic resin	
M	B32B 27/00	0	Layered products comprising {a layer of} synthetic resin{ (fibrous or filamentary layer made of a synthetic resin B32B 5/02; particulate layer made of a synthetic resin B32B 5/16; foamed layer made of a synthetic resin B32B 5/18)}	

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<u>Type*</u>	<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Indent Level Number of dots (e.g. 0, 1, 2)</u>	<u>Title</u> <u>“CPC only” text should normally be enclosed in {curly brackets}**</u>	<u>Transferred to#</u>
M	B32B 27/06	1	as the main or only constituent of a layer, {which is} next to another layer of {the same or of} a {different material (next to a layer of a particular substance B32B 9/045; next to a bituminous or tarry layer B32B 11/046; next to a water setting substance layer B32B 13/12; next to a metal layer B32B 15/08; next to a glass layer B32B 17/10; next to a layer formed of natural mineral fibres or particles B32B 19/045; next to a wood layer B32B 21/08; next to a cellulosic plastic layer B32B 23/08; next to a natural or synthetic rubber layer B32B 25/08)}	
M	B32B 27/08	2	of synthetic resin	
M	B32B 27/16	1	specially treated, e.g. irradiated	
M	B32B 27/32	1	comprising polyolefins {(comprising vinyl (co)polymers or acrylic (co)polymers B32B 27/30)}	
M	B32B 29/002	1	{as the main or only constituent of a layer, which is next to another layer of the same or of a different material (next to a layer of a particular substance B32B 9/06; next to a bituminous or tarry layer B32B 11/06; next to a water-setting substance layer B32B 13/08; next to a metal layer B32B 15/12; next to a glass layer B32B 17/065; next to a layer formed of natural mineral fibres or particles B32B 19/046; next to a wood layer B32B 21/06; next to a cellulosic plastic layer B32B 23/06; next to a natural or synthetic rubber layer B32B 25/06; next to a synthetic resin layer B32B 27/10)}	
M	B32B 29/005	2	{next to another layer of paper or cardboard layer}	
M	B32B 29/06	1	specially treated, e.g. surfaced, parchmented	
M	B32B 37/144	2	{using layers with different mechanical or chemical conditions or properties, e.g. layers with different thermal shrinkage, layers under tension during bonding (constructional features for tensioning B32B 38/1825)}	

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<u>Type*</u>	<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Indent Level Number of dots (e.g. 0, 1, 2)</u>	<u>Title</u> <u>“CPC only” text should normally be enclosed in {curly brackets}**</u>	<u>Transferred to#</u>
M	B32B 38/0008	1	{Electrical discharge treatment, e.g. corona, plasma treatment; wave energy or particle radiation (heat treatment B32B 38/0036)}	
M	B32B 2260/00	0	Layered product comprising an impregnated, embedded, or bonded layer wherein the layer comprises an impregnation, embedding, or binder material	
M	B32B 2260/04	1	Impregnation, embedding, or binder material	

*N = new entries where reclassification into entries is involved; C = entries with modified file scope where reclassification of documents from the entries is involved; Q = new entries which are firstly populated with documents via administrative transfers from deleted (D) entries. Afterwards, the transferred documents into the Q entry will either stay or be moved to more appropriate entries, as determined by intellectual reclassification; T= existing entries with enlarged file scope, which receive documents from C or D entries, e.g. when a limiting reference is removed from the entry title; M = entries with no change to the file scope (no reclassification); D = deleted entries; F = frozen entries will be deleted once reclassification of documents from the entries is completed; U = entries that are unchanged.

NOTES:

- **No {curly brackets} are used for titles in CPC only subclasses, e.g. C12Y, A23Y; 2000 series symbol titles of groups found at the end of schemes (orthogonal codes); or the Y section titles. The {curly brackets} are used for 2000 series symbol titles found interspersed throughout the main trunk schemes (breakdown codes).
- U groups: it is obligatory to display the required “anchor” symbol (U group), i.e. the entry immediately preceding a new group or an array of new groups to be created (in case new groups are not clearly subgroups of C-type groups). Always include the symbol, indent level and title of the U group in the table above.
- All entry types should be included in the scheme changes table above for better understanding of the overall scheme change picture. Symbol, indent level, and title are required for all types.
- “Transferred to” column must be completed for all C, D, F, and Q type entries. F groups will be deleted once reclassification is completed.
- When multiple symbols are included in the “Transferred to” column, avoid using ranges of symbols in order to be as precise as possible.
- For administrative transfer of documents, the following text should be used: “< administrative transfer to XX>”, “<administrative transfer to XX and YY simultaneously>”, or “<administrative transfer to XX, YY ...and ZZ simultaneously>” when administrative transfer of the same documents is to more than one place.
- Administrative transfer to main trunk groups is assumed to be the source allocation type, unless otherwise indicated.
- Administrative transfer to 2000/Y series groups is assumed to be “additional information”.
- If needed, instructions for allocation type should be indicated within the angle brackets using the abbreviations “ADD” or “INV”: <administrative transfer to XX ADD> , <administrative transfer to XX INV>, or < administrative transfer to XX ADD, YY INV, ... and ZZ ADD simultaneously>.
- In certain situations, the “D” entries of 2000-series or Y-series groups may not require a destination (“Transferred to”) symbol, however it is required to specify “<no transfer>” in the “Transferred to” column for such cases.
- For finalisation projects, the deleted “F” symbols should have <no transfer> in the “Transferred to” column.
- For more details about the types of scheme change, see CPC Guide.

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C. New, Modified or Deleted Note(s)

SUBCLASS B32B - LAYERED PRODUCTS, i.e. PRODUCTS BUILT-UP OF STRATA OF FLAT OR NON-FLAT, e.g. CELLULAR OR HONEYCOMB, FORM

<u>Type*</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Old Note</u>	<u>New/Modified Note</u>
M	B32B	<p>3. In this subclass:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a film formed on a layer by spreading a substance thereon is not considered to constitute a layer itself if it serves only as an adhesive or its purpose is merely to finish a surface of a product; • groups designating products cover also methods or apparatus specially adapted for producing such products. <p>4. In this subclass, the following terms or expressions are used with the meanings indicated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "layer" is a sheet or strip or anything else having a small thickness relatively to its other dimensions which, together with at least one other layer, exists in a product, whether it pre-existed, e.g. as a separate sheet or strip, or was formed during the production of the layered product. It may or may not be homogeneous or cohesive; it may be an assembly of fibres or pieces of material. It may be discontinuous, e.g. in the form of a grating, honeycomb, or frame. It may or may not be in complete contact with the next layer, e.g. a corrugated layer against a flat layer; • "layered product" comprises at least two layers secured together. The term "secured" includes any method of uniting layers, e.g. needling, stitching, gluing, nailing, dovetailing or the interposition of an adhesive or adhesive impregnated support. It may also be an intermediate stage in the production of an article which is not layered in its final form, e.g. a 	<p><u>Replace</u> existing Notes 3, 4, and 5 with the following Notes 3 through 8.</p> <p>3. In this subclass:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a film formed on a layer by spreading a substance thereon is not considered to constitute a layer itself if it serves only as an adhesive or its purpose is merely to finish a surface of a product; • {with exclusion to B32B15/01 to B32B15/018, a coating formed directly onto a substrate layer is not considered to constitute a layer when at the moment of its contact with the substrate it does not have the form of a layer with the exception of layers that come under the meaning of Note (4). } • {groups designating products cover also methods or apparatus specially adapted for producing such products. } <p>4. In this subclass, the following terms or expressions are used with the meanings indicated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "layer" is a sheet or strip or anything else having a small thickness relatively to its other dimensions which, together with at least one other layer, exists in a product, whether it pre-existed, e.g. as a separate sheet or strip, or was formed during the production of the layered product{, e.g. formed in-situ as with casting, extrusion or moulding. It may be deformed out of the flat plane to form a three-

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<u>Type*</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Old Note</u>	<u>New/Modified Note</u>
		<p>panel with a protective layer which is stripped off when the panel is placed in its position of use. The layers are preformed layers or layers formed <u>IN SITU</u> on a preformed layer and may consist of coherent solid materials, including honeycombs and other cellular materials or of non-coherent solid materials composed of assemblies of strands, strips, fibres, tiles or the like;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "filamentary layer" means a layer of threads or filaments of any substance (e.g. wires) of more or less unlimited length placed in an orderly arrangement and secured together; it may be woven, knitted, braided, or netted, or formed of threads crossed or laid side by side and bonded together; • "fibrous layer" means a random assembly of fibres of limited length, e.g. felt, fleece; the fibres {being} interengaged or connected, e.g. by adhesive. <p>5. In this subclass,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The classification of layered products is provided for in many classes, most of which are confined to a particular kind of material. However, in order that this subclass may provide a basis for making a complete search with respect to layered products, all relevant subject matter is classified in this subclass even though it may also be classified in other classes. 	<p>dimensional shape}. It may or may not be homogeneous or cohesive; it may be an assembly of fibres or pieces of material. It may be discontinuous, e.g. in the form of a grating, honeycomb, or frame. It may or may not be in complete contact with the next layer, e.g. a corrugated layer against a flat layer;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "layered product" comprises at least two layers secured together. The term "secured" includes any method of uniting layers, e.g. needling, stitching, gluing, nailing, dovetailing or the interposition of an adhesive or adhesive impregnated support. It may also be an intermediate stage in the production of an article which is not layered in its final form, e.g. a panel with a protective layer {that} is stripped off when the panel is placed in its position of use. The layers are preformed layers or layers formed <u>IN SITU</u> on a preformed layer and may consist of coherent solid materials, including honeycombs and other cellular materials or of non-coherent solid materials composed of assemblies of strands, strips, fibres, tiles or the like; • "filamentary layer" means a layer of threads or filaments of any substance (e.g. wires) of more or less unlimited length placed in an orderly arrangement and secured together; it may be woven, knitted, braided, or netted, or formed of threads crossed or laid side by side and bonded together;

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<u>Type*</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Old Note</u>	<u>New/Modified Note</u>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "fibrous layer" means a random assembly of fibres or filaments, usually of limited length, e.g. felt, fleece; the fibres {being} interengaged or connected, e.g. by adhesive. <p>5. If a layered product is characterised by the way it is produced and not by its structure or composition, the production method should be classified in groups B32B 37/00 or B32B 38/00, or in subclass B29C, for example in groups B29C 45/16 or B29C 48/18.</p> <p>6. {In this subclass,}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The classification of layered products is provided for in many classes, most of which are confined to a particular kind of material. However, in order that this subclass may provide a basis for making a complete search with respect to layered products, all relevant subject matter is classified in this subclass even though it may also be classified in other classes. <p>7. {In groups B32B 37/00, B32B 38/00, B32B 41/00 and B32B 39/00, the following expressions are used with the meaning indicated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "lay-up" is considered to be the action of combining separate layers, one on top of the other, in order to form a half-product for entering the laminating process • "laminating" means the action of combining previously unconnected but possibly laid up layers to become one product whose layers will remain together; • "partial laminating" occurs when one layer does not fully cover a surface of another

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<u>Type*</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Old Note</u>	<u>New/Modified Note</u>
			<p>layer, whereby the layer with the greater surface area is laminated on only part of its surface or when two coextensive layers are bonded on only part of their facing surfaces;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "adhesive" means a substance applied in any state or in any manner, which has bonding properties.} <p>8. {In this subclass, combination sets [C-Sets] are used. The detailed information about the C-Sets construction and the associated syntax rules are found in the definitions of B32B. }</p>
M	B32B 3/10	In this group, a series of spaced separate elements forming in effect a broken surface should be regarded as a layer.	<p><u>Replace</u> the existing note with the following updated note.</p> <p>In this group, a series of spaced separate elements forming in effect a broken surface should {not} be regarded as a layer.</p>
M	B32B 18/00	In group B32B 18/00, from 01-10-2008 onwards, features relating to interlayers, additional compositional information or further processing are indexed with codes chosen from C04B 2237/00 - C04B 2237/88	<p><u>Replace</u> the existing note with the following updated note.</p> <p>{In group B32B 18/00, features relating to interlayers, additional compositional information or further processing are indexed with symbols chosen from C04B 2237/00 - C04B 2237/88 }</p>
D	B32B 38/0008	Laminate treatment is further indexed in group B32B 2310/00	<u>Delete</u> the entire existing note.
D	B32B 38/0012	When classifying in group B32B 38/0012, the treatment can be further classified into indexing codes chosen from B32B 2038/0016-B32B 2038/0028	<u>Delete</u> the entire existing note.
D	B32B 38/0036	When classifying in group B32B 38/0036, the heat treatment can be further indexed by using the indexing codes chosen from B32B 38/0036 and subgroups	<u>Delete</u> the entire existing note.

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<u>Type*</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Old Note</u>	<u>New/Modified Note</u>
D	B32B 38/04	When classifying in group B32B 38/04, the operation can be further indexed by using the indexing codes chosen from B32B 38/04 and subgroups	<u>Delete</u> the entire existing note.
D	B32B 38/164	When classifying in group B32B 38/164, the drying operation can be further indexed by using the indexing codes chosen from B32B 38/164 and subgroups	<u>Delete</u> the entire existing note.

*N = new note, M = modified note, D = deleted note

NOTE: The "Location" column only requires the symbol PRIOR to the location of the note. No further directions such as "before" or "after" are required.

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D. New, Modified or Deleted Guidance Heading(s)

SUBCLASS B32B - LAYERED PRODUCTS, i.e. PRODUCTS BUILT-UP OF STRATA OF FLAT OR NON-FLAT, e.g. CELLULAR OR HONEYCOMB, FORM

<u>Type*</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Old Guidance Heading</u>	<u>New/Modified Guidance Heading</u>
N	B32B 2250/00 - B32B 2274/00		<u>Insert</u> the following <u>new</u> Guidance Heading. Layer arrangements; Coating, impregnation or embedding of layers; Composition of fibres, particles or foam present on a layer; Resin or rubber layer containing a blend of polymers or recycled material
D	B32B 2255/00 - B32B 2274/00	Layer arrangements; Coating, impregnation or embedding of layers; Composition of fibres, particles or foam present on a layer; Resin or rubber layer containing a blend of polymers or recycled material	<u>Delete</u> the existing Guidance Heading.
N	B32B 2305/00 - B32B 2307/764		<u>Insert</u> the following <u>new</u> Guidance Heading. Condition, form, state or properties of the layers or laminate
D	B32B 2307/00 - B32B 2307/00	Condition, form, state or properties of the layers or laminate	<u>Delete</u> the existing Guidance Heading.
N	B32B 2309/00 - B32B 2310/14		<u>Insert</u> the following <u>new</u> Guidance Heading. Operating procedures; Apparatus details
D	B32B 2310/00 - B32B 2310/00	Operating procedures; Apparatus details	<u>Delete</u> the existing Guidance Heading.
N	B32B 2311/00 - B32B 2315/18		<u>Insert</u> the following <u>new</u> Guidance Heading. Inorganic materials used for the layers, laminate or apparatus components

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<u>Type*</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Old Guidance Heading</u>	<u>New/Modified Guidance Heading</u>
D	B32B 2313/00 - B32B 2315/00	Inorganic materials used for the layers, laminate or apparatus components	<u>Delete</u> the existing Guidance Heading.
N	B32B 2317/00 - B32B 2318/04		<u>Insert</u> the following <u>new</u> Guidance Heading. Other natural products or their composites used for the layers, laminate or apparatus components not provided for in groups B32B 2311/00 - B32B 2315/18 and B32B 2319/00 - B32B 2398/20
D	B32B 2318/00 -- B32B 2318/00	Other natural products or their composites used for the layers, laminate or apparatus components not provided for in groups B32B 2311/00 - B32B 2315/12 and B32B 2319/00 - B32B 2398/20	<u>Delete</u> the existing Guidance Heading.
N	B32B 2319/00 - B32B 2398/20		<u>Insert</u> the following <u>new</u> Guidance Heading. Organic materials used for the layers, laminate or apparatus components
D	B32B 2323/00 - B32B 2398/00	Organic materials used for the layers, laminate or apparatus components	<u>Delete</u> the existing Guidance Heading.

*N = new guidance heading, M =modified guidance heading, D = deleted guidance heading

NOTES:

- The "Location" column requires the symbol AFTER the guidance heading location. No further directions such as "before" or "after" are required.
- In cases where there may be confusion as to whether a new group falls within the scope of a guidance heading, indicate the guidance heading and whether the group does or does not go with the guidance heading. This can be included in the "Location" column. For example, the guidance heading "Compounds containing carbon together with sulfur, selenium or tellurium with or without hydrogen, halogens, oxygen or nitrogen" encompasses groups C07C 301/00-395/00 only. If a new group C07C 398/00 is proposed and is included in the guidance heading scope, indicate this in the "Location" column as follows: 398/00 to be included under the guidance heading: "Compounds containing carbon together with sulfur, selenium or tellurium with or without hydrogen, halogens, oxygen or nitrogen."

2. A. DEFINITIONS (new)

Insert the following new definition.

B32B 38/0008

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Heat treatment	B32B 38/0036
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Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Surface shaping	B29C 59/00
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Special rules of classification

Laminate treatment is additionally classified in groups B32B 2310/00 - B32B 2310/14.

2. A. DEFINITIONS (modified)

Modify the following definitions.

B32B

Definition statement

Replace: In the first paragraph of the “Definition statement”, the word “which” with the following word:

that

Relationships with other classification places

Replace: All text in the “Relationships with other classification places” section with the following text.

Classification of layered products is provided for in many technical areas, most of which are confined to a particular kind of material. However, in order that this subclass may provide a basis for making a complete search with respect to layered products, any layered product that specifies relevant useful information is classified in this subclass even though it may also be classified in other classes.

Classification in other areas should be made in the following situations:

- If the process or apparatus used in, or used in connection with, the production or treatment of any product is fully classifiable in a single other class or subclass for processes or apparatuses, e.g. B05, B29C, B44D, C08J, or C23, then classification should be made in the appropriate process or apparatus area.
- If a composition or preparation or treatment thereof is not essentially restricted to a layered product, then classification should be made in the appropriate composition, preparation, or treatment area.
- Adhesive tape, film or sheet comprising a single layer substrate, an adhesive coating not constituting a layer (see glossary of terms below), and a single layer liner or sheet should be classified only in the appropriate areas, e.g. C09J.

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- If a product is fully classifiable in another area such as A61F 13/00 (e.g. absorbents), C09J 7/00 (e.g. adhesive tapes), C22C26/00, C22C29/00, and C22C32/00 (e.g. Alloys), H05K (e.g. Printed circuits) or G02B [excluding G02B6/00] (e.g. Optical elements), then classification should be made in the appropriate other area.

Special rules of classification

Replace: All of the text in the “Special rules of classification” section with the following updated text.

Classification guidance:

- If the invention is characterised by several aspects, e.g. surface structure and/or material of the layer(s) or production method, several classification symbols are given.
- Layers with mixtures of essential materials covered by two or more subgroups are classified in each appropriate subgroup.
- When layer materials are generally too defined or too many possibilities are disclosed, then subgroups corresponding to the materials indicated in the examples are allocated. In the absence of examples, the pertinent more general main groups or subgroups are allocated.
- If a layered product is characterised by the way it is produced and not by its structure or composition, the production method should be classified in groups [B32B 37/00](#) or [B32B 38/00](#), or in other subclasses, e.g. [B29C](#), for example in groups [B29C 45/16](#) or [B29C 48/18](#).
- Coating operations are classified in [B32B 2037/243](#) as long as a lamination process as defined in [B32B 37/00](#) is present.

Allocation of Indexing symbols:

The following Orthogonal Indexing Symbols are mandatory in this subclass:

- [B32B 2250/00](#) - [B32B 2274/00](#), which are used in connection with

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B32B 1/00 - B32B 15/00 (with the exception of B32B 15/01), B32B 17/00 and B32B 19/00 – B32B 29/00;

- B32B 2305/00 and B32B 2309/00 - B32B 2398/00, which are used in connection with B32B 17/00 and B32B 33/00 - B32B 43/00;
- B32B 2307/00 (properties) and B32B 2405/00 - B32B 2607/00 (particular articles), which are used in connection with the whole subclass B32B with the exception of B32B 15/01 and B32B 18/00.

Breakdown Indexing symbols, e.g. B32B 2037/0061 or B32B 2038/0016, are used for additional classification in B32B 37/00 – B32B 43/00.

Combination Sets (C-Sets):

In this subclass, C-Sets classification is applied to the following groups, listed in the table below, if the document discloses a pertinent combination of technical features that cannot be covered by the allocation of a single symbol. The fourth column of the table indicates the place where the detailed information about the C-Sets construction and the associated syntax rules can be found, in the definition section “Special rules of classification”.

<u>C-Sets ID</u>	<u>Base Symbols</u>	<u>Subsequent Symbols</u>	<u>C-Sets Formula; Location of C-Sets Rules</u>
#B32Ba	B32B 17/10005	B32B 2319/00 – B32B 2386/00	(B32B 17/10005, B32B 2319/00 – B32B 2386/00), laminated safety glass structure comprising a polymeric intermediate layer sandwiched between interlayers, and the polymeric material of the polymeric intermediate layer; see B32B 17/10005.

The specific C-Sets rule is located at only one place of the base symbol in the section “Special rules of classification” in the definition. If the C-Sets rule is applicable to all groups of a subclass, it is located at the subclass level only. If the same C-Sets rule is

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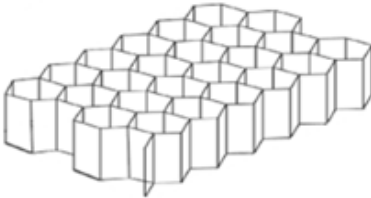
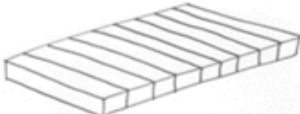
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applicable to multiple groups or subgroups within the same subclass, the C-Sets rule is placed at the highest group or subgroup of the multiple groups.

Glossary of terms

Replace: The entire “Glossary of terms” table with the following updated table and Glossary of terms text located below the table.

In this place, the following terms or expressions are used with the meaning indicated:

Adhesive	Substance applied in any state or in any manner that has bonding properties.
Coating	A coating in the sense of B32B is obtained by processes such as: (A) Brushing, flowing, spraying, dipping or doctor blading a solution or dispersion; (B) Sputtering, vapour/plasma/vacuum depositing; (C) Deposition of loose particles or fibres, e.g. by sprinkling, flocking, air laying; and (D) Deposition of fibres/pulp/particles in a wet slurry as in paper making (wet laying).
Discontinuous layer	<p>A layer formed of separate pieces of material having both a physical discontinuity and a continuous path through each of its major directions (e.g. x and y, or length and width). Examples include a grating, a honeycomb, a frame, or separate pieces of material that are juxtaposed side-by-side. Examples of discontinuous layers are as follows:</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Figure A</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Figure B</p> </div> </div>

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Embedded layer	A layer that is set, surrounded, enveloped, or enclosed in an impregnating material, mass of plastic or similar substance that penetrates and/or lies on side edges of the layer.
Fibrous layer	Random assembly of fibres or filaments, usually of limited length, e.g. felt or fleece, the fibres being interengaged or connected, e.g. by adhesive.
Filamentary layer	Layer of threads, filaments, tapes or ribbons of any substance (including wires) of more or less unlimited length secured together; it may be, e.g. woven, knitted, braided, netted, spunbonded, or formed of threads or filaments crossed or laid side by side and bonded together.
Film	Within B32B, a film that is formed by extrusion or moulding or that is formed as a self-supporting transfer coating is a layer. A film that is formed in-situ by coating is not considered to be a layer within the scope of B32B.
Impregnated layer	A layer that is at least partially filled by a material and has been obtained by permeating or saturating at least a part of the layer with a liquid substance, e.g. dispersions, uncured polymer, melted or molten polymer, glass, metals, settable compositions.
Juxtaposed side-by-side	In direct contact or with a bonding material, e.g. adhesive or mortar, in between.
Laminating	Laminating is the action of combining previously unconnected, but possibly laid up, layers to become one product whose layers will remain together.
Lay-up	Lay-up is the action of combining separate layers, one on top of the other, in order to form a half-product for entering the laminating process.
Layer	Sheet, strip or stratum having a small thickness relative to its other dimensions. It may be deformed out of the flat plane to form a three-dimensional shape; it may or may not be homogeneous or cohesive; it may be an assembly of fibres or pieces of material. It may be discontinuous, e.g. in the form of a grating or a honeycomb. It may or may not be in complete contact with the next layer, e.g. a corrugated layer against a flat layer. The layer has to have one of the following forms:

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	<p>(1) Preformed layer, i.e. taking the form of a layer at some stage before being brought into combination with another layer; (2) Layer formed in-situ, i.e. taking the form of a layer while or after being brought into combination with another layer. Additional explanations of (1) Preformed layer and (2) Layer formed in-situ are located following the Glossary of Terms. In B32B, with the exception of B32B 15/01 - B32B 15/018, the following is excluded from the definition of a layer: A coating formed directly onto a substrate layer, which at the moment of its contact with the substrate does not have the form of a layer (unless the coating falls within the definition of (2) Layer formed in-situ as further explained below after the Glossary of Terms).</p>
Layered product	<p>Product comprising at least two superposed layers secured together; the term "secured" is to be interpreted broadly to include any method of uniting or securing the layers, e.g. needling, stitching, gluing, nailing, dovetailing, welding or the interposition of an adhesive or adhesive-impregnated support. Products wherein layers are obtained by co-extrusion or by simultaneous injection moulding of materials are included in this definition. It also encompasses two layers of ceramic powders that are pressed together in a press. It may also be an intermediate stage in the production of an article which is not layered in its final form, e.g. a panel with a protective layer that is stripped off when the panel is placed in its position of use. It is normally of substantially uniform thickness overall, i.e. ignoring local variations such as are produced by a corrugated face layer. The layered product may be in the form of an article, e.g. a container.</p>
Next to	With no other layer being interposed.
Partial laminating	<p>Partial laminating occurs (1) when one layer does not fully cover a surface of another layer, whereby the layer with the greater surface area is laminated on only part of its surface, or (2) when two coextensive layers are bonded on only part of their facing surfaces.</p>
Particulate layer	<p>Preformed layer of particles, e.g. chips, powder, granules, flakes, in which the particles are bonded together, e.g. sintered or by a binder.</p>

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Spaced fabric	A fabric that includes at least two outer fabrics joined together by connecting yarns that create an intermediate gap between the outer fabrics, to form a three-dimensional fabric. The spaced fabric can be a single layer or multiple layers. (1) A spaced fabric is considered a single layer for B32B when woven or knit fabrics are produced in a single step wherein the yarns simultaneously form a fabric that comprises outer plies with middle connecting (spacer) yarns. (2) A spaced fabric is considered to include multiple layers for B32B when the fabric is made from at least two preformed fabrics that are joined together with connecting yarns to create a laminate structure with a space between the outer fabrics.
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Glossary of Terms - Layer (continued)

The layer has to have one of the forms defined hereunder:

Preformed layers

Preformed layer, i.e. taking the form of a layer at some stage before being brought into combination with another layer. Preformed layers include:

- coherent solid layers including honeycombs or similar layer of regularly arranged cells;
- non-coherent solid layers consisting of assemblies of strands, strips, tiles or like elements, which are juxtaposed side-by-side;
- fleeces or fabrics (including spaced fabrics);
- preformed paper webs;
- doughs which are cast onto a plate to form a solid sheet when set (including set mortars, cements and concretes);
- self-supporting pre-moulded layers, e.g. pre-extruded, pre-cast;
- self-supporting transfer coatings.

Layers formed in-situ

Layers formed in-situ, i.e. taking the form of a layer while or after being brought into combination with another layer. Layers formed in-situ include:

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- layer formed by casting, extrusion or moulding (e.g. injection, rotational process) of a melt material;
- by assembling strands, strips, tiles or like elements juxtaposed side-by-side onto a preformed layer;
- fleeces and fabrics formed onto a preformed layer and bonded or impregnated into a cohesive sheet, e.g. spunbonded fabric;
- mortars, cements and concrete layers formed onto a preformed layer.

Synonyms and Keywords

Replace: The entire “Synonyms and Keywords” section with the following updated preamble and text.

In patent documents, the following words/expressions are often used as synonyms:

- “Synthetic rubber,” “thermosetting synthetic rubber”
- “Layer of particles,” “layer formed of particles,” “layer made of particles”
- “Layer of fibres,” “layer formed of fibres,” “layer made of fibres”
- “Spaced fabric,” “three-dimensional fabric,” “3-D fabric,” “spacer fabric”

B32B 7/03

Insert: The following new “Limiting references” section.

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Direction of fibres or filaments	B32B 5/12
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B32B 9/00

Limiting references

Delete: The entire existing “Limiting references” section.

Informative references

Insert: The following three new rows in the existing “Informative references” table.

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Layered products characterised by having a fibrous or filamentary layer made of a substance not covered by groups B32B 11/00 - B32B 17/00 or B32B 19/00 - B32B 29/00	B32B 5/02, B32B 2262/00 - B32B 2262/14
Layered products characterized by having a particulate layer made of a substance not covered by groups B32B 11/00 - B32B 17/00 or B32B 19/00 - B32B 29/00	B32B 5/16, B32B 2264/00 - B32B 2264/12
Layered products characterised by having a foamed layer made of a substance not covered by groups B32B 11/00 - B32B 17/00 or B32B 19/00 – B32B 29/00	B32B 5/18, B32B 2266/00 - B32B 2266/14

Replace: In the “Informative references” table, only the text in the first column with the following revised text.

Products comprising at least two ceramic layers	B32B 18/00
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B32B 11/02

Limiting references

Delete: The entire existing “Limiting references” section.

Insert: The following new “Informative references” section.

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Product characterised by a fibrous or filamentary layer embedded or impregnated in a bituminous substance	B32B 5/02, B32B 2260/042
Product characterised by a particulate layer embedded or impregnated in a bituminous substance	B32B 5/16, B32B 2260/042

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Special rules of classification

Replace: The two statements in the “Special rules of classification” section with the following updated text.

- The nature of the fibres or filaments is classified in [B32B 2262/00](#).
- The nature of the particles is classified in [B32B 2264/00](#).

B32B 13/02

Limiting references

Delete: The entire existing “Limiting references” section.

Insert: The following new “Informative references” section.

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Product characterised by a fibrous or filamentary layer embedded or impregnated in a water-setting substance	B32B 5/02 , B32B 2260/044
Product characterised by a particulate layer embedded or impregnated in a water-setting substance	B32B 5/16 , B32B 2260/044

Special rules of classification

Replace: The text in the “Special rules of classification” section with the following updated text.

- The nature of the fibres or filaments is classified in [B32B 2262/00](#).
- The nature of the particles is classified in [B32B 2264/00](#).

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B32B 15/00

Definition statement

Replace: The entire “Definition statement” section, with the following updated text.

Layered products characterised by having a continuous or discontinuous metal layer.

Limiting references

Delete: The entire existing “Limiting references” section.

Informative references

Insert: The following three new rows in the “Informative references” table.

Layered products characterised by having a metallic fibrous or filamentary layer	B32B 5/02 , B32B 2262/103
Layered products characterised by having a metallic particulate layer	B32B 5/16 , B32B 2264/105
Layered products characterised by having a metallic foamed layer	B32B 5/18 , B32B 2266/045

Special rules of classification

Replace: The text in the “Special rules of classification” section with the following updated text.

Coating on a metallic layer is classified with an appropriate Indexing symbol in [B32B 2255/00](#)

B32B 15/01

Relationships with other classification places

Replace: In the existing “Relationships with other classification places” section the word “which” with the word:

that

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Insert: The following new “Limiting references” section.

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Making layered metal workpieces by pressure cladding	B23K 20/22
Making coatings with a metallic material characterised by its composition	C23C 30/00

Informative references

Delete: The following two rows from the “Informative references” table.

Soldering/welding, roll cladding, pressure cladding	B23K
Coatings /Sputtering targets	C23C, C23C 14/00

Special rules of classification

Replace: The entire “Special rules of classification” section with the following updated text.

- In metallic layered products having layer(s) of a specific composition, in addition to classification in B32B 15/01, the composition of each layer is classified in C22C (C22C 5/00 - C22C 45/00).
- When the layered product is produced by a specifically described method (examples, claims) then the method is classified as well (B22F, C23C, B23K, C25D, B21B, etc.).
- When the layered product is intended for a particular use then the use is classified as well (see informative references for illustrative uses).
- Galvanized steels having a specific composition of a substrate and/or of the Zn layer are classified in B32B15/013.

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- Brazing sheets/composite materials (e.g. for heat exchangers) with all layers formed of aluminium or aluminium alloys are classified in [B32B15/016](#).
- A layered product consisting of a layer of steel, a layer of aluminium alloy and a layer of Ni alloy will be classified in both other [B32B15/012](#) and [B32B15/015](#).

B32B 19/00

Definition statement

Replace: In the Definition statement section, the word “characterized” with the following.

characterised

Limiting references

Delete: The entire existing “Limiting references” section.

Insert: The following new “Informative references” section.

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Layered products characterised by having a layer of rockwool fibres	B32B 5/02 , B32B 2262/108
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Special rules of classification

Replace: The text in the “Special rules of classification” section with the following updated text.

Product features classified in this group are also classified in [B32B 5/00](#).

B32B 19/02

Delete: The entire existing “Limiting references” section.

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Insert: The following new “Informative references” section.

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Products characterised by a plastic layer with natural mineral fibres or particles being present as additives	B32B 25/02 , B32B 27/18
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B32B 21/00

Special rules of classification

Replace: The text in the “Special rules of classification” section with the following updated text.

- Coating on a wood layer is classified with an appropriate Indexing symbol in [B32B 2255/00](#).
- Impregnation of a wood layer is classified with an appropriate Indexing symbol in [B32B 2260/00](#).

B32B 23/00

Limiting references

Delete: The entire existing Limiting references section.

Insert: The following new “Informative references” section.

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Products characterised by having fibrous or filamentary layer made of a cellulosic plastic substance	B32B 5/02 , B32B 2262/00 - B32B 2262/14
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Layered products characterised by having a particulate layer made of a cellulosic plastic substance	B32B 5/16, B32B 2264/00 - B32B 2264/12
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Special rules of classification

Delete: The entire “Special rules of classification” section.

B32B 25/00

Definition statement

Replace: In the Definition statement section, the word “characterized” with the following.

characterised

Insert: The following new “Relationships with other classification places” section.

Relationships with other classification places

- Layered products characterised by having a fibrous or filamentary layer made of a natural or synthetic rubber are classified in B32B5/00 and in B32B 2262/00 – B32B 2262/14.
- Layered products characterised by having a particulate layer made of a natural or synthetic rubber are classified in B32B5/00 and in B32B 2264/0207.
- Layered products characterised by having a foamed layer made of a natural or synthetic rubber are classified in B32B 5/00 and in B32B 2266/0207.

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Limiting references

Replace: Only the symbols, in the second column of the Limiting references table, with the following updated symbols.

Layered products characterised by having a fibrous or filamentary layer made of a natural or synthetic rubber	B32B 5/02
Layered products characterised by having a particulate layer made of a natural or synthetic rubber	B32B 5/16
Layered products characterised by having a foamed layer made of a natural or synthetic rubber	B32B 5/18

Informative references

Insert: The following new row in the existing “Informative references” table.

Layered product having a layer comprised of a thermoplastic elastomer	B32B 2274/00
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Special rules of classification

Replace: The existing text in the “Special rules of classification” section with the following updated text.

- Layered products wherein all layers are polymeric are classified in [B32B 2250/24](#).
- Coating on a layer of natural or synthetic rubber is classified with an appropriate Indexing symbol in [B32B 2255/00](#).

[B32B 25/02](#)

Limiting references

Delete: The entire existing Limiting references section.

Relationships with other classification places

Insert: The following new “Relationships with other classification places” section.

Relationships with other classification places

- Products characterised by a fibrous or filamentary layer embedded or impregnated in a natural or synthetic rubber are classified in B32B 5/02 and B32B 2260/048.
- Products characterised by a particulate layer embedded or impregnated in a natural or synthetic rubber are classified in B32B 5/16 and B32B 2260/048.

Special rules of classification

Replace: The existing text in the “Special rules of classification” section with the following updated text.

- The nature of the fibres or filaments present as additives is classified in B32B 2262/00.
- The nature of the particles present as additives is classified in B32B 2264/00.

B32B 27/00

Definition statement

Replace: In the Definition statement section, the word “characterized” with the following word.

characterised

Insert: The following new “Relationships with other classification places” section.

Relationships with other classification places

- Layered products characterised by having a fibrous or filamentary layer made of synthetic resin are classified in B32B5/00 and in B32B 2262/00 - B32B 2262/14.
- Layered products characterised by having a particulate layer made of a synthetic resin are classified in B32B5/00 and in B32B 2264/00 - B32B 2264/12.
- Layered products characterised by having a foamed layer made of a synthetic resin are classified in B32B5/00 and in B32B 2266/00 - B32B 2266/14.

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Limiting references

Replace: In the “Limiting references” table, the existing rows with the following updated rows.

Layered products characterised by having a fibrous or filamentary layer made of synthetic resin	B32B 5/02
Layered products characterised by having a particulate layer made of a synthetic resin	B32B 5/16
Layered products characterised by having a foamed layer made of a natural or synthetic rubber	B32B 5/18

Special rules of classification

Replace: In the “Special rules of classification” section all of the existing text with the following updated text.

- A layer of thermoplastic elastomer is classified in B32B 2274/00 and also at the appropriate place in B32B27/00 if the nature of the polymer is also known or specified.
- Layered products wherein all layers are polymeric are classified in B32B 2250/24.
- Coating on a layer of synthetic resin is classified with an appropriate Indexing symbol in B32B 2255/00.

B32B 27/30

Special rules of classification

Replace: In the “Special rules of classification” section the existing text with the following updated text.

Layered products wherein all layers are made of polymers belonging to B32B 27/30 and B32B 27/32 are classified in B32B 2250/246.

B32B 27/32

Insert: The following new Limiting references section.

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Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Layer comprising a layer of synthetic resin comprising vinyl (co)polymers or acrylic (co)polymers	B32B 5/02
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Special rules of classification

Replace: In the “Special rules of classification” section the existing text with the following updated text.

- Layered products wherein all layers are made of polymers belonging to [B32B 27/32](#) are classified in [B32B 2250/242](#).
- Layered products wherein all layers are made of polymers belonging to [B32B 27/30](#) and [B32B 27/32](#) are classified in [B32B 2250/246](#).

B32B 27/36

Special rules of classification

Replace: In the “Special rules of classification” section the existing text with the following updated text.

Layered products wherein all layers are made of polymers belonging to [B32B 27/36](#) are classified in [B32B 2250/244](#).

B32B 29/00

Special rules of classification

Replace: In the “Special rules of classification” section the existing text with the following updated text.

- Layered products wherein all layers are made of paper or paperboard are classified in [B32B2250/26](#).
- Coating on a paper or paperboard layer is classified with an appropriate Indexing symbol in [B32B2255/00](#).
- Impregnation of a paper or paperboard layer is classified with an appropriate Indexing symbol in [B32B2260/00](#).

B32B 38/00

Limiting references

Delete: The entire “References/ Limiting references” section.

Insert: The following new “Relationships with other classification places” section.

Relationships with other classification places

Operations implemented on layered products not in connection with the lamination process are classified in B32B 43/00 or in fields related to said operations.

B32B 38/0032

Insert: The following new “Limiting references” section.

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Punching, slitting or perforating	B32B 38/04
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B32B 38/14

Informative references

Delete: In the “Informative references” table the words “per se” so the reference reads as shown below.

Printing	B41M
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B32B 39/00

Replace: The existing text in the “Definition statement” section with the following updated text.

The layout of stations in a manufacturing line.

B32B 43/00

Limiting references

Delete: The entire “Limiting references” section.

Insert: The following new “Informative references” section.

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Operations carried out during or in connection with lamination process	B32B 37/00 , B32B 38/00
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Glossary of terms

Insert: A “period” at the end of the text in the second column of the “Glossary of terms” section.

Specially adapted for layered products	The layered structure of the product governs the operations or the apparatus structure.
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B32B 2260/00

Delete: The entire B32B 2260/00 definition.