

## Explanation of items in list of all theme information

### 1. Theme information

#### (1) Theme code

The Japan Patent Office (JPO) has maintained Japanese patent documents by uniquely dividing them into technical fields. Each technical field is called “Theme”.

Theme codes are symbols for dividing patent documents into technical fields. The coverage of each theme is determined on FI.

For further information on “FI” and “F-term”, please refer to “Help” of “Patent Map Guidance”.

#### (2) Deactivated

Themes are reclassified due to the integration and the division of technical fields in response to advances in technology and the transition to a new theme through F-term maintenance. As a result, the assignment of F-term belonging to an old theme to new documents becomes deactivated. Such old theme is shown as “○”.

As previously-assigned F-term information still remains now under currently-deactivated themes, such old documents are searchable with F-term.

#### (Example 1)

Theme of 2B004 has become deactivated due to the change to 2B304. User should use the 2B304 to search the latest patent documents.

User can search the patent documents published before and at 1988 under 2B004 with F-term.

#### (Example 2)

2E051, which is integrated into 2E050, is deactivated now.

User can search the patent documents under 2E050 with F-term, whatever its assigned period is. Although patent documents published after 1999 are not provided with F-term, user can search the patent documents with F-term before and at 1998.

Theme information					F-term data				
Theme code	Deactivated	Type	Theme name	FI coverage	Maintenance information	F-term existence	Assigned period		Under reassignment
							Start	End	
2B004	○		Lifting device for agricultural implements	(A01B63/00-63/12)	Changed to 2B304 (FY1992)	○		1988	
2B304		F	LIFTING DEVICES FOR AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS	A01B63/00-63/12	Reconstructed the F-term list from 2B004 (FY1992)	○			
2E050		Partial F	Closing and opening devices for wings, and checks for wings	E05F1/00-13/04;17/00-17/00@Z	Integrated from 2E050, 2E051 (FY1998)	○			

### (3) Assignment Type

All patent documents are provided with FI. F-term along with FI is added to themes with multilateral technologies and/or themes which is assigned to a large number of documents. Whether F-term is assigned is determined not on each theme but on each FI.

“F” means a theme where patent documents having at least one FI entry among all FI entries fully covering a theme are under F-term reassignment. “Partial F” means that F-term assignment is required to documents belonging to a theme, to which FI is partially allocated. “FI” means a theme to which only FI is provided and for which F-term assignment is deactivated.

#### (Example 3)

2B053 was assigned with F-term in the past. However, patent documents published after 1995 were not assigned with F-term. 2B053 is a theme (FI theme) to which only FI is now provided. Although user can search the patent documents published before and at 1994 under 2B053 with F-term and FI, can not search the patent documents published after 1995 with F-term.

While F-term assignment is deactivated for such theme, FI is continuously provided to them. Thus, the column “Deactivated” is blank.

#### (Example 4)

2B071 is a theme, to which only FI is provided and F-term is not assigned. User can search the patent documents only with FI.

Theme information					F-term data				
Theme code	Deactivated	Type	Theme name	FI coverage	Maintenance information	F-term existence	Assigned period		Under reassignment
							Start	End	
2B053		FI	Groove, Formation of holes, and covering with soil	A01C5/00-5/08	F-term assignment has been deactivated (FY1994)	○		1994	
2B071		FI	Harvesting machines 1 (hand tools and methods)	A01D1/00-11/06;91/00-93/00					

#### (4) Theme name

It is a short description of each technical field.

#### (5) FI coverage

It is FI coverage of a theme.

## 2. F-term data

### (1) Maintenance information

It is the content of maintenance information for F-term under each theme, such as the maintenance contents and year. The following table for details.

Description of "Maintenance information"	Explanation
Changed to <i>New Theme Code (Fiscal Year)</i> 例: Changed to 2D147 (FY2016)	F-term list totally reconstructed. At the same time This Theme Code of such F-term was changed to <i>New Theme Code (Fiscal Year)</i>
Reconstructed the F-term list from <i>Old Theme Code (Fiscal Year)</i> 例: Reconstructed the F-term list from 3H078 (FY2012)	F-term list totally reconstructed. At the same time, <i>Old Theme Code</i> of such F-term list replaced by This Theme Code ( <i>Fiscal Year</i> )
Revised the F-term list from <i>Old Theme Code (Fiscal Year)</i> 例: Revised the F-term list from 2H048 (FY2012)	Partial revision of some then-existing F-term list. New Theme Code was established. <i>Old Theme Code</i> of such F-term list was revised and changed to This Theme Code. ( <i>Fiscal Year</i> )
Revised the F-term list ( <i>Fiscal Year</i> ) 例: Revised the F-term list (FY2013)	Partial revision of some then-existing F-term list. However, This Theme Code of such F-term list kept unchanged. Some viewpoints were changed. ( <i>Fiscal Year</i> )
Divided into <i>New Theme Code (Fiscal Year)</i> 例: Divided into 4F301 (FY1998)	New Theme Code was established. This Theme Code covered by FI was divided into <i>New Theme Code (Fiscal Year)</i>
Integrated into <i>New Theme Code (Fiscal Year)</i> 例: Integrated into 4D116 (FY2016)	This Theme Code covered by FI was integrated into <i>New Theme Code (Fiscal Year)</i>
Divided from <i>Old Theme Code (Fiscal Year)</i> 例: Divided from 5B018 (FY1992)	New Theme Code was established. Some <i>Old Theme Code</i> covered by FI was divided into This Theme Code ( <i>Fiscal Year</i> )
Integrated from <i>New Theme Code (Fiscal Year)</i> 例: Integrated from 5B018 (FY1992)	<i>Old Theme Code</i> covered by FI was integrated into This Theme Code ( <i>Fiscal Year</i> )
Divided and integrated into <i>New Theme Code (Fiscal Year)</i> 例: Divided and integrated into 3B165 (FY2014)	Part of This Theme Code covered by FI divided and integrated into <i>New Theme Code (Fiscal Year)</i>
Divided and integrated from <i>Old Theme Code (Fiscal Year)</i> 例: Divided and integrated from 5E337 (FY2014)	Part of <i>Old Theme Code</i> covered by FI divided and integrated into This Theme Code ( <i>Fiscal Year</i> )
F-term assignment has been deactivated ( <i>Fiscal Year</i> )	F-term assignment was deactivated for all FI within This Theme Code covered by FI. ( <i>Fiscal Year</i> )
F-term list was constructed ( <i>Fiscal Year</i> )	F-term list was newly constructed for then-existing F-theme which had not had F-term list. ( <i>Fiscal Year</i> )
Theme name was changed ( <i>Fiscal Year</i> )	Theme name was changed ( <i>Fiscal Year</i> )

Changed the obligation to assign the F-term determined on each FI ( <i>Fiscal Year</i> )	Necessary/unnecessary determination of assignment of F-term was changed among document within some FI coverage ( <i>Fiscal Year</i> )
Changed the hierarchy of F-term ( <i>Fiscal Year</i> )	Only the hierarchy of F-term (the number of dots) was changed ( <i>Fiscal Year</i> )
F-term is assigned to patent documents published after <i>Year</i> 例: F-term is assigned to patent documents published after 1990	F-term is assigned to patent documents under This Theme. The target patent documents are published at and after <i>Year</i> .
Set the assigned period ( <i>Fiscal Year</i> ) Changed the assigned period ( <i>Fiscal Year</i> ) Eliminated the assigned period ( <i>Fiscal Year</i> )	Start year of assignment period for F-term was set ( <i>Fiscal Year</i> ) Start year of assignment period for F-term was changed ( <i>Fiscal Year</i> ) Start year of assignment period for F-term was eliminated ( <i>Fiscal Year</i> )
Reassigning would be completed <i>in Fiscal Year</i> 例: Reassigning would be completed in FY2018	Reassignment of F-term would be completed <i>in Fiscal Year</i>
Under reassignment	Under reassignment of F-term

## (2) F-term existence

“○” is the coverage of the following themes, a theme having F-term under assignment, or a theme, with currently-deactivated F-term assignment, but having F-terms enabling searches of past documents on “FI/F-term Search”.

## (3) Assigned period

It means the period when F-term-assigned patent documents were published. However, as for this assigned period, the start year is the year when the assignment started and the end year is the year when the assignment ended. Thus there may be some gap between an assigned period and the years when patent documents were actually published.

### Start

It means the oldest year when F-term was assigned. In the case where “F-term existence” is “○” and “Start” of “Assigned period” is blank, the assigned range covers the oldest patent document under a theme.

### End

It means the latest year when F-term was assigned. In the case where “F-term existence” is “○” and “End” of “Assigned period” is blank, documents under a theme has been assigned with F-term up to now.

### (Example 5)

Under 2C005, patent documents published after 1987 were assigned with F-term. User can search the patent documents published after 1987 with F-term, can not search the patent documents published before and at 1986 with F-term.

Theme information					F-term data				
Theme code	Deactivated	Type	Theme name	FI coverage	Maintenance information	F-term existence	Assigned period		Under reassignment
							Start	End	
2C005		F	CREDIT CARDS OR THE LIKE	B42D15/02-15/02, 521:15/10-15/10, 485	Reconstructed the F-term list (FY1995). F-term is assigned to patent documents published after 1986	○	1986		

#### (4) Under reassignment

The JPO has created new F-term lists for some themes in response to advances in new technology and increase in documents. Then, F-term of such new F-term lists are reassigned to patent documents under old themes. Such targeted themes are shown as “○”.

As all documents in a new theme is not yet reassigned with F-term during the reassignment work, search documents both in new themes and old themes. After the reassignment of F-term to documents, this column becomes blank.

#### (Example 6)

F-term list for 5C064 was recreated in 2004. As a result, 5C164 has been created as a new theme and 5C064 has been deactivated for F-term.

Now, 5C164 is under F-term reassignment. User use two themes, 5C064 and 5C164 to search patent documents completely.

Theme information					F-term data				
Theme code	Deactivated	Type	Theme name	FI coverage	Maintenance information	F-term existence	Assigned period		Under reassignment
							Start	End	
5C064	○	F	Cable television and two-way television	(H04N7/10:7/14-7/173, 640@Z:7/20-7/22)	Changed to 5C164 (FY2004)	○		2004	
5C164		F	TWO-WAY TELEVISIONS, DISTRIBUTION OF MOVING PICTURE OR THE LIKE	H04N7/10:7/14-7/173, 640@Z:7/20-7/56;21/00-21/858	Reconstructed the F-term list from 5C064 (FY2004). F-term is assigned to patent documents published after 1993	○	1993		