

EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE
U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

CPC NOTICE OF CHANGES 1218

DATE: JANUARY 1, 2022

PROJECT MP0515

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:	A23P	20/12
	A61M	60/489
DEFINITIONS:		
Definitions Modified:	C12P	Subclass
	C25B	Subclass
Definition Quick Fix:	C12Q	1/68

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)

CPC NOTICE OF CHANGES 1218

DATE: JANUARY 1, 2022

PROJECT MP0515

1. CLASSIFICATION SCHEME CHANGES

A. New, Modified or Deleted Group(s)

SUBCLASS A23P -SHAPING OR WORKING OF FOODSTUFFS, NOT FULLY COVERED BY A SINGLE OTHER SUBCLASS

<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	A23P 20/12	2	Apparatus or processes for applying powders or particles to foodstuffs, e.g. for breading; Such apparatus combined with means for pre-moistening or battering	

*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.

SUBCLASS A61M - DEVICES FOR INTRODUCING MEDIA INTO, OR ONTO, THE BODY (introducing media into or onto the bodies of animals A61D 7/00; means for inserting tampons A61F 13/26; devices for administering food or medicines orally A61J; containers for collecting, storing or administering blood or medical fluids A61J 1/05); DEVICES FOR TRANSDUCING BODY MEDIA OR FOR TAKING MEDIA FROM THE BODY (surgery A61B; chemical aspects of surgical articles A61L); DEVICES FOR PRODUCING OR ENDING SLEEP OR STUPOR {(Electrotherapy, e.g. producing anaesthesia by the use of alternating or intermittent currents A61N 1/36021)}

<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	A61M 60/489	3	the force acting on the actuation means being magnetic	

*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

CPC NOTICE OF CHANGES 1218

DATE: JANUARY 1, 2022

PROJECT MP0515

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.

2. A. DEFINITIONS (modified)

C12P

Definition statement

Replace: The existing Definition statement with the modified one below:

- Processes wherein the product (compound or composition) is synthesised by a biochemical transformation of matter performed by using enzymes or microorganisms.
- Processes of separating enantiomers (optical isomers) from a racemic mixture by using enzymes or microorganisms.

Explanatory Note:

This subclass covers both major and minor chemical modifications.

Relationships with other classification places

Replace: The existing Relationships with other classification places text with the modified text below:

In subclasses [C12M-C12Q](#), in the absence of an indication to the contrary, classification is made in the last appropriate subclass of subclasses C12M - C12Q. For example, a fermentation or enzyme-using process involving condition-responsive control is classified in subclass [C12Q](#), but not in [C12P](#).

Documents relating to chemical compounds per se, in particular patent documents having claims/examples directed to such compounds per se, are classified in the relevant class, e.g. [C07](#) or [C08](#), which encompasses also the chemical method of preparation thereof. For instance, compositions comprising macromolecular compounds are classified in [C08L](#).

If a particular reaction is considered of interest, it may also be classified in the relevant chemical compound class, e.g. [C07](#), [C08](#).

It is desirable to add the indexing codes of subclass [C12R](#) for microorganisms which are considered to be of interest for search.

Microorganisms or products thereof added to foodstuff, medicinal, or cosmetic preparations are covered by [A21](#), [A23](#) and [A61](#). Methods for biological treatment of waste are also covered by other classes, e.g. [C02F](#) (see below list).

Microorganisms (compositions containing them, processes of propagating, maintaining, preserving them, culture media therefore) are classified in [C12N 1/00 - C12N 7/00](#) and subgroups. Sub-cellular parts of microorganisms, unless specifically provided for

DATE: JANUARY 1, 2022

PROJECT MP0515

elsewhere, are classified with the whole cell, i.e. in groups [C12N 1/00](#) - [C12N 7/00](#) and subgroups.

Processes for producing specific peptides or proteins by recombinant microorganisms are normally not classified in [C12P](#). Instead, such processes are classified together with the respective products in [C07K](#), or, in case of enzymes, [C12N 9/00](#) and subgroups. Expression vectors or methods using them are classified in [C12N 15/63](#) and below. A classification in [C12P 21/00](#) and below is only given for methods of general applicability not restricted to a specific protein (except expression vectors) or for methods indicating precise fermentation conditions (e.g. specific growth conditions) ([C12P 21/00](#) and [C12P 21/02](#)), for glycosylation methods ([C12P 21/005](#)), or for methods wherein a protein is obtained by hydrolysis ([C12P 21/06](#)).

Measuring or testing processes involving enzymes or microorganisms, [C12Q](#). Assays and products for analysing or detecting nucleic acids are covered in [C12Q 1/68](#). [C12Q 1/70](#) similarly relates to nucleic acid assays and products for analysing or detecting viruses or bacteriophages. Measuring or testing processes involving nucleic acid amplification reactions such as PCR are covered in [C12Q 1/6844](#).

DNA or RNA concerning genetic engineering, vectors (plasmids), or their isolation, preparation or purification are classified in [C12N 15/00](#) and subgroups.

Documents disclosing new isolates of microorganisms or mutant microorganisms where the mutated genes are unknown should additionally be classified in [C12R](#), and, if appropriate, in a subgroup of [C12N 1/00](#). If mutant microorganisms are described for which the mutated or introduced gene is specified, the [C12N 9/00](#) subgroup corresponding to that gene should be given.

Documents relating to methods of pretreatment of cellulosic or lignocellulosic material are classified in [C08B 1/00](#), [C08H 8/00](#), [D21B 1/00](#), [D21C 1/00](#) or [D21C 3/00](#). If such methods are intended to enhance the enzymatic digestibility (hydrolysis), e.g. for obtaining fermentable sugars and follow-up fermentation products, then the corresponding [C12P](#) group is given, e.g. [C12P 7/10](#) (ethanol from cellulosic substrate) or [C12P 19/02](#) (glucose) and [C12P 19/14](#) (using a cellulase), and in addition the [C12P](#) Indexing Code [C12P 2201/00](#) is given.

Documents relating to the preparation of fatty acids by hydrolysis of fats or oils using enzymes or microorganisms are classified in [C12P 7/6418](#), and also in [C11C 1/045](#). If the method of preparation involves the use of enzymes or microorganisms as a main feature then the document should always be classified in [C12P 7/6418](#). However, if the choice of particular enzymes or microorganisms, or the specific conditions for conducting the enzymatic or fermentative step do not seem to be the inventive feature of the process, then the document should rather only be classified in [C11C 1/045](#).

References

DATE: JANUARY 1, 2022

PROJECT MP0515

Delete: The Limiting references section and table.**Application-oriented references**Insert: New Application-oriented references section and table.

Treating dough with microorganisms or enzymes	A21D 8/04
Processes for treating foods or foodstuffs	A23
Production of methane by anaerobic treatment of sludge	C02F 11/04
Preparation of fertilisers characterised by a composting step	C05F 17/00
Fermentation processes for beer production	C12C 11/00
Fermentation processes for wine making	C12G 1/00
Fermentation processes for preparing alcoholic beverages other than wine and beer	C12G 3/00
Pasteurisation, sterilisation, preservation, purification, clarification, ageing of alcoholic beverages involving enzymes	C12H 1/10
Preparation of alcohol from alcoholic beverages	C12H 3/00
Preparing vinegar by fermentation of starting materials	C12J
Enzymes	C12N 9/00
Mutation and genetic engineering isolation, preparation or purification of DNA, RNA	C12N 15/00

Informative referencesReplace: The existing Informative references table with the modified one below:

Biocides of microbiological origin	A01N 63/00
Cosmetic preparations containing algae extracts	A61K 8/9706
Cosmetic preparations containing MOs	A61K 8/99
Medicinal preparations containing undetermined materials from MOs	A61K 35/66
Medicinal preparations containing undetermined materials from algae	A61K 36/02
Medicinal preparations containing peptides	A61K 38/00
Medicinal preparations containing antigens	A61K 39/00

CPC NOTICE OF CHANGES 1218

DATE: JANUARY 1, 2022

PROJECT MP0515

Elimination of harmful chemicals by enzymes or MOs	A62D 3/02
Distillation or rectification of fermented solutions	B01D 3/001
Separating processes involving the treatment of liquids with solid sorbents	B01D 15/00
Biological purification of waste gases	B01D 53/84
Catalysts comprising enzymes	B01J 31/003
Destroying solid waste or transforming solid waste	B09B 3/00
Bioremediation of contaminated soil	B09C 1/10
Methods of preparing compounds without using enzymes or microorganisms	C01, C07, C08
Biological treatment of water, waste water or sewage	C02F 3/00
Biological treatment of sludge	C02F 11/02
Separation/ purification of alcohols (except phenols) e.g. ethanol	C07C 29/74
Separation/ purification of ketones	C07C 45/78
Separation/ purification of carboxylic acids	C07C 51/42
Separation/ purification of carboxylic acid esters	C07C 67/48
Peptides, proteins and antibodies	C07K
Preparatory treatment of cellulose for making derivatives thereof	C08B 1/00
Preparation of starch, degraded or non-chemically modified starch, amylose, or amylopectin	C08B 30/00
Preparation of polysaccharides other than starch and cellulose or their derivatives	C08B 37/00
Polyesters and preparation thereof	C08G 63/00
Macromolecular compounds derived from lignocellulosic materials	C08H 8/00
Recovery of waste polymers by chemically breaking down the polymer chain by treatment with enzymes	C08J 11/105

CPC NOTICE OF CHANGES 1218

DATE: JANUARY 1, 2022

PROJECT MP0515

Compositions comprising polyesters	C08L 67/00
Methods for enhanced recovery of hydrocarbons using bacteria	C09K 8/58
Recovery of hydrocarbons, using a composition comprising bacteria	C09K 8/582
Refining of hydrocarbon oils by MOs	C10G 32/00
Lubricating compositions	C10M
Production of fats or fatty oils from raw materials	C11B 1/00
Pretreatment of raw materials for production of fats or fatty oils, using enzymes or MOs	C11B 1/025
Refining of fats or oils by enzymes or MOs	C11B 3/003
Production of fatty acids by hydrolysis of fats or oils using enzymes or MOs (see above limitation)	C11C 1/045
Fats, oils, fatty acids by esterification	C11C 3/003, C11C 3/02, C11C 3/04
Detergent compositions containing enzymes	C11D 3/386
Recovery of CO ₂ as by-product	C12F 3/02
Apparatus for enzymology, microbiology or cell culture	C12M
MOs (compositions containing them, processes of propagating, maintaining, preserving them, culture media)	C12N 1/00
Methods involving directed evolution of proteins, DNA or RNA	C12N 15/1058
Novel microorganisms	C12R
Measuring and testing involving enzymes or MOs	C12Q 1/00
Measuring or testing processes involving nucleic acid amplification reactions (PCR)	C12Q 1/6844
Production of sugar (saccharose) juice	C13B 10/00
Purification of sugar juices using MOs or enzymes	C13B 20/002
Glucose, maltose, lactose, fructose, invert sugar etc.	C13K

DATE: JANUARY 1, 2022

PROJECT MP0515

Extraction of metal compounds from ores or concentrates using MOs or enzymes	C22B 3/18
Bleaching fibres etc. using enzymes	D06L 4/40
Biochemical treatment of fibres, threads, yarns, fabrics or fibrous goods made from such materials, e.g. enzymatic	D06M 16/00
Pretreatment of the finely-divided cellulose-containing materials before digesting	D21C 1/00
Pulping cellulose-containing materials	D21C 3/00
Treatment of cellulose-containing material with MOs or enzymes	D21C 5/005
Methods for enhanced recovery of hydrocarbons using bacteria	E21B 43/16
Assays involving biological materials from specific organisms or of a specific nature	G01N 2333/00
Immunoassays and enzyme assays	G01N 2400/00 - G01N 2430/00
Bioinformatics	G16B
Biochemical fuel cell (production of electricity)	H01M 8/16
Biofuels, e.g. bio-diesel	Y02E 50/10
Methane (biogas) by fermentation of organic byproducts	Y02E 50/30

Special rules of classification

Replace: The existing Special rules of classification text with the modified text below:

In the absence of an indication to the contrary, classification is made in the last appropriate place.

Documents are primarily classified according to the compounds produced. In addition, if appropriate, classification according to the method or biocatalyst used to produce the compound is made.

This subclass covers both major and minor chemical modifications.

In this subclass:

DATE: JANUARY 1, 2022

PROJECT MP0515

- metal or ammonium salts of a compound are classified as that compound.
- compositions are classified in the relevant compound groups.

The following groups should only be given together with the corresponding product group: [C12P 19/14](#) - [C12P 19/24](#), [C12P 39/00](#), [C12P 41/00](#) - [C12P 41/009](#).

Group C12P 1/00 covers general processes using microorganisms or enzymes for preparing compounds or compositions and processes using microorganisms or enzymes for producing compositions and compounds not sufficiently identified to be classified in groups C12P 3/00 - C12P 37/00. Compounds identified only by their empirical formulae are not considered to be sufficiently identified to be classified in groups C12P 3/00 - C12P 37/00.

In the case that a document relates to the production of "fermentation products" in general, or to the production of multiple fermentation products, then the document is classified only for the products experimentally exemplified (this may be more than 5 [C12P](#) groups), or, in case that no examples are given or not all claimed products are exemplified, for those products for which there exists a reasonable support (this should be no more than 5 different [C12P](#) groups, but it may also only be a single product in some cases), or for the first products listed in case of no preference at all (maximum 5 different [C12P](#) groups). However, documents relating to the production of fermentation products without indication of any preferable product should if possible not be classified in [C12P 1/00](#) - [C12P 1/06](#).

The following illustrates the case of a document relating to the production of a general family of products: A document relating to the production of "an alcohol" without further specification is classified in [C12P 7/02](#). However, if certain alcohols are further specified, then the document is also classified in the specific subgroup, e.g. [C12P 7/16](#) for butanol. Opposed to this, if the chemical structure of the product is largely unknown, and it is only known that the product comprises an alcohol group, then the document should rather be classified in the appropriate [C12P 1/00](#) subgroup. In case of Markush formulae, the same approach as for "fermentation products" (see above) should be used.

The following Indexing Codes should, where applicable, be given as additional information (compulsory):

Pretreatment of cellulosic or lignocellulosic material for subsequent enzymatic treatment or hydrolysis	C12P 2201/00
Fermentation products obtained from optionally pretreated and/or hydrolyzed cellulosic or lignocellulosic material as the carbon source (ethanol C12P 7/10)	C12P 2203/00

Glossary of terms

Replace: The existing entry for Microorganism with the updated entry below:

DATE: JANUARY 1, 2022

PROJECT MP0515

Microorganism Microorganisms	Comprises single-celled organisms such as bacteria, actinomycetales or single-celled fungi, e.g. yeasts; for the purposes of classification, this term also includes viruses, undifferentiated human, animal or plant cells, protozoa, tissues and unicellular algae.
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C25B**Definition statement**

Replace: The existing Definition statement with the modified one below:

Electrolytic or electrophoretic processes for the production of inorganic compounds, non-metals or organic compounds.

Cells or assemblies of cells and their constructions.

Electrodes, diaphragms.

Operating or servicing of cells.

Relationships with other classification places

Replace: The existing Relationships with other classification places with the updated text below:

Reversible fuel cells that act as electrolyzers are classified in [H01M8/18](#).

Multi-step processes for surface treatment of metallic material involving at least one process provided for in class C23 and at least one process provided for in class C25 are classified in group C23F 17/00.

Compounds of particular interest are also classified in the relevant classes, C01 (inorganic chemistry), C07 (organic chemistry) and C08 (organic macromolecular compounds). The electrolytic or electrophoretic purification of materials is classified according to the nature of the liquid in the relevant places, e.g. A01K 63/00, C02F 1/46, C25B 15/08, C25D 21/16, C25F 7/02.

Cold fusion methods as such are classified in [G21B3/00](#), but electrodes and cells for cold fusion are further classified in [C25B](#).

An electrothermal treatment of ores or metallurgical products for obtaining metals or alloys is classified in [C22B4/00](#) and does not involve an electrolytic process.

Alloys as such, prepared by electrolytic methods are classified in [C22C](#).

DATE: JANUARY 1, 2022

PROJECT MP0515

References**Limiting references**Replace: The existing text associated with C02F 1/46 as shown below:

Treatment of water, waste water or sewage by electrochemical means, e.g. electrolysis electrodes therefor	C02F1/46
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Informative referencesReplace: The existing Informative references table with the modified one below:

Methods or apparatus for disinfecting or sterilising	A61L2/03, A61L2/035
Making harmful compounds harmless by subjecting to electrochemical processes, electro dialysis	A62D3/11
Gas separation, using electrochemical methods	B01D53/326
Separation, other than separation of solids, by electrophoresis	B01D57/02
Electrodialysis, electroosmosis	B01D61/42
Catalysts	B01J
Processes employing the direct application of electric energy (i.e. electrochemical processes); Apparatus therefor	B01J19/08
Separation of hydrogen or hydrogen containing gases from gaseous mixtures	C01B3/50
Carbon masses	C01B32/00, C04B35/52
Electrochemical sensors	G01N27/26
Low temperature nuclear reactors, e.g. cold fusion	G21B3/00
Electrochemical processes or apparatus for generating energy	H01M

CPC NOTICE OF CHANGES 1218

DATE: JANUARY 1, 2022

PROJECT MP0515

Electrodes for fuel cells	H01M4/86
Membranes and other details of fuel cells	H01M8/02 , H01M8/10
Means to utilise heat energy, e.g. hybrid systems producing warm water and electricity at the same time	H02S40/44

CPC NOTICE OF CHANGES 1218

DATE: JANUARY 1, 2022

PROJECT MP0515

2. B. DEFINITIONS QUICK FIX

Symbol	Location of change (e.g., section title)	Existing reference symbol or text	Action; New symbol; New text
C12Q1/68	Informative references	Extraction and purification of nucleic acids from biological samples, e.g. pure separation or isolation methods; Conditions, buffers or apparatuses therefore - C12N 15/10	Extraction and purification of nucleic acids from biological samples, e.g. pure separation or isolation methods; Conditions, buffers or apparatuses therefor C12N 15/10

Notes:

Use this Definitions Quick Fix (DQF) table to:

- Delete an entire definition
- Delete an entire section
- Change a reference symbol
- Delete a reference symbol
- Delete text in a References section
- Correct one error in spelling, article use, or verb tense

Otherwise, use the standard template.

Reminder: Never delete F symbol definitions.