



Brief and important information for our users

Newsflash 2006/28

19-07-2006 MCD (Master Classification Database)

The 2nd Backfile Production

Some frequently asked questions and answers given by the EPO

- *When will the second version of the MCD be available?*

The current planning foresees a delivery of the first MCD update before October 2006.

- *What exactly will it contain (reclassifications from the national patent offices, data supplied in DOCDB updates since the 1st version of the MCD, etc)?*

The MCD update will include four elements:

- The backfile provided by the JPO. This set includes about 25 Mio new symbols and about 35 Mio updates to existing symbols.
- The backfile provided by the DPMA (German PO). This set includes up to one million new symbols.
- A re-run of IPC-to-IPC conversion (700,000 new symbols) and ECLA-to-IPC conversion (about 600,000 new symbols).
- All 2006 publications that have been delivered with valid IPC8 data (about 2 Mio new symbols). These documents have been present in the DOCDB FrontFile update.

- *Will the data reclassified by the German PO contain data other than the German data?*

The majority of the documents will be German documents but there will also be other documents contained in the DPMA search inventories for which the ECLA-IPC conversion could not assign an IPC8 symbol.

- *Can the EPO flag the new and changed records in the second version of the MCD compared with the first version? Ideally, we would like the EPO to flag all records in which the IPC symbols did not appear in version one but have been released through the regular DOCDB updates with one type of flag and those records that are completely new in version two (not present in version one of MCD nor in the intervening DOCDB updates) with another type of flag.*

In view of the volume of data involved, the EPO has decided to deliver two distinct products for the MCD update. One product will consist of a complete MCD package. This is particularly useful for customers who have not yet loaded the original MCD. A second product will consist of an MCD update package including only the information that has changed since the first MCD delivery. This package will include the information described above and should make the update of an existing MCD easier to implement.

The EPO has not yet implemented update flags. This feature is under consideration for future releases but will not be available for this update.

The concordance table for assisting the conversion of IFD (INPADOC) to DOCDB formats of publication numbers and application numbers will this time be delivered as a separate product immediately after the MCD updates. This product is essential for all current users of the IFD format, and will be supplied only to this user group. All documents contained in the MCD updates will also have an entry in the concordance table.