EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE

U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

CPC NOTICE OF CHANGES 1427

DATE: MAY 1, 2023

PROJECT RP11671

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

Action	**Subclass**	**Group(s)**
SCHEME:		
Symbols New:	B32B	2307/737, 2307/7375, 2307/7376
Title Changed:	B32B	2605/006
DEFINITIONS:		
Definitions Modified:	B32B	Subclass
	B32B	17/00, 17/10005

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

Type*	Symbol	Indent Level Number of dots (e.g. 0, 1, 2)	Title "CPC only" text should normally be enclosed in {curly brackets}**	Transferred to#
U	B32B 2307/736	4	Shrinkable	
N	B32B 2307/737	3	Dimensions, e.g. volume or area	
N	B32B 2307/7375	4	Linear, e.g. length, distance or width	
N	B32B 2307/7376	5	Thickness	
M	B32B 2605/006	1	Transparent parts other than made from inorganic glass, e.g. polycarbonate glazings	

*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 finalization 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.

2. A. DEFINITIONS (modified)

B32B

Special rules of classification

Replace: The second bullet point so that the below Special rules paragraph appears as follows:

Allocation of Indexing symbols:

The following Orthogonal Indexing Symbols are mandatory in this subclass:

- B32B2250/00 - B32B2274/00, which are used in connection with B32B1/00 - B32B15/00 (with the exception of B32B15/01), B32B17/00 and B32B19/00 - B32B29/00;
- B32B2305/00 and B32B2309/00 - B32B2398/00, which are used in connection with B32B17/10005 - B32B17/1099 and B32B33/00 - B32B43/00;
- B32B2307/00 (properties) and B32B2405/00 - B32B2607/00 (particular articles), which are used in connection with the whole subclass B32B with the exception of B32B15/01 and B32B18/00.

Glossary of terms

Insert: The sentence “Coatings are not considered defined B32B layers (see definition of Layer below).” at the end of the existing table row text so that it reads as follows:

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). Coatings are not considered defined B32B layers (see definition of Layer below).

Insert: The phrase “and interlayers/composite interlayers proper for B32B17/10005 - B32B17/1099” into the existing table row text so that it reads as follows:

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: (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 B32B15/01 - B32B15/018 and interlayers/composite interlayers proper for B32B17/10005 - B32B17/1099, 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).

Synonyms and Keywords

Replace: The existing Synonyms and Keywords text with the following revised text:

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

B32B 17/00

Definition statement

Replace: The existing Definition statement text with the following revised text:

Layered products comprising:

- inorganic glass in sheet or film form, fibres of glass or slag secured to another layer of inorganic glass;
- glass in the form of a sheet or film bonded with a transparent synthetic resin to another transparent layer; and
- laminated glazings.

References

Application-oriented references

Delete: The following row from the Application-oriented references table:

Aircraft windows	B64C 1/14

Insert: The following new row into the Application-oriented references table:

Canopies; windscreens or similar transparent elements for aircraft	B64C 1/1476

Special rules of classification

Replace: The existing Special rules text with the following revised text:

- B32B17/00 requires that the layered product comprises at least one glass layer and at least one layer of another material; a layered product comprising both a glass layer and a glass fibre layer is classified in both B32B17/02 (or B32B17/04) and B32B17/06.
- The layer adjacent to the glass layer is specified by classifying in one of the appropriate groups selected in the range B32B17/06 - B32B17/10005.
- Layered products comprising a layer of glass next to a layer of synthetic resin are classified in B32B17/10.
- Layered products comprising a layer of glass next to a layer of synthetic resin that are considered to be laminated safety glass or glazing are classified in B32B17/10005 and its subgroups.
- The layer of synthetic resin is further specified in B32B17/1055 and its subgroups when it is used as an interlayer to create the laminated safety glass or glazing. The resin interlayer or all components of a composite interlayer are to be considered a layer proper for B32B and can be made by any process, including a coating process.
- B32B17/10005 - B32B17/1099, a layer of organic glass is not considered as a glass layer but as a synthetic resin layer which is classified using orthogonal Indexing symbols selected from the groups B32B2319/00 - B32B2386/00 allocated as single symbols or in C-Sets as explained in B32B17/10005.

Glossary of terms

Insert: The following new row into the Glossary of terms table:

Composite interlayer	A composite laminate that binds the inorganic glass layer to another inorganic glass layer or the durable polymeric sheet or film of the laminated safety glass or glazing. The composite interlayer comprises at least one interlayer and may also comprise an intermediate layer and/or a functional layer.

Replace: The text in the second column of the following table row so that it appears as follows:

Laminated safety glass or glazing, safety glazing, laminated glazing	Inorganic glass layer in sheet form bonded to another inorganic glass layer in sheet form or to a durable polymeric sheet or film via a resin interlayer, and wherein the interlayer keeps the laminated safety glass or glazing bonded even when struck or broken, preventing the glass from shattering.

B32B 17/10005

Definition statement

Replace: The existing Definition statement text with the following revised text:

Layered products comprising at least one inorganic glass layer in sheet form next to a layer of synthetic resin; wherein the glass sheet is permanently bonded to at least one further glass layer in sheet form or a durable polymeric sheet or film via the layer of synthetic resin as a resin interlayer, and wherein the interlayer keeps the laminated safety glass or glazing bonded even when struck or broken, preventing the glass from shattering.

Relationships with other classification places

Insert: The text ", head-up displays (G02B27/01)" after "(F41H5/0407)" so that the complete Relationships text appears as follows:

Laminated safety glass or glazing is used for automotive and transport applications (automotive windows in general B60J1/00), for architectural purposes (E06B3/54 or E04F13/15), transparent armour (F41H5/0407), head-up displays (G02B27/01) and photovoltaic modules (H01L31/048).

References

Application-oriented references

Insert: The following two new rows into the Application-oriented references table:

Head-up displays	G02B27/01
Photovoltaic modules	H01L31/048

Special rules of classification

Replace: The entire existing Special rules section with the following revised text:

Laminated safety glass comprising at least one layer of inorganic glass, a resin interlayer and an external layer of a synthetic polymeric sheet or film is classified using the appropriate group selected from B32B17/10009 - B32B17/1099 together with the B32B2319/00 - B32B2386/00 orthogonal Indexing symbol that designates the polymeric material of said external polymer layer as a single symbol.

The presence of resin interlayers, their properties and/or their compositions are further specified in groups B32B17/1055 - B32B17/10798.

The resin interlayer or all components of a composite interlayer are to be considered a layer proper for B32B and can be made by any process, including a coating process.

If relevant, an allocation in B32B2250/02 - B32B2250/05 may be applied to classify the total number of layers in the composite interlayer, i.e. the total number of interlayers, intermediate layers and functional layers. For example, the laminated glazing shown in the figure of the third C-set example would be proper for B32B2250/03, which covers three layers, not B32B2250/05, which covers five layers, because of the three layers of the composite interlayer.

A laminated safety glass or glazing to be used in a head-up display should be classified in B32B2457/20 and not B32B2551/00.

If relevant, particles that are present in the glass layers, the durable polymer sheet, the intermediate layers and/or the resin interlayers can be classified in B32B2264/00 - B32B2264/504.

A laminated safety glass or glazing proper for B32B17/10009 - B32B17/1099 should not be separately classified in B32B27/00 - B32B27/42. Additional classification in B32B27/00 - B32B27/42 is only required when the laminated safety glass or glazing has (1) a further polymeric layer externally attached to the laminated safety glass or glazing; or (2) the composite interlayer is disclosed for separate use not in the form of a laminated safety glass or glazing.

If relevant, classification in B32B37/00 - B32B43/006 may be allocated in addition to B32B17/10807 - B32B17/1099 in order to capture invention information for the lamination process or apparatus that are not specifically provided for in the B32B17/10807 - B32B17/1099 subgroups.

If groups in B32B37/00 - B32B43/006 are to be allocated, the materials of the inorganic glass layer, interlayer or composite interlayer should not be separately classified as a single orthogonal indexing symbol. For example, the laminated

glazing shown in the figure of the third C-set example should not have a single symbol allocated in B32B2315/08, B32B2367/00 or B32B2375/00.

Classification is applied as Invention (I) information for the subgroups corresponding to the materials indicated in the examples and disclosed as Inventive. In the absence of examples, the pertinent more general main groups or subgroups are allocated.

When B32B17/10005 is used as a base symbol in C-Sets, it is not allocated as a separate single symbol.

Combination sets (C-Sets):

C-Sets statement: #B32Ba

- In subgroup B32B17/10005, the polymeric material of an intermediate layer sandwiched between interlayers of a laminated safety glass or glazing is classified in the form of C-Sets.
- In #B32Ba, the base symbol, representing the laminated safety glass structure comprising an interlayer adjacent the glass, is taken from subgroup B32B17/10005, whereas the subsequent symbol representing the nature of the polymeric material of the intermediate layer sandwiched between interlayers is taken from the groups B32B2319/00 - B32B2386/00.
- When the polymeric intermediate layer comprises a mixture of polymeric materials taken from B32B2319/00 - B32B2386/00, separate C-Sets are given based on each polymeric material as the subsequent symbol.
- B32B17/10005 is not allocated as a separate single symbol when it is allocated as a base symbol in a C-Set.
- In #B32Ba C-Sets are always allocated as Invention information (I).

C-Sets syntax rules:

- Each C-Set shall contain exactly two symbols.
- Duplicate symbols are not allowed in these C-Sets.
- The order of symbols in these C-Sets is relevant as it reflects the laminated safety glass structure as the base symbol, followed by the polymeric material forming the intermediate layer as the subsequent symbol.

C-Sets examples:

- #B32Ba: In a safety glass laminate (B32B17/10005) comprising outer glass panes and a composite interlayer comprising a polycarbonate sheet, the polycarbonate (B32B2369/00) sandwiched between two polyvinyl butyral (PVB) interlayers is classified as (B32B17/10005, B32B2369/00) and the PVB interlayers are classified as B32B17/10761.
- #B32Ba: In a safety glass (B32B17/10005) comprising a first outer layer of glass, a second outer layer of rigid polymer and a composite interlayer adhering the first outer layer to the second outer layer, wherein composite interlayer has the layer structure: polyurethane/polyacrylate/polyurethane, the polyacrylate (B32B2333/08) is the intermediate film is classified as (B32B17/10005, B32B2333/08) and the polyurethane interlayers are classified as B32B17/1077.
- #B32Ba: In a glass laminate (see figure below) there is a thermoplastic top layer 12 of polycarbonate (B32B2369/00), a bottom layer 16 formed of tempered glass, and a composite interlayer comprising an intermediate layer 14 of polyethylene terephthalate (PET) (B32B2367/00) and two polyurethane adhesive (interlayers) 18 positioned between the top 12 and bottom 16 layers, and wherein the glass laminate is a laminated safety glass or glazing (B32B17/10005). In this laminated safety glass or glazing, the PET intermediate layer 14 is classified as (B32B17/10005, B32B2367/00), the polyurethane adhesive layers (interlayers) 18 are classified as B32B17/1077, and the polycarbonate top (outer) layer 12 is classified as B32B2369/00 as a single symbol.

12	Polycarbonate Outer Layer
18	Polyurethane Interlayer
14	PET Intermediate Layer
18	Polyurethane Interlayer
16	Tempered Glass

Glossary of terms

Insert: The following new row into the Glossary of terms table:

Composite interlayer	A composite laminate that binds an inorganic glass layer to another inorganic glass layer or a durable polymeric sheet or film of a laminated safety glass or glazing. The composite interlayer comprises at least one interlayer and may also comprise an intermediate layer and/or a functional layer.

Replace: The text in the second column of the following table row so that it appears as follows:

Laminated safety glass or glazing, safety glazing, laminated glazing	Inorganic glass layer in sheet form bonded to another inorganic glass layer in sheet form or to a durable polymeric sheet or film via a resin interlayer, wherein the interlayer keeps the laminated safety glass or glazing bonded even when struck or broken, preventing the glass from shattering.

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

CPC	**IPC**	**Action***
B32B2307/737	CPCONLY	NEW
B32B2307/7375	CPCONLY	NEW
B32B2307/7376	CPCONLY	NEW

*Action column:

- For an (N) or (Q) entry, provide an IPC symbol and complete the Action column with "NEW."
- For an existing CPC main trunk entry or indexing entry where the existing IPC symbol needs to be changed, provide an updated IPC symbol and complete the Action column with "UPDATED."
- For a (D) CPC entry or indexing entry complete the Action column with "DELETE." IPC symbol does not need to be included in the IPC column.
- For an (N) 2000 series CPC entry which is positioned within the main trunk scheme (breakdown code) provide an IPC symbol and complete the action column with "NEW".
- For an (N) 2000 series CPC entry positioned at the end of the CPC scheme (orthogonal code), with no IPC equivalent, complete the IPC column with "CPCONLY" and complete the action column with "NEW".

NOTES:

- F symbols are not included in the CICL table above.
- T and M symbols are not included in the CICL table above unless a change to the existing IPC is desired.