

## Classification information in Swedish Patent Database

The classification information that is available in Swedish Patent Database comes from the EPO's databases, originating from many different sources:

### Current IPC ("IPCR")

- Since 2006, IPCR information is given by PRV when new Swedish patent documents are published.
- For older patent documents, IPCR data was created in 2006 in a number of ways:
  - Classifications in ECLA, the system then in use by the EPO, were converted to IPCR.
  - IPCR classifications from other family members were transferred to Swedish family members.
  - Classifications in older versions of the IPC were converted to IPCR.
- When the IPC changes, documents are reclassified. Reclassification is made for whole patent families at a time and the work is shared between patent authorities around the world. Patent families which have a member in the PCT minimum documentation are normally reclassified by the European, American and Japanese patent offices (EPO, USPTO and JPO). Most of the Swedish documents which do not have a family member in the PCT minimum documentation are reclassified by PRV, however, some can be reclassified by other patent authorities.
- All Swedish patent documents published from 2006 onwards have IPCR classification.
- Most of the documents published between 1972 and 2005 have IPCR classification.
- Only a small part of the documents published before 1972 have IPCR classification.

### IPC1-IPC7 (IPC)

- Between 1972 and 2005, IPC of versions IPC2-IPC7 was given by PRV when new Swedish patent documents were published.
- Between 1972 and 2005, PRV reclassified a number of Swedish documents between different IPC versions, and from DPK to the then current IPC version.
- All Swedish documents published between 1972 and 2005 have IPC classification.
- Only a portion of the documents published before 1972 have IPC classification. How large this portion is depends on the technical field.

### CPC

- EPO and USPTO classify patent documents which belong to their search documentation in CPC. Swedish documents which have a family member in EPO's or USPTO's search documentation automatically receive its CPC classification. They can also have further CPC classifications from PRV.
- Swedish documents which do not receive a CPC classification in that way are classified in CPC by PRV.
- When CPC changes, documents are reclassified by EPO, USPTO or PRV.
- All Swedish patent specifications and pre-grant publications (C and B documents, respectively) published from 1972 onwards have CPC classification.
- Only a portion of the documents published before 1972 have CPC classification. How large this portion is depends on the technical field.
- All publicly available Swedish patent applications (L and A documents) have CPC classification.

### DPK

- Between 1914 and 1971, DPK classification was given by PRV when new Swedish patent documents were published.
- Older Swedish patent documents were also given DPK classification in 1914.
- The DPK which is available in Swedish Patent Database has been recorded from PRV's search documentation. Therefore, the classification may differ from what is printed on the documents.
- Around 80 percent of the documents published before 1972 have DPK classification. The classification system used depends on the technical field.

No classification system is comprehensive for the Swedish patent documentation. However, all Swedish patent documents have classification in either CPC or DPK. A search which covers relevant parts of both of those patent classification systems therefore covers the entire Swedish documentation.