INPADOC Newsflash

Brief and important information for our users

Newsflash 2006/10

01-03-2006 ECLA: information on "+" signs and notations

The "+" signs as part of the European Patent Classification (ECLA) can be found in the bibliographic exchange files DOCDB and IFD and as a consequence in the commercial databases using this input.

In ***esp@cenet***®, these additional details are omitted, because ***esp@cenet***® is a tool that is also used by non-experts. Special codes are considered too specific and require deeper knowledge of the technology. For this reason, in order not to confuse users, they are not shown.

Explanation of + signs in ECLA

The "+"-notation in ECLA is a way of indicating combinations of subject matter that are individually covered by separate entries in ECLA. This notation is only used in a few technical fields - most of them in organic chemistry. Their meaning is roughly comparable with the linked indexing in the IPC.

The way this is used, however, differs from field to field. The meaning is usually explained in the "Notes" under the subclass or group titles. For example, for C07C:

" C07C ACYCLIC OR CARBOCYCLIC COMPOUNDS

[N: Note
(1) In this field a combined notation between the groups dealing with preparation and purification (C07C1/00 to C07C7/00) and the groups dealing with products (C07C9/00 to C07C15/00) is used in order to indicate the products or the class of the products which are prepared or purified. However, the class for the prepared products themselves is only indicated if this information is not deducible from the title of the process group. The combinations C07C1/08 + C07C9/16, C07C2/06 + C07C11/02, C07C5/41 + C07C15/00 are examples of the cases which are only to be used if a single product for which there is no pertinent subgroup, is prepared] "

Please be aware that due to the total length of such notes in C07D, they are not correctly represented in ***esp@cenet***®

The "+M" notation

The +M notation is used to indicate additional details about the subject matter classified.
For compositions containing one or more known active ingredients, e.g. formulations, synergistic mixtures, the symbol +M is added to the classification symbol, e.g. A01N39/02+M