

EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE
U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

CPC NOTICE OF CHANGES 985

DATE: JANUARY 1, 2021

PROJECT MP0498

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

<u>Action</u>	<u>Subclass</u>	<u>Group(s)</u>
Notes Deleted:	C09J	7/00
	C23C	4/12
Notes Modified:	C05G	SUBCLASS
	C30B	SUBCLASS
DEFINITIONS:		
Definitions Modified:	C05G	SUBCLASS
	C09J	7/00

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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1. CLASSIFICATION SCHEME CHANGES

C. New, Modified or Deleted Note(s)

SUBCLASS C05G - MIXTURES OF FERTILISERS COVERED INDIVIDUALLY BY DIFFERENT SUBCLASSES OF CLASS C05; MIXTURES OF ONE OR MORE FERTILISERS WITH MATERIALS NOT HAVING A SPECIFIC FERTILISING ACTIVITY, e.g. PESTICIDES, SOIL-CONDITIONERS, WETTING AGENTS (organic fertilisers containing added bacterial cultures, mycelia, or the like C05F11/08; organic fertilisers containing plant vitamins or hormones C05F11/10); FERTILISERS CHARACTERISED BY THEIR FORM

<u>Type*</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Old Note</u>	<u>New/Modified Note</u>
M	C05G	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This subclass <u>covers</u> mixtures of fertilisers with soil-conditioning or soil-stabilising materials characterised by their fertilizing activity. 2. This subclass <u>does not cover</u> mixtures of fertilisers with soil-conditioning or soil-stabilising materials characterised by their soil-conditioning or soil-stabilising activity, which are covered by group C09K 17/00. 3. In this subclass, multi-aspect classification is applied, so that subject matter characterised by aspects covered by more than one of its groups, which is considered to represent information of interest for search, may also be classified in each of those groups. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This subclass <u>covers</u> mixtures of fertilisers with soil-conditioning or soil-stabilising materials characterised by their fertilizing activity. 2. This subclass <u>does not cover</u> mixtures of fertilisers with soil-conditioning or soil-stabilising materials characterised by their soil-conditioning or soil-stabilising activity, which are covered by group C09K 17/00.

SUBCLASS C09J – ADHESIVES; NON-MECHANICAL ASPECTS OF ADHESIVE PROCESSES IN GENERAL; ADHESIVE PROCESSES NOT PROVIDED FOR ELSEWHERE; USE OF MATERIAL AS ADHESIVES (surgical adhesives A61L 24/00; adhesives on the basis of non-specified organic macromolecular compounds used as bonding agents in layered products B32B; organic labelling fabrics or comparable materials or articles with deformable surface using adhesives and thermo-activatable adhesives

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respectively B65C 5/02, B65C 5/04; preparation of glue or gelatine C09H; adhesive labels, tag tickets or similar identification of indication means G09F 3/10)

<u>Type*</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Old Note</u>	<u>New/Modified Note</u>
D	C09J 7/00	1. In this main group, multi-aspect classification is applied, so that subject matter characterised by aspects covered by more than one of its subgroups should be classified in each of those groups.	Delete only Note 1.

SUBCLASS C23C - COATING METALLIC MATERIAL; COATING MATERIAL WITH METALLIC MATERIAL; SURFACE TREATMENT OF METALLIC MATERIAL BY DIFFUSION INTO THE SURFACE, BY CHEMICAL CONVERSION OR SUBSTITUTION; COATING BY VACUUM EVAPORATION, BY SPUTTERING, BY ION IMPLANTATION OR BY CHEMICAL VAPOUR DEPOSITION, IN GENERAL (making metal-coated products by extrusion B21C 23/22; covering with metal by connecting pre-existing layers to articles, see the relevant places, e.g. B21D 39/00, B23K; metallising of glass C03C; metallising mortars, concrete, artificial stone, ceramics or natural stone C04B 41/00; enamelling of, or applying a vitreous layer to, metals C23D; treating metal surfaces or coating of metals by electrolysis or electrophoresis C25D; single-crystal film growth C30B; by metallising textiles D06M 11/83; decorating textiles by locally metallising D06Q 1/04)

<u>Type*</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Old Note</u>	<u>New/Modified Note</u>
D	C23C 4/12	In this group, multi-aspect classification is applied, so that subject matter characterised by aspects covered by more than one of its subgroups should be classified in each of those subgroups.	

SUBCLASS C30B – SINGLE-CRYSTAL-GROWTH (by using ultra-high pressure, e.g. for the formation of diamonds B01J3/06); **UNIDIRECTIONAL SOLIDIFICATION OF EUTECTIC MATERIAL OR UNIDIRECTIONAL DEMIXING OF EUTECTOID MATERIAL; REFINING BY ZONE-MELTING OF MATERIAL** (zone-refining of metals or alloys C22B); **PRODUCTION OF A HOMOGENEOUS POLYCRYSTALLINE MATERIAL WITH DEFINED STRUCTURE** (casting of metals, casting of other substances by the same processes or devices B22D; working of plastics B29; modifying the physical structure of metals or alloys C21D, C22F); **SINGLE CRYSTALS OR HOMOGENEOUS POLYCRYSTALLINE MATERIAL WITH DEFINED STRUCTURE; AFTER-TREATMENT OF SINGLE CRYSTALS OR A**

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HOMOGENEOUS POLYCRYSTALLINE MATERIAL WITH DEFINED STRUCTURE (for producing semiconductor devices or parts thereof [H01L](#)); APPARATUS THEREFOR

<u>Type*</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Old Note</u>	<u>New/Modified Note</u>
M	C30B	<p>1. In this subclass, the following expressions are used with the meaning indicated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “single-crystal” includes also twin crystals and a predominantly single crystal product; • “homogeneous polycrystalline material” means a material with crystal particles, all of which have the same chemical composition; • “defined structure” means the structure of a material with grains which are oriented in a preferential way or have a larger dimensions than normally obtained <p>2. In this subclass:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the preparation of crystals or a homogeneous polycrystalline material with defined structure of particular materials or shapes is classified in the group for the process as well as in group C30B 29/00. • an apparatus specially adapted for a specific process is classified in the appropriate group for the process. 	<p>1. 1. In this subclass, the following expressions are used with the meaning indicated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “single-crystal” includes also twin crystals and a predominantly single crystal product; • “homogeneous polycrystalline material” means a material with crystal particles, all of which have the same chemical composition; • “defined structure” means the structure of a material with grains which are oriented in a preferential way or have a larger dimensions than normally obtained <p>2. In this subclass:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the preparation of crystals or a homogeneous polycrystalline material with defined structure of particular materials or shapes is classified in the group for the process as well as in group C30B 29/00. • an apparatus specially adapted for a specific process is classified in the appropriate group for the process. Apparatus to be used in more than one kind of process is

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		<p>Apparatus to be used in more than one kind of process is classified in group C30B 35/00.</p> <p>3. After the notation of C30B and separated therefrom by a + or – sign, notations concerning the particular composition or shape of the material may be added. These notations are selected from C30B 29/00.</p> <p>Example: A crystal-growth process by zone-melting directly related to Al_2O_3 crystal material is classified in C30B 13/00 + C30B 29/20</p>	<p>classified in group C30B 35/00.</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)

C05G

Definition statement

Replace: Existing Definition statement with the following new one:

This place covers:

Materials affecting the growth of plants solely by supplying nutrients ordinarily required for growth or materials which are used to prevent or cure mineral deficiencies in plants as listed below:

Mixtures of fertilisers covered individually by different subclasses of class C05, e.g., superphosphates with ammonium nitrate, Thomas phosphate with potassium compounds, alkali or ammonium orthophosphates with ammonium nitrate, ammonium nitrate with limestone or calcium carbonate, ammonium sulfate with potassium compounds or fertilisers containing plant vitamins or hormones with fertilisers containing potassium from minerals or volcanic rocks.

Mixtures of one or more fertilisers with additives not having a specifically fertilising activity, e.g., pesticides, soil conditioners, wetting agents, nitrification inhibitors or superabsorbent polymers.

Fertilisers characterised by their form, e.g., granules, spikes or tablets.

Preparation, treatment or modification of any of the materials above: e.g., by chemical means (e.g. addition of stabilisers, preservatives), physical means (e.g., irradiation, concentration, purification, separation) or combination of both chemical and physical means, with the proviso that the resultant product is proper for classification in this subclass.

Methods of preparing fertiliser mixtures of the above subclass in general.

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Fertilisers in liquid form; Special formulations prepared to obtain a liquid form of the fertiliser.

Relationships with other classification places

Replace: Existing Relationships with other classification places text with the new text below:

In contrast to fertilisers (C05), plant growth regulators (A01N) are those materials which alter a plant through chemical modification of plant metabolism, for example auxins.

Soil-conditioning materials or soil-stabilising materials are classified in C09K 17/00 and covers mixtures of soil-conditioning materials or soil-stabilising materials with fertilisers where the composition in question is characterised by the soil-conditioning or soil-stabilising properties.

Mixtures of soil-conditioning materials or soil-stabilising materials with fertilisers where the composition in question is characterised by the fertilising activity are classified in C05G

Whilst the subject matter of C05G deals with mixtures of fertilisers per se, A01C 3/00 deals with methods of treating manure/methods of manuring per se and A01C 21/00 deals with methods of fertilising per se.

Apparatus relevant to the subclass C05 (if no specific entry for apparatus is provided, e.g., C05B 1/10 apparatus for the manufacture of superphosphates) are to be classified in the place dealing with the process, otherwise in the place dealing with the products as such.

Additionally, individual or specific types of apparatus can be classified in the relevant area of the IPC, e.g., F26B 17/00.

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Insert: New Limiting AND Informative references sections and tables as shown below:

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Organic fertilisers containing added bacterial cultures, mycelia or the like	C05F 11/08
Fertilisers containing plant vitamins or hormones	C05F 11/10

Informative references

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

Harrows with means for distributing fertilisers	A01B 25/00
Fertiliser distributors	A01C 15/00
Mowers combined with dispensing apparatus, e.g., for fertilisers	A01D 43/14
HORTICULTURE; CULTIVATION OF VEGETABLES, FLOWERS, RICE, FRUIT, VINES, HOPS, OR SEAWEED; FORESTRY; WATERING	A01G
Root feeders; Injecting fertilisers into the roots	A01G 29/00
Processes or devices for granulating materials, in general	B01J 2/00
Soil-conditioning or soil-stabilising materials	C09K 17/00

Special rules of classification

Replace: Existing FIRST paragraph of Special rules of classification with the one below:

An ingredient in a mixture of fertilisers, or a single fertiliser which contains more than one of the chemical elements on which the subdivision into subclasses is based, is classified only in the first of the appropriate subclasses. Thus, a nitrophosphate or an ammoniated superphosphate is classified in [C05B](#) but not

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in C05C, magnesium phosphate is classified in C05B but not in C05D, and calcium cyanamide in C05C but not in C05D.

Glossary of terms

Replace: The existing entry in the Glossary of terms with the one below:

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

Fertiliser	(fertiliser material) Natural or artificial substance containing the chemical elements that improve growth and productiveness of plants.
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Synonyms and Keywords

Insert: "Plant food", at the beginning of the second bullet point as shown below.

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

- "fertiliser" and "plant nutrient "
- "Plant food", "Amendment", "Plant food", "Agricultural chemical" and "Fertiliser"

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2. B. DEFINITIONS QUICK FIX

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Location of change</u> (e.g., section title)	<u>Existing reference symbol or text</u>	<u>Action; New symbol; New text</u>
C09J 7/00	Special rules of classification	Classification guidance: In this main group, multi-aspect classification is applied, so that subject matter characterised by aspects covered by more than one of its subgroups should be classified in each of those groups.	<u>Delete:</u> Classification guidance: In this main group, multi-aspect classification is applied, so that subject matter characterised by aspects covered by more than one of its subgroups should be classified in each of those groups.

NOTES:

- The table above is used for corrections or modifications to existing definitions, e.g. delete an entire definition or part thereof; propose new wording or modify wording of a section, change the symbol the definition is associated with, change or delete a reference symbol, etc.
- Do not delete (F) symbol definitions.