

EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE  
U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

CPC NOTICE OF CHANGES 1492

DATE: AUGUST 1, 2023

PROJECT DP12096

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

<u>Action</u>	<u>Subclass</u>	<u>Group(s)</u>
<b>DEFINITIONS:</b>		
Definitions Modified:	A61B	8/00

**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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## 2. A. DEFINITIONS (modified)

### A61B 8/00

#### Definition statement

Replace: The existing Definition statement text with the following updated text.

Diagnostic equipment and/or methods which involve the use of ultrasonic, sonic or infrasonic waves.

A complete characterisation of the equipment or method requires the identification of both constructional and operational aspects according to the following rules.

#### Relationships with other classification places

Delete: The image and the paragraph immediately following the image, so that the Relationships text appears as follows.

Several subclasses, groups and subgroups provide for the different components or functional aspects constituting the devices for diagnosis using ultrasonic, sonic or infrasonic waves. It should be emphasized that documents describing these components should be classified in [A61B 8/00](#) only if they disclose a device for diagnosis using ultrasonic, sonic or infrasonic waves and the link between said components or functional aspects and the clinical application is not trivial.

Techniques for short-range imaging with ultrasound per se (both devices and methods) are classified under [G01S 15/8906](#) and [G01S 7/52017](#). These techniques should only be classified under [A61B 8/00](#) when the link between the use of a particular technique and a clinical application is not obvious. The fact that the device is a medical diagnostic device is not a sufficient criterion for classifying in [A61B 8/00](#) and not in [G01S](#). As an example, a document disclosing an ultrasonic device adapted to calculate cardiac output using Doppler would be classified under [A61B 8/00](#). If on the other hand the document discloses the sequence of pulses and their processing to obtain the Doppler measurements, then it should be classified under [G01S 15/8906](#) or [G01S 7/52017](#), even if the document mentions that the device is a diagnostic device. However, if there is a link between the particular implementation of the Doppler measurements and the clinical application, it should be classified in both [A61B 8/00](#) and [G01S 15/8906](#).

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Similarly, a modular medical diagnostic device wherein the probe can be exchanged to choose among a set of probes according to several clinical applications would be classified under [A61B 8/00](#). However, a modular medical diagnostic device with exchangeable circuit boards to provide for easier upgrade would be classified under [G01S](#). Only if the choice of a particular board was related to a clinical application should it be classified under [A61B 8/00](#).

The same principle applies to other neighbouring fields such as, e.g. image processing ([G06T](#)). A document disclosing an algorithm for image enhancement should be classified under the corresponding subclass of [G06T](#), even if the document mentions that the images are x-ray images. However, if there is a link between details of the algorithm and a particular clinical application, then the document should also be classified in the corresponding subclass of [A61B 8/00](#). On the other hand, if it is only mentioned that an algorithm for image enhancement is used but the disclosure deals mainly with details of the radiation diagnostic device, then it should only be classified in [A61B 8/00](#).

## References

Delete: The entire Limiting references section.

## Informative references

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

Replace: The existing Informative references table with the following updated table.

Diagnosis using photo-acoustic measurements	<a href="#">A61B 5/0095</a>
Diagnosis using acousto-optic measurements	<a href="#">A61B 5/0097</a>
Diagnosis using electronic [EMR] or nuclear [NMR] magnetic resonance	<a href="#">A61B 5/055</a>
Apparatus and techniques of diagnosis using ionizing radiation	<a href="#">A61B 6/00</a>
Ultrasound therapy	<a href="#">A61N 7/00</a>
Ultrasound transducers per se	<a href="#">B06B 1/00</a>

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Investigating or analysing materials by the use of ultrasonic, sonic or infrasonic waves; Visualisation of the interior of objects by transmitting ultrasonic or sonic waves through the object	G01N 29/00
Details of systems according to G01S 15/00	G01S 7/52
Systems using the reflexion or re-radiation of acoustic waves, e.g. acoustic imaging	G01S 15/00
Short-range imaging using acoustic waves	G01S 15/8906
Pattern recognition techniques in general	G06F 18/00
Image data processing or generation, in general	G06T
Image enhancement or restoration	G06T 5/00
Image analysis	G06T 7/00
Image or video recognition or understanding, e.g. pattern recognition	G06V
Methods or devices for transmitting, conducting or directing sound, in general	G10K 11/00
Healthcare informatics	G16H
Piezoelectric or electrostrictive devices	H10N 30/00

Delete: The entire Special rules of classification section.