

EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE  
U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

CPC NOTICE OF CHANGES 790

DATE: JANUARY 1, 2020

PROJECT RP0613

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

<u>Action</u>	<u>Subclass</u>	<u>Group(s)</u>
<b>SCHEME:</b>		
Titles Changed:	B32B	3/00
	B32B	3/26
	B32B	5/02
	B32B	33/00
	B32B	38/10
Notes Modified:	B32B	subclass
<b>DEFINITIONS:</b>		
Definitions Modified:	B32B	subclass
	B32B	3/00
	B32B	3/06
	B32B	5/02
	B32B	7/00
	B32B	33/00
	B32B	38/10

**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</u> <u>Number of</u> <u>dots</u> <u>(e.g. 0, 1, 2)</u>	<u>Title</u> <u>“CPC only” text should normally be</u> <u>enclosed in {curly brackets}**</u>	<u>Transferred to#</u>
M	B32B3/00	0	Layered products comprising a layer with external or internal discontinuities or unevennesses, or a layer of non-planar form (fibrous or filamentary layer B32B5/02; particulate layer B32B5/16; foamed layer B32B5/18); Layered products having particular features of form (receptacles or tubular products B32B1/00)	
M	B32B3/26	1	characterised by a particular shape of the outline of the cross-section of a continuous layer; characterised by a layer with cavities or internal voids {(foam layer B32B 5/18; layer of synthetic resin characterised by fillers that create voids or cavities B32B 27/205); characterised by an apertured layer}	
M	B32B5/02	1	characterised by structural features of a {fibrous or filamentary layer (layer formed of metallic wires B32B15/02; layer formed of natural mineral fibres B32B19/02; layer formed of wood fibres B32B21/02; coated or impregnated fibrous or filamentary layer B32B2255/02 or B32B2260/021)}	
M	B32B33/00	0	Layered products characterised by particular properties or particular surface features, e.g. particular surface coatings; Layered products designed for particular purposes not covered by another single class	
M	B32B38/10	1	Removing layers, or parts of layers, mechanically or chemically	

\*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:

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- \*\*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.

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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>1. This subclass <u>covers</u> :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• layered products comprising different kinds of material or layered products not characterised by the particular kind of material used;</li> <li>• a product similar to a layered product but comprising only material in the form of a sheet or network embedded in a mass of plastics or of physically-similar substances which mass penetrates the said sheet or network and lies on both sides of the latter (e.g. so that the sheet or network reinforces the plastics substance) PROVIDED THAT the embedded sheet or network extends coherently or connectedly over substantially the whole area of the product; thus the embedded sheet or network may be a fabric or a series of rods connected by cross wires. The manner of making such a product is, however, classified in this subclass only if it is essentially a process of building-up an assembly of layers of which at least one outer layer is preformed. If the embedded material comprises only a series of unconnected rods, the product is not classified in this subclass.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Replace</u>: The <u>FIRST</u> bulleted statement in Note 4 with the following updated statement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "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;</li> </ul> <p><u>Replace</u>: The <u>entire</u> Note 5 with the following updated note.</p> <p>5. 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>

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		<p>2. This subclass <u>does not cover</u> :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• processes or apparatus used in, or in connection with, the production or treatment of any product, if the process or apparatus is fully classifiable in a single other class or subclass for processes or apparatus, e.g. B05 , B29 , B44D , C08J , C09J , C23 ;</li><li>• compositions or preparation or treatment thereof, unless they are essentially restricted to layered products and cannot be fully classified in another class without ignoring this restriction;</li><li>• etched metallic pattern on the surface of a printed circuit board.</li></ul> <p>3. In this subclass:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 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;</li><li>• groups designating products cover also methods or apparatus specially adapted for producing such products.</li></ul> <p>4. In this subclass, the following terms or expressions are used with the meanings indicated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• " 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</li></ul>	
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		<p>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 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"><li>• "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 which is stripped off when the panel is placed in its position of use. The layers are preformed layers or layers formed IN SITU 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;</li><li>• "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</li></ul>	
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		<p>formed of threads crossed or laid side by side and bonded together;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• " 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.</li> </ul> <p>5. In this subclass,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• " First place rule " is used in the following groups  B32B9/04 , B32B11/04 ,  B32B13/04 , B32B15/04 ,  B32B19/04 , B32B21/04 ,  B32B23/046 - B32B23/12 ,  B32B25/04 , B32B27/06 ,  B32B29/002 .</li> </ul> <p>However, when these groups are not characterised by the specific material adjacency to be classified, then, multiple classification is given, e.g. a layered product having a stone layer next to a bituminous layer would be classified in B32B9/04 and in B32B11/04 . For a cellulosic plastic layer next to a metal layer or to a wood layer B32B23/042 or B32B23/044 , respectively, take precedence (i.e. first rule does not apply). For layered products comprising at least two ceramic layers , products comprising only ceramic layers are classified in group B32B18/00 and products comprising two ceramics layers and at least one layer of another material are classified in B32B18/00 and B32B9/04 .</p>	
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\*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.

## 2. A. DEFINITIONS (modified)

### B32B

#### Limiting references

Delete: The entire Limiting references section.

#### Informative references

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

Etched metallic pattern on the surface of a printed circuit board	H05K1/00
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#### Special rules of classification

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

In the groups [B32B15/01](#) - [B32B15/018](#), the last place rule is followed (classification in the last appropriate place) combined with multiple classifications.

If the invention is characterised by several aspects, i.e. 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 classes 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



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classified in groups [B32B37/00](#) or [B32B38/00](#), or in other subclasses, e.g. [B29C](#), for example in groups [B29C45/16](#) or [B29C48/18](#).

Coating operations are classified in [B32B2037/243](#) as long as a lamination process as defined in [B32B37/00](#) is present.

The following Indexing Codes are used in this subclass:

- a) [B32B 2250/00](#) - [B32B 2274/00](#), which are used in connection with [B32B 1/00](#) - [B32B 15/00](#) (with the exception of [B32B 15/01](#)), [B32B 17/00](#) and [B32B 19/00](#) – [B32B 29/00](#);
- b) [B32B 37/00](#) - [B32B 43/00](#), [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](#);
- c) [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](#).

Indexing Codes mentioned in a) and c) are mandatory to classify technical information belonging to the core of the invention and optional for the classification of additional information.

Concerning Indexing Codes mentioned in b):

[B32B2305/00](#) and [B32B2309/00](#) - [B32B2398/00](#) are given as additional information; they are not mandatory but desirable.

## **B32B 3/00**

### **Special rules of classification**

Delete: The entire Special rules of classification section.

Insert: The following new Limiting references section.

#### **References**

#### **Limiting references**

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*This place does not cover:*

Receptacles or tubular products	B32B 1/00
Fibrous or filamentary layers	B32B 5/02
Particulate layers	B32B 5/16
Foamed layers	B32B 5/18

**B32B 3/06**Insert: The following new Informative references section.**References****Informative references***Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:*

Use or provision of nails, stitches, or similar separate fastening elements for these purposes	B32B 7/08
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**B32B 5/02**Insert: The following new Limiting references section.**References****Limiting references***This place does not cover:*

Layer formed of metallic wires	B32B 15/02
Layer formed of natural mineral fibres	B32B 19/02
Layer formed of wood fibres	B32B 21/02
Coated or impregnated fibrous or filamentary layer	B32B 2255/02, B32B 2260/021

**B32B 7/00**

Insert: The following new Informative references section.

**References****Informative references**

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

In respect of orientation of features, see the relevant groups for the features concerned, e.g. for direction of fibres	<a href="#">B32B 5/02</a>
In respect of substances	<a href="#">B32B 9/00</a> - <a href="#">B32B 29/00</a>

**B32B 33/00****Limiting references**

Delete: The entire Limiting references section.

Insert: The following new Informative references section.

**References****Informative references**

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

Surface unevennesses or non-uniformities	<a href="#">B32B3/00</a>
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## B32B 38/10

### Limiting references

Delete: The entire Limiting references section.

Insert: The following two new rows in the existing Informative references table.

#### References

#### Informative references

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

Punching, slitting or perforating without removing material	<a href="#">B32B 38/04</a>
Delamination of layered products not in connection with the lamination process	<a href="#">B32B 43/006</a>