

## TAXONOMY UPDATE 2016

**The Taxonomy as a dynamic structure is updated on a yearly basis. The changes to both the Group Titles and Class Scopes for 2016 were implemented and introduced in the Harmonised Database (HDB) in January 2016 in all EU languages with the collaboration of IP Offices.**

These changes are a result of the periodical re-evaluation of the Taxonomy by experts at OHIM and National Offices, with observations coming from user associations also. Validation and finalization of the hierarchies are done in cooperation with WIPO.

Changes to the market place must, in as far it is possible, be reflected in the Taxonomy. Furthermore, as the Taxonomy is based on Nice Classification, any impacting change to the Nice classification must also be mirrored in the structures.

### **Changes to Group titles**

Conformation of Group title changes implemented in the 2016 Taxonomy (deletions not contemplated)

Class	2015 Group Title	New Group Title for 2016 (Endorsed by WIPO)
1	Compositions for use in food and beverages	Chemical and organic compositions for use in the manufacture of food and beverages
1	Compositions and materials for treatment of leather and textile	Chemical and organic compositions and substances for treatment of leather and textile
7	Agricultural, gardening and forestry equipment	Agricultural, gardening and forestry machines and apparatus
7	Fastening and joining tools and equipment	Machines, tools and apparatus for fastening and joining
7	Food and beverage processing and preparation equipment	Food and beverage processing and preparation machines and apparatus
20	Blinds, and fittings for curtains and blinds	Indoor blinds, and fittings for curtains and indoor blinds
17	Synthetic resins	Semi-worked synthetic resins
17	Plastics	Semi-worked plastic substances
24	Labels	Labels of textile
31	Algae	Algae for human or animal consumption
33	Pre-mixed beverages	Pre-mixed alcoholic beverages
37	Mining, and oil and gas extraction	Extraction of natural resources
41	Conferences, exhibitions and competitions	Organisation of conferences, exhibitions and competitions
14*		Key rings and key chains

\* **New addition to the structure of Class 14.**

Please Note: *This table reflects the implemented changes **only**. The rest of the structure in all classes remains unchanged.*

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### **Changes to Class scopes**

Conformation of Class scopes changes implemented in the 2016 Taxonomy (deletions not contemplated)

#### **Class 1**

- Chemical and organic compositions for use in the manufacture of food and beverages

#### **Class 14**

- Key rings and key chains\*(*Newly created group*)

#### **Class 17**

- Semi-worked synthetic resins
- Semi-worked plastic substances

#### **Class 37**

- Extraction of natural resources

### **About Taxonomy**

Taxonomy is a classification assistant in the HDB (Harmonised Database) that enables to find appropriate classification terms to describe your Goods and Services and find the right scope of protection.

It is a structure of groups of terms, of goods and services, sharing similar characteristics ordered into a hierarchy of general terms at the top and specified terms at the bottom. These groups are referred to as "Group titles".

Taxonomy uses the Nice classification as a foundation to build on. The first level of Taxonomy is taken from the Nice Classification and is the division into 45 classes. The content of each class is specified in the "Class scopes" which help the user in identifying what is in a particular class. Nice classification is the standard for classification of goods and services in trademark application and registration. The Taxonomy is not an alternative to Nice classification. It is not a new system of classification – it is a complement to the traditional Nice Classification, with a more comprehensive and deeper structure of the goods and services. When changes are made to the Nice Classification by the Committee of Experts, those changes will be reflected in the Taxonomy.

### **Group titles**

Group titles are groupings of terms sharing similar characteristics which have been ordered in a hierarchy of the general to the specific. The Taxonomy groups terms together based on concept, relationship and market sectors, helping you choose the right term for your area of business.

Group titles cover everything in the respective group and are usually "broad" in order to encompass future goods or services. Some Group titles are selectable in the HDB, all Group titles are assessed in accordance with the database rules.

A Group title does not necessarily need to be acceptable term- only describes content of group. However, Group titles that are selectable in the HDB, can be used for filing purposes like another term.

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### **Class Scopes**

The Class scopes are a group of terms which collectively designates all known goods and services within a class and helps the user in identifying what is in a particular class.

The Class scopes are based on the taxonomy structure; they consist of the highest level of group titles that are acceptable for classification in a particular class. They are broad enough to cover all classifiable terms in a class, whilst being specific enough for classification.

The Class scopes are governed by the Taxonomy. Therefore any changes to the Taxonomy will be reflected in the Class scopes (where applicable) to ensure they remain current and provide a comprehensive indication of what is included in the classes.