



Proposal for classification of furniture (class 6 of Locarno Classification)

Referring to the invitation of the Chairman of the Pilot Group of the Locarno Union from January 2009 to submit a proposal for classification of designs classified in class 6 of Locarno Classification, the Czech Republic presents the following findings.

Should be the revision efforts considered successful, any new or revised classification must meet the following criteria:

- the classification should suit to the needs of offices and design databases of any size,
- the revision should result in a unified index of classification and searching terms, which allows compatibility and harmonization of databases,
- the classification should allow searches for designs of whole products as well as their spare and distinctive parts.
- the classification should be user-friendly, it should allow easy orientation and efficient searches.

Background

International (Locarno) Classification in class 6 for furniture has altogether 14 subclasses, each of them containing the list of products within their scope. Most of these subclasses are overloaded in databases. Searches cannot be reasonably narrowed without threat of lost of relevant records, which makes the searches inefficient. The subclasses vary in their scopes and the scopes are not clearly defined. Thus, for instance in the subclass “Composite Furniture” there are frequently classified furniture items also classified as individual products. If multiple classifications is applied the subclasses grow even faster.

Classifications with more detailed structures create multi-level subclasses for groups of products with specific visual features. The structures get complicated and creation of new subclasses is not consistent. These classifications suffer from disadvantages of misleading classifications. The orientation of users in the structure of the classifications is difficult.

Proposal

Taking into considerations the objectives said above and the shortcomings described, we tried to develop an alternative to the current classifications as follows:

1. The current Locarno subclasses are substituted by subclasses (table 1) sorting out designs for furniture into groups of products, which are visually close and naturally belong together. Each subclass is searchable by one classification term. It has a scope note defining clearly, which designs belong to the subclass. The items given in the scope note are non-searchable terms - they can be found in the classification and they refer to the searchable term in the title of subclass. The scope note also contains cross-references to associated subclasses.
2. The current Locarno subclasses (not all of them) are used as headlines for groups of relative search terms. They are not searchable and they have only informative function to make the structure of the classification easier for orientation.
3. The classification codes consist of digits 06 indicating the main class for furniture and two digit code which does not reflect any hierarchy. The codes were allotted to the



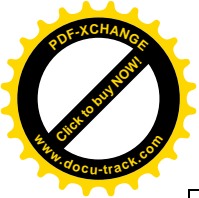
classification terms in the alphabetical order in Czech language therefore in the English version do not keep the numeric order.

4. In a separate table (table 2) there are subclasses incorporating items, which form parts of furniture products. They can be furniture parts or they naturally belong into the scope of another Locarno class but they often appear as parts of furniture products. In the demonstration (see bellow) thus there are items, which belong to classes 5 - glass sheets, 8 - hinges or 25 – doors of Locarno classification (they keep their original classification codes). The structure of the subclasses in this table is the same as in the table 1.
5. The universal categories of visual features for shape, surface and colour as proposed by members of the PWG are applied where appropriate.
6. The principle of classification is the same as in classification according to Vienna Classification of Figurative Elements of Marks. The design of a furniture product is classified according to its appearance – as whole and in parts what it consists of. The principle of multiple classifications is applied. The result is the chain of classification codes - terms reflecting all substantial features of the design.
7. Any combination of classification terms may be applied. It is also possible to use any classification term from any other class across the classification. The search engine should remember which terms were used most frequently when furniture was classified and searched and it should offer the list of those terms for furniture parts. Thus the list of classification and search terms offered in a search interface for the category of furniture parts would be updated according to the frequency of terms used. It would reflect the fashion tendencies in the market. The classification/search terms not being on the list, when needed, should be entered in classification or search field manually. The main reason is to provide a user-friendly interface by keeping the list of search terms reasonably long.
8. This approach allows restrict too wide search inquiries by distinctive elements in searched designs. It also allows searches for those distinctive parts no matter if they are classified as such or incorporated in a complex product.
9. In the classification structure each product according to its nature no matter of its use or function should have its unique place. Effective and flexible searches tailored to the needs of users should be reached by combination of individual items and distinctive parts (instead of enumerative list of detailed subclasses).

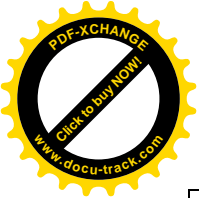
The following tables show examples of new subclasses for furniture products and their parts. The lists are not exhaustive and the contents of scope notes and references need further development. Due to the language barrier, the classification terms do not necessarily be the most representative terms covering the scope of the class. It is subject of further consideration.

Classification of Furniture, table 1

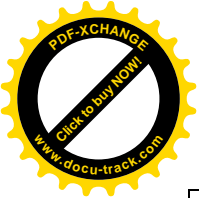
Furniture items		
Subclasses / Classification and searchable terms for furniture products	Cl. Code	Scope notes / non-preferred terms / cross references
<i>Seats and Similar Furniture</i>		
armchairs	0609	SN: a seat for one person serving for rest with or without armrests. Originally called an arming chair to distinguish from a single or side chair, armless single chair or back stool.



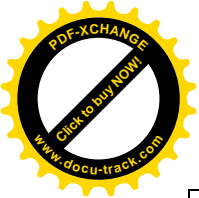
		Use also for: easy chairs, rocking chairs, fire side chairs. For a seat for one person serving for work or an activity see 0641 or 0631. For tabourets see 0631 For deckchairs see 0611
benches	0610	SN: a long seat for more than one person mostly made of wood or other hard material, may be upholstered. Use also for: pews, benches for saunas, suspended/swinging benches, school benches, friendship benches. For upholstered comfort seats for more than one person see 0619. For courting benches see 0619. For benches for weight training see 21-02.
chairs	0641	SN: a seat for one person with a support for the back, mostly serving for work or an activity, may be with armrests. Use also for babies chairs, hairdressers' chairs, office chairs, dentists' armchairs, garden chairs, For a seat for one person with a support for the back serving for rest see 0609 For deckchairs see 0611
seats	0628	Use for: child seats for motor cars, seats for fixing on cycles or motorcycles, booster cushions for motor cars, baby bouncer seats, seats/benches for means of transport, theatres, stadiums, swinging/suspended seats For rocking chairs see 0609. For booster cushions see 0613 For saddles see 12-11 or 30-04
sofas	0619	SN: mostly upholstered seats for more than one person, Use also for: couches, settees, divans, canapé, chaise lounges, courting benches, love seats, western futons
stools	0631	Use for a seat for one person without a back or armrest. Use also for: camp stools, music stools, rotating stools, tabourets, ottomans, footstools or prayer stools, kneelers For steps stools see 25-04
<i>Beds and Similar Furniture</i>		
beds	0612	Use also for: massage couches, invalid beds, hospital beds, bunk beds, berth, loft beds, cabin beds, waterbeds
cots	0611	SN: a small bed that folds up for storage or transport. Use also for: camp beds, deckchairs, hammocks.
cribs	0647	SN: a small bed specifically for babies and infants. Use also for: baby cots, baby carrycots, basket cots, cribs, cradles or stocks, bassinets, basket cots,
operating tables	0648	SN: a table on which the patient lies during a surgical operation For dentists' armchairs see 0641



Tables and Similar Furniture		
altars	0650	
billiard tables	0649	Use also for: pool tables, snooker tables
counters	0651	SN: a piece of furniture for servicing customers Use also for: bar counters, kitchen counters
lecterns	0624	SN: stand with a slanted top used to hold a text at the proper height for a lecturer.
tables	0633	SN: a piece of furniture having a smooth flat top, one or several legs, may have drawers or compartments Use also for: desks, school desks, drawing tables, picnic tables, table tennis tables, chess/game tables, coffee/tea tables, bed tables, bedside tables, worktables, work benches, For bedside cabinets see 0608 For operating tables see 0648
serving trolleys	0632	SN: A table on wheels used to take food or drinks from the kitchen to the dining-room. Use also for: serving trolleys, serving carts.
Storage Furniture		
bookcases	0606	SN: a piece of furniture with shelves for storing books For cabinets see 0608 For show-cases see 0637
cabinets	0608	SN: a box-shaped furniture, either standing alone as a piece of furniture or built into or attached to a wall open or closed Use also for: file cabinets, chests of drawers, dressers, tallboys, cupboards For wardrobes see 0630 For bookcases see 0606 For show-cases see 0637
chests	0601	SN: a box with a lid used for storage, usually large and sturdy. Use also for: safes, toy chests, travelling chests,
coffins	0625	
shelves	0620	SN: a piece of furniture for storage, usually hanged on the wall. For compartments see 0650 For cabinets see 0608 For bookcases see 0606 For show-cases see 0637
show-cases	0637	SN: a glass container or piece of furniture used to store and display items in a shop or museum or home For cabinets see 0608 For bookcases see 0606 For wardrobes see 0630



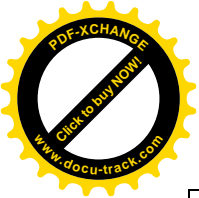
wardrobes	0630	SN: a standing closet for storing clothes For cabinets, chests of drawers or dressers see 0608
urns	0635	SN: a container for placing cremated remains.
Other Furniture		
booths	0602	SN: a separated unit for special purposes Use for: confessional booth, cabins, voting booth For building constructions see 25-03
catafalques	0604	SN: a raised bier or platform, often movable, that is used to support the casket, coffin, or body of the deceased during a funeral or memorial service.
coat racks	0636	SN: a piece of furniture for hanging clothes. For hooks or hangers see 08-08
mirrors	0639	
pelmet	0603	SN: a framework placed above window, used to conceal curtain fixtures. Use also for: cornices.
playpens	0617	SN: enclosed space for children to play
Curtains and Indoor Blinds		
blinds	0640	SN: a covering of a window to keep out light made of cloth or of narrow slats. Use also for: Venetian blinds
canopy	0616	SN: A high cover providing shelter, such as a cloth supported above an object, particularly over a bed Use also for: mosquito-net For curtains or drapery see 0638
curtains	0638	Use also for: drapery For canopy or mosquito-nets see 0616
screens	0618	SN: a portable framed blind for separating space. Use also for: fireplace screens, For electronic device see 14-02 or 14-03 For projection screens see 16-05 For voting booth see 06-02
Carpets, Mats and Rugs		
carpets	0607	SN: a loom-woven, felted textile or grass floor or wall covering. Use also for: rugs, door mats, tapestries For sports mattresses see 0613
mattresses	0613	SN: a mat or pad, usually placed atop a bed or for doing exercises. Use also for: sports mattresses.
Blankets and Other Covering Materials, Household Linen and Napery		
blankets	0623	SN: part of bedding, the large piece for keeping body warm. Use also for: duvets, quilts
coverings	0622	SN: Sheets of cloth or covers used in households for covering pieces of furniture



		furniture. Use also for: bed sheets, coffin linings, doilies, napkins, placemats, tablecloths, blanket covers, pillowcases.
cushions	0621	SN: a soft bag filled with air or a mass of padding such as feathers or foam rubber etc. used for resting head, for sitting or kneeling Use also for: pillows, zabutons, booster cushions, throw pillows. For shock absorbers in packaging, mechanical dampers, fire cushions see 09-05 For booster cushions for vehicles see 0628
sleeping bags	0614	Use also for: foot muffs for children
towels	0627	Use also for: washcloth, potholders, dishcloths

Classification of furniture, table 2

Furniture Parts		
Subclasses / Classification and searchable terms for furniture parts	Cl. Code	Scope notes / non-preferred terms / cross references
racks	08-06	SN: a frame on which to hang or place various items. For shelves see 0620
drawers	0648	
compartments	0647	
bedheads	0642	
glass sheets	05-06	
doors	25-02	
handles	08-06	SN: attachment to an object Use for: door handles, door knobs, pull handles For handles to grip tools see 08-99
tassels	05-04	SN: a binding of plaited or otherwise gathered threads or cords
hinges	08-06	
locks	08-07	
hasps	08-07	
clothes hangers	08-08	SN: a device in the shape of human shoulders, clamp or in the combination of both to facilitate the hanging of clothes
shoe trees	07-99	SN: a device approximating the shape of a foot that is placed inside a shoe to preserve its shape
holders	08-08	SN: mounts fixing other items to walls or other surface
frames	08-08	



rods	08-99	
casings	08-09	
backrests	0643	Use for: headrests, armrests, leg rests
headrests	0644	
armrests	0645	
legs	0646	
bases	0652	
trestles	08-99	
casters	0653	
loud-speakers	14-01	

Universal categories

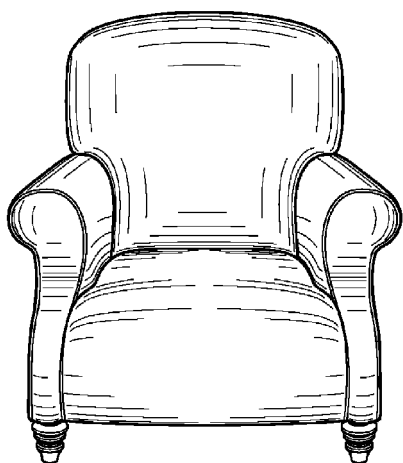
	Category of shape/ornamentation		Category of surface		Category of colour
WA	Rectilinear	XA	Smooth	YA	Not specified
WB	Curvilinear	XB	Textured	YB	1 colour
WC	Plants and plant like forms	XC	Nets/Holes/Grille/Perforation /Windowed	YC	2 colours
WD	Animals and animal like forms	XD	Buttons / Switches / Knobs / Keys / Illuminating indicators	YD	More than 2 colours
WE	Humans and human like forms/Non humanoid beings	XE	Shaped to the body	YE	Transparent
WF	Heads/Faces	XF	Textile / Leather / Hair / Unwoven	YF	Spots / Blots / Stripes / Chequered
WG	Limbs				
WH	Other body parts				
WI	Letters/Numbers/Typographic symbols				
WJ	Celestial bodies/Natural phenomena/landscapes				
WK	Heraldry/Coins/Emblems				

Note: The category of shape should apply solely to shape, solely to ornamentation or both. The option is selected by ticking the proper window or windows

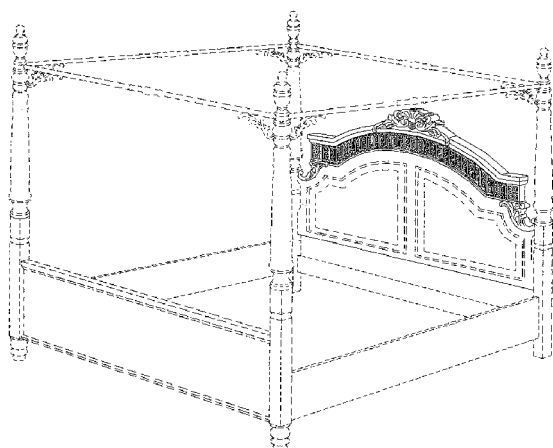
- applied to shape
- applied to ornamentation*

NOTE: all designs represented by black and white drawings or photographs should be classified YA – colour not specified. Where, however, black and white photographs or drawings show clearly that a design comprises two or more colours (though not specified), it should be classified both in YA and in the relevant category YC or YD.

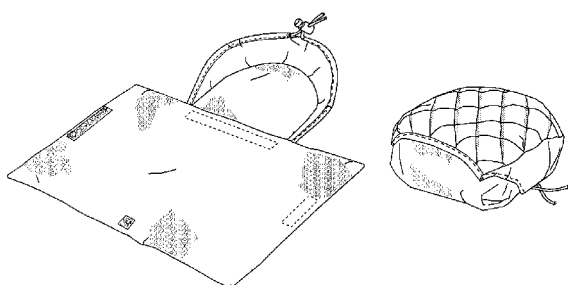
Examples of classification of designs:



0609 armchairs
0646 legs
0643 backrests
0645 armrests
YA colour not specified



0612 beds
0616 canopy
0642 bedheads
0646 legs
WK heraldry/coins/emblems,
YA colour not specified















0621 cushions
0627 towels
02-03 hoods [headwear]
XF textile/leather/hair/unwoven,
YA colour not specified,

The universal categories of shape, ornamentation, surface and colour must always reflect the subject of classification as whole. That means - if the subject of classification is an armchair, the shape, surface and colour of armchair are considered but not its individual parts. If armrest is the subject of classification instead, it will be classified on its shape, surface and colour. This simplification is necessary.

Only distinctive parts of design are classified. Simple presence or indication of a knob or handle should not be reflected in classification. The items are classified if they have any predicative value and if they contribute substantially to the appearance of the product.

A definition card for each searching term similar to those used by the Japanese Patent Office should be developed. They should consist of a definition of the classification term as well as typical or special examples. The cards should be available for the examiners as well as the database users, for instance, as pop up notes.

Definition card for classification/search term “cushions”

Classification term	Classification Code	Corresponding Locarno Classification Code (9th edition)	Corresponding USPTO Classification Code	Corresponding Japanese Classification Code
cushions	0621	06-09	D6/601	
SN:	a soft bag filled with air or a mass of padding such as feathers or foam rubber etc. Used for resting head, sitting or kneeling			
				
Use also for (non-cl. terms):	Pillows			
	Throw pillows			
	Booster cushions			
	Zabutons			
Associated subclasses (cross-references)	For shock absorbers in packaging, mechanical dampers, fire cushions see 09-05			
	For booster cushions for vehicles see 0628			



Example of search inquiries

The inquiries composite individual search terms according to the needs of the user:

Search for beds with bedheads decorated by emblems

beds AND (bedheads AND Heraldry/Coins/Emblems)

Search for armchairs without legs in the shape of a cube

(armchairs OR stools) NOT legs AND Rectilinear

Search for closed cabinets with flower decorations

(cabinets OR show-cases) AND (glass sheets OR doors) AND Plants and plant like forms*

Search for curved doors with knobs

(doors NOT smooth) AND handles

In Prague
March 23, 2009