

FI and F-terms

February 2022

Japan Patent Office



Contents

- Outline of FI/F-term
 - FI
 - F-term
 - Facet

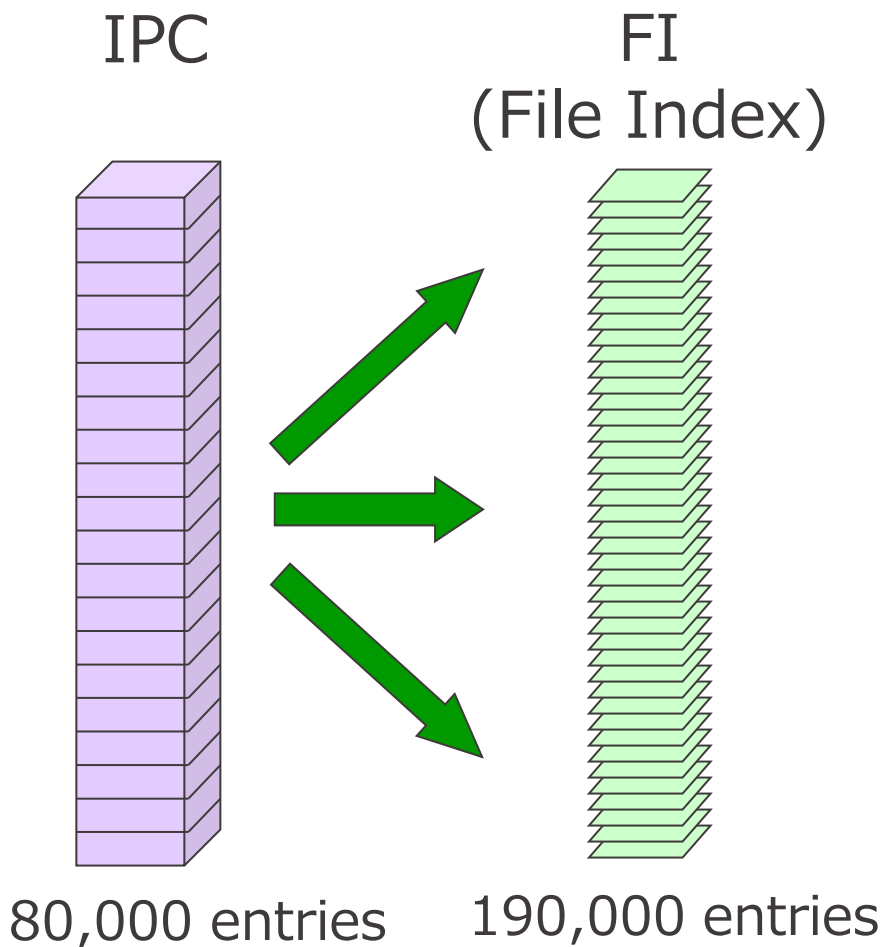
- English information on FI/F-term

- Current status of FI/F-term

Patent Classification Systems in IPC and FI/F-term

System	Governance	Approx. Number of Entries	Documentation coverage
IPC	IPC/CE (Committee of Experts); supervised by WIPO	80,000	- almost all patent documents published worldwide
FI	JPO	190,000	- JP patent documents
F-term	JPO	340,000	- JP patent documents

What is FI?



- [Features]
- Subdivision of IPC
(around 190,000 entries)
 - Covers all technical fields
 - Covers all JP patent documents
 - Backlog reclassification
 - Biannual revision to keep pace with technology development

FI - symbol

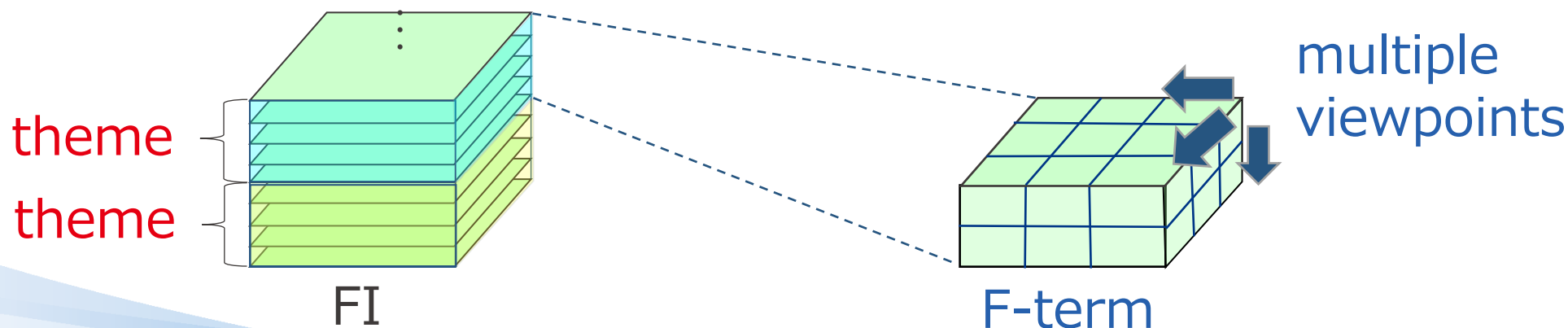
- IPC symbol
ex) A61B 5/00
- IPC symbol + extension symbol
ex) A61B 5/00, 101
- IPC symbol + extension symbol + file discrimination symbol
ex) A61B 5/00, 101 A
- IPC symbol + file discrimination symbol
ex) A61B 5/00 A

A61B 5/00 Measuring for diagnostic purposes (radiation diagnosis A61B6/00; diagnosis by ultrasonic, sonic or infrasonic waves A61B8/00); Identification of persons
A Measurement and recording device for diagnosis
B · Detection unit
:
Z Others
101 · Measuring colour, pressure or vibration of human body or parts thereof
101 A Colour measurement

Example of FI subdivisions for A61B5/00

What is F-term?

- The entire technical field of FI, which has section A to section H, is divided into about **2,500 areas** and each area is referred to as **"a theme"**
- About **1,600 themes** out of 2,500 themes have **"F-terms"**, which are search keys and we analyze patent documents in each "theme".
- The **F-term** indexing system is based on **multiple viewpoints** that are different from those of FI.



F-term list for theme “4C117” (excerpted in part)

- F-term symbols consist of 3 parts: “theme code”, “aspect”, and “numeral” (e.g. 4C117XA01)
 - The “theme code” part consists of 5 alphanumeric letters and is assigned to each “theme”.
 - The “aspect” part consists of 2 letters (selected from A to Z) and represents an aspect (object, purpose, etc.).
 - The “numeral” part consists of 2 digits (selected from 00 to 99) and represents an element of each aspect.

Theme code	4C117
Descriptions	MEASURING AND RECORDING APPARATUS FOR DIAGNOSIS
Scope of FI	A61B5/00-5/01,350

Aspect	F-term											Scope of FI
XA	XA00	XA01	XA02	XA03	XA04	XA05		XA07			XA10	A61B5/00-5/01,350
	OBJECT, E.G. PERSON, MACHINE OR DATA	. One single object	. . Measuring for ladies	. . Measuring for dementia patients or elderly persons	. . measuring patients in hospitals	. . measuring able-bodied persons or healthy persons		. Multiple objects			. Others	
XB	XB00	XB01	XB02	XB03	XB04	XB05	XB06	XB07	XB08	XB09	XB10	
		. Measuring	. Health care	. Instrument management	. Patient monitoring	. Management in hospitals	. Biometric data management	. Person identification	. Production of diagnostic reports or medical records	. Diagnostic support or CAD	. Clinical trial management or medical tests	
	PURPOSE	XB11	XB12	XB13	XB14	XB15	XB16	XB17	XB18		XB20	

| What is Facet?

“Facet” is a set of classification codes other than FI and F-term.

- Facet covers all the fields of FI (sections A to H) or a part of them, e.g. subclasses or groups. The former is called “Broad Facet”.
- Facet enables the search of patent documents from cross-sectional perspective, which is different from those in FI and F-term.
- Each Facet consists of three-alphabet symbols (e.g. BRA).
- As to Broad Facet, leftmost symbol must be “Z”.
- As of February 2022, 83 Facets (including 22 Broad Facets) are available.

Example of front page of publication

- e.g. Published Unexamined Patent Application

JP 2007-00000 A 2007. 1 .1

(19)日本国特許庁(JP) (12)公開特許公報(A) (11)特許出願公開番号
特開2007-000000
(P2007-00000A)
(43)公開日 平成19年1月1日(2007. 1. 1)

Facet

(51)Int. Cl.

G 2 1 B 12/345 (2006. 01)
G 0 2 C 9/87 (2006. 01)
G 0 1 B 67/89 (2006. 04)
G 0 1 B 12/345 (2006. 07)
G 0 1 B 34/56 (2007. 01)

FI
FI
G 0 1 B 12/34 1 0 1 B
G 0 2 C 9/87
G 0 1 B 67/89 Z
G 0 1 B 12/345 U
G 0 1 B 34/56

テーマコード (参考)

2 E 1 1 0
3 B 0 0 5

Theme code

審査請求 有 請求項の数 2 O L 外国語出願 公開請求 (全 7 頁) 最終頁に続く

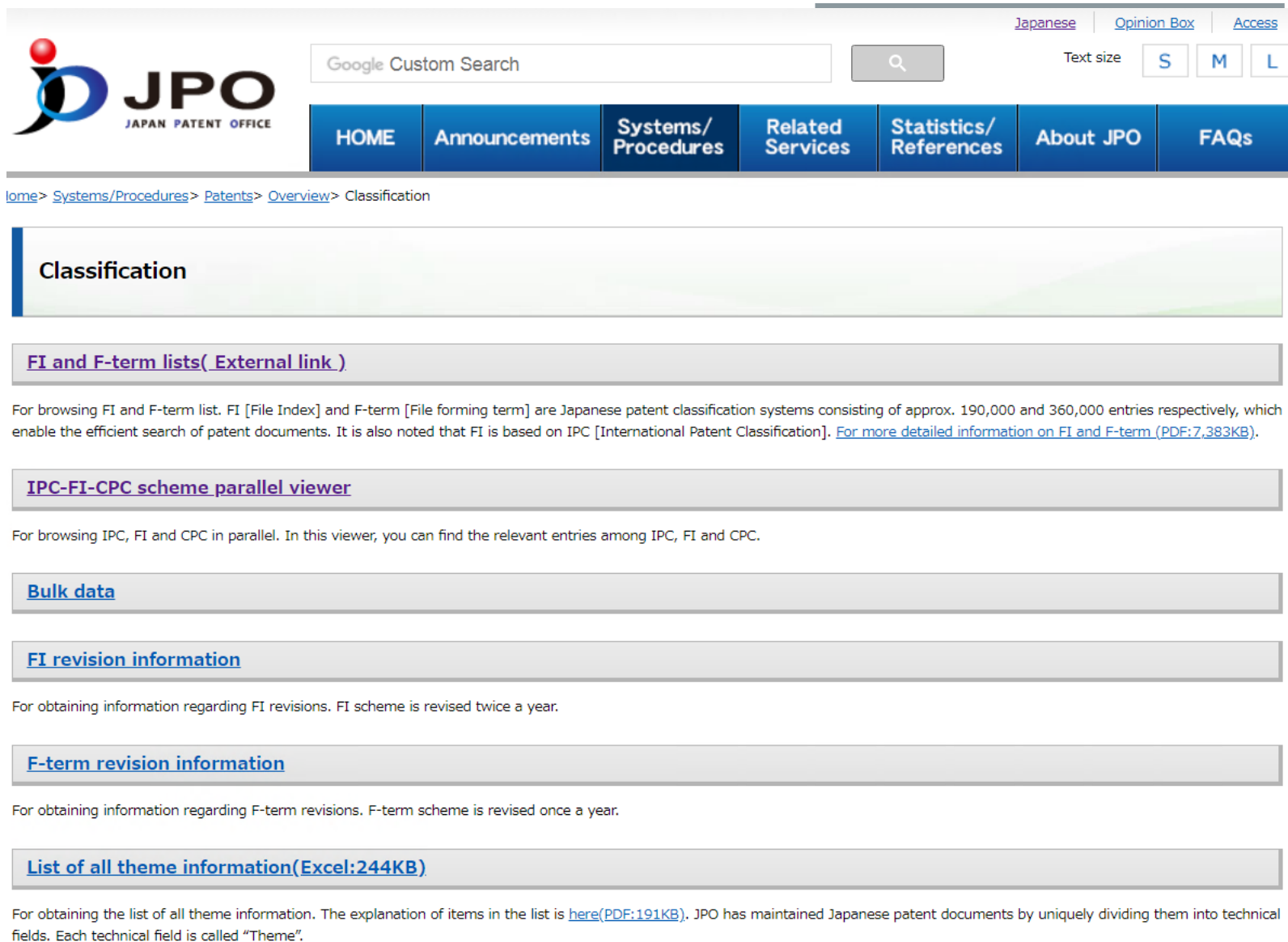
Contents

- Outline of FI/F-term

- English information on FI/F-term
 - Patent/Utility Model Classification Search (PMGS)
 - IPC-FI-CPC scheme parallel viewer
 - Bulk data
 - FI (English ver.) scheme download
 - FI/F-term revision information

- Current status of FI/F-term

JPO website on classification



[Japanese](#) | [Opinion Box](#) | [Access](#)

Google Custom Search

Text size

[HOME](#) | [Announcements](#) | [Systems/Procedures](#) | [Related Services](#) | [Statistics/References](#) | [About JPO](#) | [FAQs](#)

[Home](#) > [Systems/Procedures](#) > [Patents](#) > [Overview](#) > Classification

Classification

[FI and F-term lists\(External link \)](#)

For browsing FI and F-term list. FI [File Index] and F-term [File forming term] are Japanese patent classification systems consisting of approx. 190,000 and 360,000 entries respectively, which enable the efficient search of patent documents. It is also noted that FI is based on IPC [International Patent Classification]. [For more detailed information on FI and F-term \(PDF:7,383KB\)](#).

[IPC-FI-CPC scheme parallel viewer](#)

For browsing IPC, FI and CPC in parallel. In this viewer, you can find the relevant entries among IPC, FI and CPC.

[Bulk data](#)

[FI revision information](#)

For obtaining information regarding FI revisions. FI scheme is revised twice a year.

[F-term revision information](#)

For obtaining information regarding F-term revisions. F-term scheme is revised once a year.

[List of all theme information\(Excel:244KB\)](#)

For obtaining the list of all theme information. The explanation of items in the list is [here\(PDF:191KB\)](#). JPO has maintained Japanese patent documents by uniquely dividing them into technical fields. Each technical field is called "Theme".

Patent/Utility Model Classification Search (PMGS)

[Japanese](#) | [Opinion Box](#) | [Access](#)

Google Custom Search

Text size

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Patent/Utility Model Classification Search (PMGS)

The screenshot displays the J-PlatPat website interface. The top navigation bar includes the J-PlatPat logo and contact information. A dropdown menu is open, showing options for 'Patents/Utility Models', 'Patent/Utility Model Number Search/OPD', 'Patent/Utility Model Search', and 'Patent/Utility Model Classification Search (PMGS)'. The 'Patent/Utility Model Classification Search (PMGS)' option is circled in red. Below the menu, the search interface for 'Patent/Utility Model Classification Search (PMGS)' is shown. It includes a search target selection (FI/Facet, F-term, IPC (latest version)), display options (FI/Facet Simple Display, F-term Simple Display, IPC (latest version) Simple Display), and a search input field with the example text 'Ex: B22F'. A red arrow points to this input field. The interface also includes a 'Search' button and a 'Clear' button.

Patent/Utility Model Classification Search (PMGS)

- Simple display of FI/Facet and F-term is available (newly released on Feb. 1, 2021)



Help desk
(weekdays 9:00-21:00 JST) | (+81)3-3588-2751
helpdesk@j-platpat.inpit.go.jp

Japanese | Site Map | Help list
National Center for Industrial Property Information and Training

Patents/Utility Models

Designs

Trademark

Trials & Appeals

Home > Patent/Utility Model Classification Search (PMGS)

Patent/Utility Model Classification Search (PMGS)

Help

You can retrieve classifications by keywords for FI/F-terms and IPC (latest version). You can also retrieve classifications by code. You can set classifications for patent/utility model searches using the code retrieval.

Simple display (FI/Facet Simple Display, F-term Simple Display, IPC (latest version) Simple Display) is convenient for viewing the listed classifications or printing the listed classifications.

- For revision/abolition information, refer to [FI Revision Information](#), [Theme Revision/Abolition Information](#), [Theme Code Table](#), [IPC Revision Table](#), [IPC Guidelines](#), and [Former IPC Version](#).

- For information related to classification, refer to [Patent Map Guidance \(Former\) Information](#), [IPC Classification Table and Update Information](#), [CPC Information](#), [WIPO-IPC](#), and [Additional code list](#).

Code Inquiry

Search by Keyword

Search target

FI/Facet F-term IPC (latest version)

FI/Facet

F-term

[FI/Facet Simple Display](#)

[F-term Simple Display](#)

[IPC \(latest version\) Simple Display](#)

Classification

Ex: B22F

Patent/Utility Model Classification Search (PMGS)

- Simple display of FI/Facet and F-term is available (newly released on Feb. 1, 2021)

Classification Display

F-term

Add

Highlighted search keywords:
4C117

(Remarks)
(Not Translated)

List print

Theme code	4C117	Explanation
Descriptions	MEASURING AND RECORDING APPARATUS FOR DIAGNOSIS (Category : -)	
Scope of FI	A61B5/00 -5/01,350	

- XA00 OBJECT, E.G. PERSON, MACHINE OR DATA Open +
- XB00 PURPOSE Open +
- XC00 CHARACTERISTIC FEATURE OF MEASURING INSTRUMENT Open +
- XD00 MEASURED PART Open +
- XE00 CHARACTERISTIC FEATURE OF MEASURING PART Open +
- XF00 CHARACTERISTIC FEATURE OF STORAGE UNIT Open +

Classification Display (F-term)

F-Term-List

ReturnTo Theme-Group-Choice Onelevelup

(Not Translated)

4C117	MEASURING AND RECORDING APPARATUS FOR DIAGNOSIS	
	A61B5/00 -5/01,350	

A61B5/00-5/01,350	XA	XA00	XA01	XA02	XA03	XA04	XA05		XA07		XA10		
		OBJECT, E. G. PERSON, MACHINE OR DATA	One single object	Measuring for ladies	Measuring for dementia patients or elderly persons	measuring patients in hospitals	measuring able-bodied persons or healthy persons		Multiple objects		Others		
	XB	XB00	PURPOSE	YB01	YB02	YB03	YB04	YB05	YB06	YB07	YB08	YB09	YB10
			Telemedicine	Disease prediction	Ready diagnosis e.g. cosmetics or esthetic clinics	Medical teaching	providing services or information	Simulation calculation for bodies	Correlated calculation by data processing	measuring mental state e.g. degree of stress or sleep		Others	
	XC	XC00	CHARACTERISTIC FEATURE OF MEASURING INSTRUMENT	XC01	XC02	XC03	XC04	XC05	XC06	XC07			
				Stationary-type	Beds	Chairs	Toilets	Baths	Cars	Hair washing machines			
				wearable or mobile	worn on arms	Wrist watch type	with memory or storage	with data transfer units	with display units		Separate instruments	measuring units and data processing units being separated	Network type
				XC21		XC23	XC24		XC26	XC27	XC28	XC29	XC30
				Implantable type		Robots	Robot pets		Instrumental devices	Connectors	Cables	Switches	Electric circuits
				XC31	XC32	XC33							Others
		Functional change	Program change	Hardware change									

F-term-List (simple display)

Theme-Group-Choice web page

https://www.j-platpat.inpit.go.jp/cache/classify/patent/PMGS_HTML/jpp/F_TERM/en/themeGroup/themeGroup_en.html

IPC-FI-CPC scheme parallel viewer

The screenshot shows the JPO website interface. At the top left is the JPO logo (Japan Patent Office). To its right is a Google Custom Search box. Further right are links for 'Japanese', 'Opinion Box', and 'Access', and text size options 'S', 'M', and 'L'. Below these are navigation buttons: HOME, Announcements, Systems/Procedures, Related Services, Statistics/References, About JPO, and FAQs. The breadcrumb trail reads: home > Systems/Procedures > Patents > Overview > Classification. The main content area has a header 'Classification'. Below it is a link for 'FI and F-term lists(External link)'. A paragraph explains that FI [File Index] and F-term [File forming term] are Japanese patent classification systems with approximately 190,000 and 360,000 entries respectively, based on IPC. The 'IPC-FI-CPC scheme parallel viewer' link is highlighted with a red box. Below it, a paragraph states that this viewer allows finding relevant entries among IPC, FI, and CPC. Other links include 'Bulk data', 'FI revision information', 'F-term revision information', and 'List of all theme information(Excel:244KB)'. A final paragraph explains that the list of all theme information is available as a PDF (191KB) and that JPO maintains Japanese patent documents by uniquely dividing them into technical fields called 'Theme'.

Japanese | Opinion Box | Access

Google Custom Search

Text size S M L

HOME Announcements Systems/Procedures Related Services Statistics/References About JPO FAQs

home > Systems/Procedures > Patents > Overview > Classification

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[Bulk data](#)

[FI revision information](#)

For obtaining information regarding FI revisions. FI scheme is revised twice a year.

[F-term revision information](#)

For obtaining information regarding F-term revisions. F-term scheme is revised once a year.

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IPC-FI-CPC scheme parallel viewer

☆ Scheme parallel viewer ☆

[concordance ver.](#)

[rawdata download](#)

IPC ▾

B60G17/015

Display

Clear

Sample : G06F3 or G06F3/ or G06F3/00 or G06F3/02 etc...

[help](#)

IPC JP EN Both non-display

Display ipc level only : Off On

ECLA: EN JP Both non-display

FI: JP EN Both non-display

FI without same-symbol IPC : display non-display

ICO: EN JP Both non-display

CPC: EN JP Both non-display

FI dot pattern : pattern1 pattern2

IPC doc number : On Off

FI doc number : On Off

CPC doc number : On Off

Keyword Search

Display

Clear

FI IPC CPC

IPC

FI

CPC

B60G 17/015	• the regulating means comprising electric or electronic elements(B60G17/005 takes precedence)	15675 docs	B60G 17/015	• the regulating means comprising electric or electronic elements (B60G 17/005 takes precedence) [5,8]	3641 docs	3D301	HB	B60G17/015	• the regulating means comprising electric or electronic elements ({B60G17/002}, B60G17/005 take precedence)	2014 docs
			B60G 17/015 A	• • Controlling damping force (controlling damper venturi and the like)	5078 docs	3D301	HB	B60G17/0152	• • {characterised by the action on a particular type of suspension unit (B60G17/01941 takes precedence)}	826 docs
			B60G 17/015 B	• • Controlling working fluid (control of hydro, full active, control of spring constant)	5028 docs	3D301	HB	B60G17/0155	• • • {pneumatic unit}	783 docs
			B60G 17/015 C	• • • controlling air	3040 docs	3D301	HB	B60G17/0157	• • • {non-fluid unit, e.g. electric motor}	602 docs
			B60G 17/015 Z	• • Others	1941 docs	3D301	HB			

IPC-FI-CPC scheme parallel viewer

← → ↻ jpo.go.jp/cgi/cgi-bin/search-portal/narabe_tool_e/narabe_e.cgi 🔍 ☆ ⌂ ⋮

☆ **Scheme parallel viewer** ☆ [concordance ver.](#) [rawdata download](#)

IPC Sample : G06F3 or G06F3/ or G06F3/00 or G06F3/02 etc... [help](#)

IPC JP EN Both non-display symbol only
Display ipc level only : Off On
ECLA: EN JP Both non-display
ICO: EN JP Both non-display
symbol IPC : display non-
pattern1 pattern2

Keyword search available

Keyword Search

 FI IPC CPC
IPC doc number : On Off
FI doc number : On Off
CPC doc number : On Off

Keyword : karaoke Classification : FI, IPC, CPC

FI	G09B 15/00 D	2C030	Learning instruments for vocal music, karaoke (electronic musical ke systems : G10)
FI	B 20/02 M	5D080	Karaoke
FI	R 1/02 107 ¥	5D017	combined with another component e.g. microphone combined with an accessory, e.g. zoom microphone supporting device, karaoke microphone
CPC	G10H1/361		{Recording/reproducing of accompaniment for use with an external source, e.g. karaoke systems}
CPC	G10H2220/011		Lyrics displays, e.g. for karaoke applications
CPC	G10H2220/145		Multiplayer musical games, e.g. karaoke -like multiplayer videogames
CPC	G10H2220/211		for microphones, i.e. control of musical parameters either directly from microphone signals or by physically associated peripherals, e.g. karaoke control switches or rhythm sensing accelerometer within the microphone casing (microphones per seH04R)
CPC	G10H2240/036		File multilingual, e.g. multilingual lyrics for karaoke
CPC	G10H2240/325		Synchronizing two or more audio tracks or files according to musical features or musical timings (synchronised lyrics, e.g. for karaoke G10H2220/011)

声楽、カラオケの教習具（電子楽器・カラオケ装置：G 1 0）

カラオケ関係
カラオケ採点
カラオケ

他の機器と組み合わされて用いられるもの、例。装身具と組み合わされたマイクロホン（例。ズームマイクロホン支持装置、カラオケマイク）
〔外部音源と共に使用する伴奏を記録／再生するもの、〔例。カラオケ装置〕〕

歌詞表示、例。カラオケ

マルチプレイヤー音楽ゲーム、例。カラオケのようなマルチプレイヤービデオゲーム

マイクロフンのためのもの、例。マイクロホン信号から直接または関連周辺機器を物理的に介在させた音楽パラメータの制御、例。マイクロホンケーシングの中のカラオケ制御スイッチまたはリズム感知加速度計（マイクロホンそれ自体H 0 4 R）

多国語ファイル、例。カラオケ用多国語歌詞

音楽機能や音楽タイミングにより2以上のオーディオトラックやファイルと同期すること（同期歌詞、例。カラオケ用G 1 0 H 2 2 2 0 / 0 1 1）

Link to the scheme

Bulk data

- FI scheme (in English) and Raw data for IPC-FI-CPC scheme parallel viewer can be downloaded from JPO website.

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<https://www.jpo.go.jp/e/system/patent/gaiyo/seido-bunrui/bulkdata.html>

FI/F-term revision information

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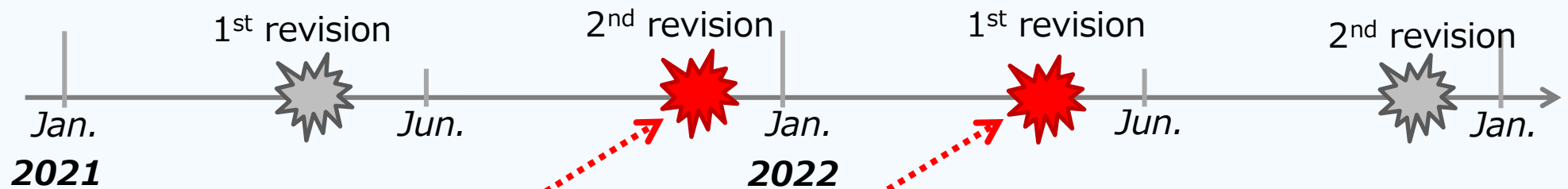
- Outline of FI/F-term
- English information on FI/F-term
- Current status of FI/F-term
 - FI revision schedule
 - Updating FI scheme according to the latest version of IPC
 - FI/F-term revision in FY2021

FI revision schedule

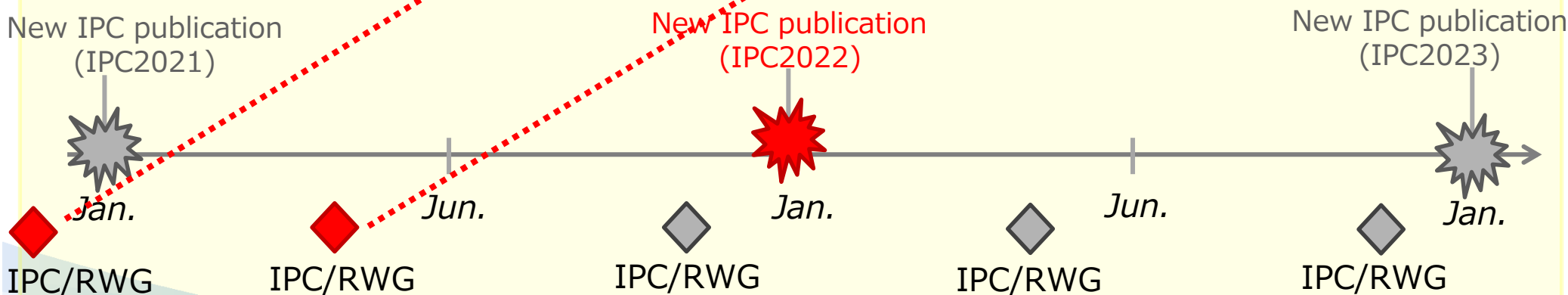
➤ FI system reform

- FI revision corresponding to new IPC publication **twice a year**
- FI revision **in November 2021** before new IPC entering into force **in January 2022**

FI revision schedule



IPC schedule



FI revision schedule

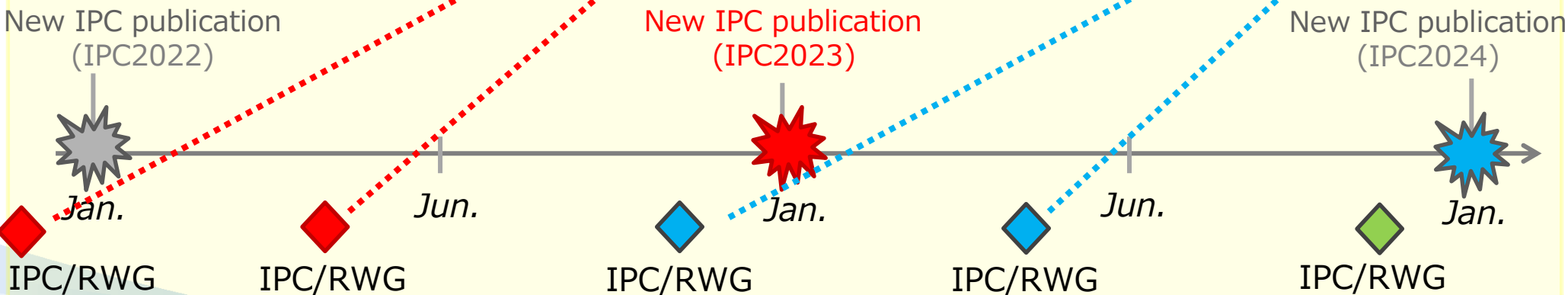
➤ FI system reform

From 2023, FI revision and new IPC publication will be carried out **in January at the same time.**

FI revision schedule

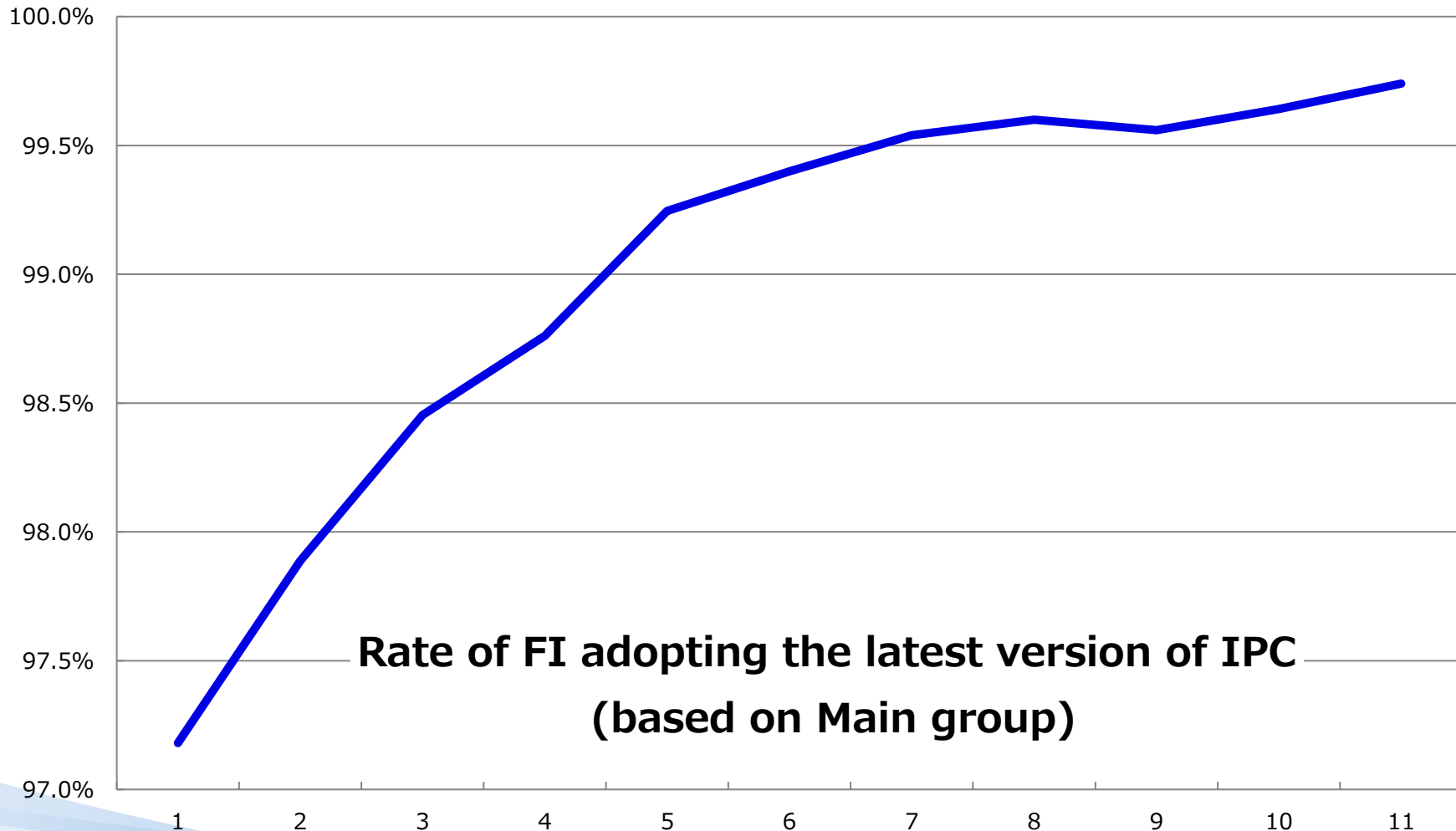


IPC schedule



Updating FI scheme according to the latest version of IPC

- Upon completion of FI revision in Apr. 2021, rate of FI adopting the latest IPC reached approximately 99.74 %.



**Rate of FI adopting the latest version of IPC
(based on Main group)**

FI/F-term revision in FY2021

- In FY2021, the JPO carried out FI/F-term revision for the following numbers of FI main groups / themes.
 - FI revision: 212 main groups
 - F-term revision: 44 themes

Thank you!

