

The Bliss Classification Bulletin

c/o Commonwealth Institute, Kensington High Street, London, W.8

Vol. V, No. 4, December 1974

F O R E W O R D

It was hoped, at the beginning of the project, that the revision of the BC would be completed, if not actually published, by 1974. But the minutes of the last AGM (on p.1/3) report the sad news of a further delay. However, one result of this has been a much harder look at the possibilities of publishing BC in a number of parts, so that publication could begin before the detailed completion of the whole.

The response to the letter reprinted on p.6 has been very much in favour of publication in parts. As we go to press, Butterworth have informed the BCA that they favour our proposal and so we can, after all, look forward to seeing the first parts of the new BC in print before the next Bulletin is out.

At this moment, we haven't an exact picture of the likely price of the new edition, which will reflect not only the change to publication in parts but also the alarming inflation which has raged since the project began. But one thing can be said loud and clear. That is, the cost to a library of buying its classification scheme is in no way comparable to the cost of buying any other book or item for the use of the library's readers. It is most definitely not part of the library stock in the normal sense of the word but a crucial piece of equipment for the organisation of the library. In the perspective of the total investment a library makes in its indexing and retrieval system (measured by the cost of staff time, users' time, production of physical catalogue, etc.) the price of the index language, whether it be a classification scheme like BC, a subject headings list or a thesaurus is very small indeed, however expensive it may seem to be in absolute terms.

It is essential, therefore, that librarians buying the BC (or any other indexing language) to help the organisation of their library should make this point very forcibly to any committee, directorate, etc. which might be concerned in the purchase of an exceptionally expensive work.

In the last Bulletin we appealed to readers of the draft schedules to send us their observations, however brief on the schedules, so that we have maximum feedback to help us in the final editing. This has had some effect, but not as much as we would wish. So once again we ask all readers of the new drafts, or indeed any persons interested in the production of a modern general classification, to let us have their comments, critical or otherwise, and however modest.

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J Mills
Hon Editor

BLISS CLASSIFICATION ASSOCIATIONMinutes of the
Annual General Meeting

held at the Library Association, Ridgmount Street, London, W.C.1.,
at 2.15 on November the 22nd 1974.

PRESENT: Mr. J. Mills (Polytechnic of North London) Chairman and
Hon. Editor
Mr. A. Maltby (Queen's University Belfast) Hon. Treasurer
Dr. D.J. Campbell, Hon. Secretary
Mr. K. Best, (Department of Health and Social Security) Mrs. V. Broughton,
(Polytechnic of North London) Mr. K.G. Cheyney, (Haberdashers Aske's
School) Mr. A.E. Cooban, (Birkbeck College, University of London) Mr. R.
Davidge, (Royal Holloway College, University of London) Mr. G.W.
Geoghegan, (Reading University Education Library) Mr. R. Hughes,
(Commonwealth Institute) Mr. K. Morton, (King's Fund Centre) Mrs. M.
Walker, (Tavistock Joint Library)

Apologies were received from Miss A. Bunch, (Scottish Health Service
Centre) Miss E.B. Dean (Bishop Grosseteste College) Mr. G.B. Freeman,
(University of Hull, Institute of Education) Mr. G. Hall, (Burmah Oil
Trading Ltd.) and Miss Perry, (University of Cambridge, Institute of
Criminology).

1. The minutes of the last A.G.M. (circulated in the Bulletin)
held on 23rd November 1973 were approved. There were no matters
arising not already on the agenda.
2. The Chairman's report.
 - (a) Progress of the revision.

The Chairman said that he was very sorry to have to report a
further delay in publication. In the early years of the revision
there had been little evidence to go on, as to how long it would
take. He and Mrs. Broughton had now for some months been keeping
detailed notes of the times which various jobs took. For example
class K (Sociology) had taken him alone 280 hours. He had not
been able to shed as many other duties at the School of
Librarianship as he had hoped last year. For example, much work
had fallen to him, as Head of Research, over new research
degrees. He was spending about half his time on B.C.

Copies of a chart were distributed showing that all but the
'anterior numeral classes' had passed the stage of 'preliminary
analysis'; all but the 'anterior numeral classes', class B
(Physics), T (Economics) and about half class U (Useful arts)
especially engineering) had passed the stage of 'vocabulary
complete'; all but the above and DG-DZ (Geology and Geography)
had passed the third stage of the 'first draft'. Final drafts
had been done for schedules 1-4, classes A-AL, C, D-DF, J, K, M
to Q, S, and V to Z. Classes B and T were the last 'big nuts to
crack'. Final editing and checking of a big work like this
always took a good deal of time. Class K would be out in a few
weeks and classes E to I, L, R and part of U were well
advanced.

Mrs. Vanda Broughton's research fellowship ended in August 1975,

but it was hoped that it would be extended in order to see the completion of the new B.C. Alphabetical indexing was going well; but an assistant appointed who had been helping in this would leave in April 1975.

Taking into account that, at the worst, he might have to finish the work virtually without help, Mr. Mills hoped that the revision could be finished in 1976. Butterworth had accepted this without undue surprise. They still hoped that four months from receipt of camera-ready copy would suffice for publication.

The new B.C. would be a new scheme as much as a revision. A less thorough revision would have taken about as long and have been much less satisfactory and long-lived. Mr. Mills admitted that he had been over-optimistic in the past, and he took full responsibility for this. He recalled that Miss Dean, in Committee had deprecated setting delivery dates which could not be kept.

Dr. Campbell said that if the work appeared in 1976 the revision would have taken only $7\frac{1}{2}$ years, a very reasonable period for such an undertaking, especially when combined with other work. He had never regarded the earlier estimate of three years as remotely realistic. (He had not been on the Committee which made it).

A member asked the probable price. Mr. Mills said that Butterworth, two years ago, had estimated (and it could only be a rough estimate) £40-£50. The cost of paper alone had doubled in the last two years, and the final price was bound to reflect such increased costs.

(b) Method of publication.

The Committee had that morning considered a new approach to this, suggested by Mr. Geoghegan. This was to publish in parts classes or natural groups of classes (each part with its own index) as soon as ready. This would make available for use and study schedules already complete or nearly complete, and give the many librarians waiting to see if the scheme would suit their libraries something to consider.

Mr. Mills thought that ideally one should not issue parts before the whole work, as revision of one class often affected others. But he thought publication in parts a workable idea, if there was also published an introductory volume, with instructions for using the scheme, examples and a new abridgement, suitable for classifying 'fringe material'. The last part to appear would be an index to the whole scheme. The consent of Butterworth to these changes would of course be necessary.

Mrs. Walker said that many small libraries could not afford £70 say in one year, but could find smaller recurrent sums. Mr. Mills said that even £70 would be a relatively small sum when the function of the scheme was considered - i.e. as the basis for the organisation of the library's information store. Librarians must impress on administrators that buying a copy of the library's classification scheme was in no sense simply the purchase of 'another book' for the library's stock, but the purchase of a vital piece of administrative equipment. The view was expressed that publication in parts would increase the publisher's work of recording, invoicing and accounting, and that the whole scheme would cost more. Mr. Best said that many libraries using other classifications would buy parts of the new B.C. 'for ideas', but

would not spend £70 on the whole work. Mr. Maltby thought that the idea would raise total sales. Mr. Geoghegan pointed out that the new method would facilitate issuing revised parts later. He suggested that a library buying one or two parts might pay £X, but £X-Y if it undertook to buy the whole work later. Dr. Campbell thought this unworkable, and that publication in parts would so lower sales of a complete edition, as hitherto planned, that Butterworth would not risk the latter, as well as publication in parts.

It was agreed that Mr. Mills should discuss the new plan with Butterworth as soon as possible. If they accepted it it should be possible to issue the first parts in the second half of 1975. Mr. Cheyney asked how members could hear of the decision. It was agreed that if it was reached by the end of 1974 a letter could go out with the Bulletin. If not a letter would be sent to all members and library/information periodicals. If Butterworth refused, the Committee would consider what to do.

3. School Libraries Association.

Mr. Mills read a letter from the Association, saying that as it had its own working party for the S.L.A. abridged edition, it had decided to resign from the B.C.A.

4. Hon. Treasurer's report.

Mr. Maltby, presenting his fifth and last report, said that resignations had slightly more than offset new members. Total income for the year ending 31st July was £233.17 (almost the same as for 1972-3). Expenditure was £37.57 but the Association had paid £150 to the School of Librarianship (Polytechnic of North London) towards administrative costs of the revision. The total cash, at the 31st October, on current and deposit accounts was £994.21. (The accounts appear on p. 5). Mr. Maltby said that the Association should build up its assets to help pay for future revisions. It should also start publicity for the new edition, and drive for new members. He was sorry that, because of pressure of work, he had to resign as Hon. Treasurer and from the Committee.

Mr. Maltby was heartily thanked by the members for his service in both capacities. The report was approved.

5. Publicity Officer.

Mr. Roger Hughes offered to be Hon. Publicity Officer and his offer was received with gratitude and accepted.

6. Election of new members of the Committee.

Under the new rule 5, three members had to resign each year. The three selected by lot after the 1973 A.G.M were Miss Dean, Mr. Maltby and Mr. Morton; Miss Dean and Mr. Morton were eligible and willing to stand again. Mr. S. Green (National College of Food Technology), elected last year for three years, had resigned, to allow more 'new blood' on the Committee. Mr. Green was thanked for his valuable service on the Committee for the past five years.

One new nomination had been received, from Miss Antonia Dunch and Mr. K. Morton, of Mr. K. Best (Department of Health and Social Security). Mr. Best said he was willing. At least one other nomination was asked for; Mr. A.E. Cooban (Birkbeck College) agreed to be nominated.

Miss Dean and Mr. Morton were re-elected, and Mr. Best and Mr. Cooban were elected to the Committee. At a later Committee meeting they drew lots to decide who should succeed Mr. Green for the remainder of his term (two years); the lot fell to Mr. Best. The other three serve for three years.

7. The post of Hon. Treasurer.

Volunteers for the office were invited, but none were forthcoming. It was left to the Committee to find someone. Mr. Maltby agreed to serve as Acting Hon. Treasurer for at most two months.

8. Letter from the Inland Revenue.

The Hon. Secretary read a letter from H.M. Inspector of Taxes, Holland Park, London (who had earlier requested a copy of the Association's rules) asking for further information and saying that the Association appeared to be liable to Corporation Tax on various sums, notably the £200 advance on royalties received from Butterworth. Mrs. Broughton offered to ask her husband, who is a solicitor, for advice, and took the letter.

9. There being no other business, Mr. Nills thanked those present for coming and closed the meeting.

THE BLISS CLASSIFICATION ASSOCIATIONFinancial statement for year ended 21st July 1974

<u>INCOME</u>	£	p	£	p
Membership subscriptions				
Personal	5.	92		
Primary/Secondary Schools	5.	98		
Other Institutions	175.	16		
				<u>187. 06</u>
Sales of Bulletin			5.	18
Donations			6.	00
Interest on current account			2.	17
Interest on deposit account			32.	76
				<u>233. 17</u>
			TOTAL INCOME	<u>233. 17</u>

EXPENDITURE

Bliss Bulletin - printing, distribution etc.	26.	69
Committee expenses	3.	40
Stationery and Postages	5.	98
Bank charges	1.	50
		<u>37. 57</u>
	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>37. 57</u>

Working balance for 1973/74 £195.60

Note A special payment to the Polytechnic of North London towards administrative costs for the revision of B.C. was also made in February 1974 £150. 00

Cash in bank at 31st October 1974

Current account	£59. 62
Deposit account	£934. 59
	<u>£994. 21</u>

18th November 1974

A. Maltby
Hon. Treasurer

Copy of letter sent to all members of B.C.A., following the AGM, regarding the proposal to publish the new B.C. in parts.

Dear Colleague,

We regret to say that at the last meeting of the Bliss Classification Association Committee, a further delay was announced in the date of publication of the revised Bliss Classification and the main point of this letter is to seek your views on a proposed alteration in publication plans. In view of the fact that a large amount of material already exists in a near-complete form and that more such material is steadily accumulating, the possibility of making use of this without waiting on completion of the whole scheme has led to a proposal that we publish Bliss Classification in successive parts. In this way publication could begin in 1975, as planned and continue steadily through 1976 until completion. The alternative (publishing in one piece) would be publication in early 1977.

Further discussion disclosed a number of significant advantages accruing to publication in parts and these are indicated in Appendix 1 below.

After considerable discussion the Committee decided unanimously that an approach should be made to Butterworth to see if they would be agreeable to the new plan of action. The AGM which followed the Committee's meeting endorsed the latter's opinion.

We have now approached Butterworth on the question and we wish to give a clear picture to all members of what is being proposed so that we can have their views on it.

We provide below (in Appendix 2) a list of the Bliss Classification classes which would be published separately, together with the approximate number of pages in each and the approximate date of delivery of camera-ready copy to Butterworth. It is hoped that actual publication of a part could be as little as some 3/4 months after that date. In Appendix 1 we give the list of pros and cons for publication in parts submitted to Butterworth.

We should be grateful for the observations of members on this question.

J. Mills, Hon. Chairman
& Editor

D.J. Campbell, Hon. Secretary

Appendix (1)

Publication of Bliss Classification in successive parts : pros and cons.

1. Most of the enquiries we constantly receive relate to particular classes or clusters of classes. This is in accord with our original assumption that the new Bliss Classification will be very attractive to librarians of special collections of all kinds.
2. If libraries could buy these classes separately at a relatively modest price, this attraction would be greatly enhanced.

3. Libraries and Library schools likely to buy the complete scheme will still do this and issuing it in parts should not diminish this particular market.
4. A 'Special' library (i.e. any library concerned with a less than general collection) buying a particular part of the scheme may eventually decide to purchase the whole scheme. A natural tendency of special collections is to extend their range of marginal material to be covered as these become increasingly interdisciplinary.
5. Publication in parts would allow the new Bliss Classification to appear in 1975 whereas publication of the whole scheme in two volumes as originally planned could not be before early 1977. The earlier appearance would provide a significant boost to the revision.
 - 5.1 It would be established definitely as an existent scheme rather than one being prepared. For any new library wishing to adopt a scheme, or any existing library considering classification or reclassification of a special collection (e.g. a departmental collection with a substantial degree of autonomy) this is an important consideration...
 - 5.2 Publicity for the scheme would be aided:
 - 5.21 by beginning earlier than would otherwise be wise;
 - 5.22 by reviews of individual classes appearing in the relevant specialist library journals as well as in the general ones.
 - 5.3 Favourable comments on the system by users can be expected as soon as the scheme actually begins publication.=
6. Schools of library and information studies (who will be prominent customers of the new Bliss Classification in any case) will buy parts automatically as they appear. Their use of the scheme in theoretical and practical instruction will be facilitated since this instruction frequently follows a particular subject or subject cluster at different points in a course. Also, their purchase of the full scheme will be facilitated since it could be budgeted for over 2 or 3 sessions (we have already had enquiries on this point from two schools). This will also be the case for libraries buying the whole scheme.
7. Maintenance and revision of the scheme (after publication) would be greatly facilitated by issuing in parts. Since the permanence of scheme (or to put it another way, confidence in its perpetuation) is an important element in its adoption, this is a very substantial consideration. Individual classes are much more easily revised and new editions published than is the whole work. Some classes need revision more frequently than others, of course.
8. Physical production would be facilitated, since typing of final schedules will be spread over the 18-24 months envisaged.

9. Although publication in parts raises particular editorial problems for us (i.e. we have to finalise some decisions rather sooner than would otherwise be the case if everything were saved up for publication at one single stroke) we regard this as being far outweighed by the pleasure we would get from seeing Bliss Classification coming out in 1975.
10. The additional cost of duplicating the A/Z index (i.e. each part having its own and then appearing as part of the consolidated one) is to some extent offset by the much cheaper paper covers sufficient for parts (but not for the original two volumes).
11. The additional cost of issuing in parts might be offset by purchasers of the full scheme by a special rate for libraries subscribing to the latter.

Appendix 2. Suggested 20 parts for separate publications

<u>No. of Bliss part notation</u>	<u>Schedules</u>	<u>Approx. no. of pages</u>	<u>Approx. date of delivery to Butterworth</u>
1	1/9 Generalia, Communication in general, Cybernetics, Information processing, Information & library science.	35	Feb. 1977
2	A Philosophy, Logic, Mathematics, Statistics	30	July 1976
3	B Physics, Electrical & communication technology	65	Oct. 1976
4	C Chemistry & Materials technology	70	Aug. 1976
5	D Astronomy & Space science, Earth Sciences	35	Mar. 1976
6	E/G Biology (inc. Botany & Zoology)	100	Dec. 1975
7	H/I Health sciences & Psychology	70	Sep. 1975
8	J Education	25	May 1975
9	K Sociology & social geography	40	Feb. 1976
10	L/O History	85	June 1976
11	P Religion, The Occult	25	June 1975
12	Q/S Social studies: Social administration & welfare, Political science, Law	65	Oct. 1975
13	T Economics	50	Nov. 1976
14	UA/D Agriculture & Animal husbandry	45	Jan. 1976
15	UE/N Environmental technologies: Civil engineering, Construction industries, House and home	40	Jan. 1977
16	UO/W Industrial, Production & Mechanical engineering	75	Dec. 1976
17	V Fine arts (including music)	50	Nov. 1975
18	W/Y Language & literature	60	May 1976
19	General introduction, How to use, Outline of whole classification	40	Mar. 1977
20	Consolidated A/Z index to whole Scheme	350 Total pages <u>1355</u>	Apr. 1977

*Publication in one issue, as originally envisaged, would be more economical in total pages, since the one consolidated A/Z index would serve all parts as well. It would give two volumes of some 500/550 pages each.

*Each part of the proposed 18 subject classes comprises (i) Brief introduction, (ii) Schedules, (iii) A/Z index

Note on Class C Chemistry

The revision of this class was completed during the summer and has been circulated with generally favourable results. This class in existing BC was one of the least satisfactory from the point of view of both vocabulary and structure, and the revision is relatively radical.

Some major features of the new schedule are as follows:

1. Provision of a full vocabulary for physical chemistry. Although modern developments have blurred the absolute distinction between Physics and Chemistry and it becomes increasingly difficult to maintain the division into two discrete disciplines, we believe it necessary to continue to do this for the purposes of the general collection. Much of the vocabulary contained in the new class C (e.g. under state of matter) is at least as relevant to Physics as it is to Chemistry but it is presented here as being essential to the latter. Subsequent development of the revised schedule for Physics (now in progress) may possibly reveal such similarity in the structure of the common vocabulary that it need be enumerated once only, and, by the principle of gradation, this would be placed in the Physics class.

2. Vastly increased facilities for synthesis of classmarks for chemical compounds. While it is unlikely that the full potential of the new schedule would be required by other than the largest or most specialist library, it seemed essential to establish the most rigorous logical basis for synthesis in the area of chemical compounds. Accordingly, rules were devised for the systematic construction of classmarks for compounds which should ensure totally predictable locations. Inorganic compounds are indexed by analysing the component atoms and radicals in the molecular formula and building class-marks in the order of the formula. Analysis is effected relatively simply by matching radicals with formulae enumerated in the schedules but for many compounds, indexing can be handled on a verbal level without resort to formulae. Greater specificity can be achieved by the use of valency divisions written into the schedule; most general libraries will not require this precision but it serves to place the analysis on a strictly logical footing should this be needed.

In the case of organic compounds, where molecular formulae are more flexible, a pre-arranged citation order is given and this should be followed by the indexer. The analysis of a formula into radicals and functional groups is a little more complicated than with inorganic chemistry but is assisted by a number of tables giving various points of entry into the schedules. Again, where only a broad level of indexing is needed, compounds can be indexed verbally.

The basic pattern established in organic chemistry is carried through into polymer science where specific polymers are arranged according to the same rules; for non-technical libraries however an enumerated list of common polymers, with a more economical notation, has been provided. A major difficulty here was to effect an acceptable compromise between efficiency of retrieval and a reasonably helpful shelf order, and we believe that this has been achieved.

3. Formation of a comprehensive materials technology class. This has been achieved by the inclusion of much of the material previously in Class U. The summary outline below indicates the subject content of the class; the general characteristic of technologies allocated to Class C is the function of processing raw materials. This extends from the production of 'chemicals' as in chemical technology in the narrow sense, to the processing of animal products in food technology and the textile industry, and to metals technology. The only major exclusion is Mining and related subjects, which remain collocated with Engineering in Class U. Industries which deal with the further treatment of processed materials, such as the clothing industry and machine production, remain in Class U.

4. Vocabulary. Much effort has been spent in extending the scope of the very out-dated vocabulary of BC1, both in pure chemistry (which was poor) and in materials technology. The vocabulary of BC2 now exceeds all other general schemes except the full international UDC and the provision for compounding greatly increases the potential number of terms.

5. Facet structure and citation order. As anticipated, facet analysis was relatively straightforward with this subject. Three broad facets are discernible, which are paralleled in both pure and applied chemistry:

	<u>Pure chemistry</u>	<u>Applied chemistry</u>
<u>Substance</u>	Elements and compounds	Materials and products
<u>Properties/ processes</u>	Chemical properties and reactions	Properties and reactions
<u>Operations</u>	Practical chemistry and analysis	Chemical engineering

This order is also that of citation order i.e. Substance - Property/reaction - Operation.

Class C CHEMISTRY : SUMMARY OUTLINE

		Existing BC
B/C	Physics & Chemistry	B/C
C	CHEMISTRY	C
CA	Chemical data, stoichiometry, Nomenclature, Formulae	CA, CC
CAK	Practical chemistry	CAL
CB	Analysis	CG
CC	Physical chemistry	CB
CCG	Chemical thermodynamics	CDN
CCJ	Reactions in general	CDG
CCM	Chemical statics, equilibrium	CDC
CCT	Chemical kinetics, non-equilibrium	CDE
CD	(Types of reaction)	
CDG	(By reaction mechanism) Decomposition, Addition, Exchange	CDJ
CDN	(By reaction product) Basification, Acidification... Hydration, Carbonisation..... (By energy system)	
CDQ	Thermochemistry	CDQ
CE	Electrochemistry	CE
CF	Radiochemistry, Radiation chemistry	CFD
CFJ	Photochemistry	CFI
	Matter, substance	
	(Parts & properties)	
CGE C	Structural properties (Components)	CBD
CGE D	Energy = Molecular physics (incl. Quantum chemistry)	
CGE P	Elementary particles	
CGG	Nuclei, Atoms, Isotopes, Radicals, Molecules	
CGN	Bonds, Valency	CDM
CGQ	Molecular structure, Stereochemistry	CBG
CGU	State of matter (from Class B Physics)	
CHB	Solids	
CHC	Crystals Crystallography	CHC
CHL	Interface chemistry (Solutions, Colloids)	CDT
	(Types of substances)	
CHP	(By origin) Minerals *Alternative to Geology)	CHM
CHS	Acids, Bases, Salts	CCS
CHX	Complex compounds	
CI/CS	Elements and Compounds	CI/CS
CI	Inorganic	CI
CK	Metals	CK
CO	Organic	CO
CPA	Linear, acyclic	CPA
CQ	Carbocyclic	CQ
CRA	Heterocyclic	CR
CRM	Natural products	
CRN/CS	Biochemical substances	CS
CRO	Carbohydrates	CRO
CS	Lipids, proteins	

		<u>Existing BC</u>
CT	MATERIALS TECHNOLOGY	CT
CTC	Chemical engineering	CIE
CTE	Unit operations	
CTM	Unit processes, reactions	
	(Types of materials, products)	
CTP	(By characteristics derived from CB/CH) Gases, Acids....	
CTR	By scale of production	
CUI/CUS	(By constitution) * <u>Divided like CI/CS</u>	
CUT/CV	(By constitution-cum-function)	
CUT B	Cement, concrete, etc.	CUO
CUU	Ceramics, glass, refractories, etc.	CUS
CVA	Metals, metallurgy	CK, CUV
CVJ	Oils, fats, waxes Surface active substances	
CVM	Bitumens, asphalts; Natural gums, resins	CVP
CVN	Polymers, plastics	
CVO	Synthetic	
CV QY	Natural	
SVR	Rubber	CVR
CVS R	Cellulose	
CVT	Wood	
CVV	Paper	UVP
CVW	Textiles	UU
CVY	Composite materials	
	(By main function-cum-constitution)	
CWA	Additives, Adhesives, Solvents	CWA
CWD	Dyes, pigments	CWI
CWG	Coatings, paints, inks	CWL
CWL	Perfumes, cosmetics	
CWM	Pharmaceuticals	
CWN	Agricultural chemicals	
CWP	Food & drink	
CWQ	Drink	CWQ
CWQ	Food	HHP or UVK
CY	Fuels	CY
CYC	Coal	CYC
CYG	Petroleum	CYG
CYL	Gases	CYL
CYR	Explosives	CYR
CYX	Structural materials * Alternative to Class U	

