

REVISION OF CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS USED IN TRANSPORT STATISTICS

NST-2000 - the proposed standard classification for goods

Background

NST-2000 is a proposal for a new standard statistical classification for goods, which would replace the NST/R.

Approval of this proposal by the Working Party is needed in order to recommend NST-2000 for adoption by the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) and the Conference of European Statisticians (CES).

History

At the fiftieth session of the Working Party (November 1999), the representative of Eurostat presented a proposal to replace the NST/R classification of goods with a new classification system referred to as NST/2000 (TRANS/WP.6/137, para. 48) and asked the secretariat to convene an Ad Hoc Meeting on the NST/2000 in cooperation with Eurostat. This followed a number of previous sessions of the Working Party which had expressed the need for NST/R to be revised.

On 4-5.5.2000, an Ad Hoc Meeting convened jointly with Eurostat reviewed the NST-2000 proposal in detail. Twenty-three countries participated in this meeting. The meeting approved the main principles of the proposed classification:

- the criterion for classification of goods should be the economic activity from which the goods originate. This is the same approach as used in the CPA, where the structure (divisions) of CPA is the same as NACE Rev 1;
- NST-2000 can therefore be based on the CPA divisions;
- the NST-2000 should not be based on the physical form of the goods.

However, many countries expressed a need to have a larger number of headings than were included in the Eurostat proposal. It was therefore agreed to develop a second (and possibly a third) level of NST-2000, while proceeding towards adoption of the first level which would be used *inter alia* for the transmission of data to Eurostat.

The May 2000 meeting agreed on 16 first-level headings and on 3 options for the remaining first level headings.

This version of the draft NST-2000 was discussed in detail at the fifty-first session of the Working Party (October 2000). The Working Party indicated its support for the future adoption of the 20 headings including option 1A, subject to the provision of a more complete document.

The proposal

The final version of the proposal is in Annex 1. The following information is provided for each of the 20 NST-2000 groups:

- the complete description. For groups 01-13, the description is based as closely as possible on the descriptions used in the CPA. For groups 14-20, additional short explanatory notes are provided. As for goods in the CPA, detailed explanatory notes for all goods in groups 01-13 are provided in the HS.
- for groups 01-14, the definition of the group in terms of products in CPA divisions. The CPA provides the complete list and description of goods in each group, together with the official cross-references to the headings in the CPC and HS/CN.
- for information only, the related activity headings in NACE Rev. 1 and ISIC Rev. 3.
- for information only, the nearest equivalent headings in the CPC V1.0. However, the CPC and CPA headings are not completely equivalent at this level; it is essential to use the official cross-reference at the CPA subcategory level in order to establish the correct CPA code equivalent to a CPC code.

Issues raised during 2000-2001

The NST-2000 proposal has been discussed at the Coordinating Committee for Statistics of Transport (CCST) and in the Working Groups on road and maritime transport statistics. The following issues have been raised in relation to the final version of the proposal:

a) Need for additional heading for transport of crude oil

For maritime transport, the transport of crude oil (crude petroleum) accounts for a very large proportion of all transport, which might seem to justify a separate heading.

However, to create such a heading would break the link between NST-2000 groups and the CPA divisions, since crude oil in the CPA is a subcategory heading. It is therefore proposed that for maritime transport (and for any other mode where this heading is needed), crude oil should be given a separate sub-group code which would be used for reporting to Eurostat together with the normal reporting at group level. The headings could be structured according to the following example:

Group	Sub-group*	Description of goods	Defined by products in CPA divisions	Defined by CPA category/subcategory	CPC	HS/CN
02		Coal and lignite; peat; crude petroleum and natural gas; uranium and thorium	10, 11, 12			
	02.1	Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude		11.10.10	12010	2709
	02.2	Coal and lignite; peat; natural gas; uranium and thorium	10, 11, 12	except 11.10.10		

*examples of codes given for illustrative purposes only

Such sub-group codes could be used for other situations where it is agreed to report on the transport of important types of goods not distinguished at the CPA division level.

The assignment of definitive sub-group codes will require further discussion, both in relation to the future second level of NST-2000, and in relation to the requirements of different transport modes, in order to ensure that unique codes are allocated.

b) Justification for groups 18-20

It has been suggested that it is not necessary to have three separate groups covering what might be considered as "other goods". It has also been suggested that these groups are not legitimate because they classify goods on a principle other than the type of activity from which goods originate.

Eurostat considers that the overriding requirement here is to avoid having a single, potentially large group of "unknown" goods, by which important information is lost. For the analysis of transport statistics, it will be helpful to distinguish the two important categories of goods represented by groups 18 and 19, which arise from different aspects of transport activity. Group 20, on the other hand, is a genuine residual group which will normally be very small; if significant volumes of transported goods are reported under this heading, it will indicate either that there is a problem with the quality of the reported data, or that significant types of goods have been omitted when defining the groups 01-19.

Annex 1

NST-2000

NST-2000 groups	Description of goods	Defined by products in CPA divisions	Products related to activities in NACE Rev. 1 ISIC Rev. 3	Nearest equivalent headings in CPC V1.0
01	Products of agriculture, hunting, and forestry; fish and other fishing products	01, 02, 05	01, 02, 05	01, 02, 03, 04
02	Coal and lignite; peat; crude petroleum and natural gas; uranium and thorium	10, 11, 12	10, 11, 12	11, 12, 13
03	Metal ores and other mining and quarrying products	13, 14	13, 14	14, 15, 16
04	Food products, beverages and tobacco	15, 16	15, 16	21, 22, 23, 24, 25
05	Textiles and textile products; leather and leather products	17, 18, 19	17, 18, 19	26, 27, 28, 29
06	Wood and products of wood and cork (except furniture); articles of straw and plaiting materials; pulp, paper and paper products; printed matter and recorded media	20, 21, 22	20, 21, 22	31, 32
07	Coke, refined petroleum products and nuclear fuel	23	23	33
08	Chemicals, chemical products, and man-made fibres; rubber and plastic products	24, 25	24, 25	34, 35, 36
09	Other non-metallic mineral products	26	26	37
10	Basic metals; fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment	27, 28	27, 28	41, 42
11	Machinery and equipment n.e.c.; office machinery and computers; electrical machinery and apparatus n.e.c.; radio, television and communication equipment and apparatus; medical, precision and optical instruments; watches and clocks	29, 30, 31, 32, 33	29, 30, 31, 32, 33	43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48
12	Transport equipment	34, 35	34, 35	49
13	Furniture; other manufactured goods n.e.c.	36	36	38
14	Secondary raw materials; municipal wastes and other wastes not specified elsewhere in CPA	37 + municipal wastes (as input to CPA division 90) and other wastes not specified elsewhere in CPA	37, 90	39

NST-2000 groups	Description of goods	Defined by products in CPA divisions	Products related to activities in NACE Rev. 1 ISIC Rev. 3	Nearest equivalent headings in CPC V1.0
15	<p>Mail, parcels</p> <p><i>Note: this heading is normally used for goods transported by postal administrations and specialized courier services in NACE Rev. 1 division 64</i></p>		64	
16	<p>Equipment and material utilised in the transport of goods</p> <p><i>Note: this heading covers items such as empty containers, palettes, boxes, crates and roll cages. It also covers vehicles used to contain goods, where the vehicle is itself carried on another vehicle.</i></p> <p><i>The existence of a code for this type of material does not prejudice the question of whether such materials are to be counted as "goods", this will depend on the rules for data collection in each mode of transport.</i></p>			
17	<p>Goods moved in the course of household and office removals; baggage transported separately from passengers; motor vehicles being moved for repair; other non-market goods n.e.c.</p>			
18	<p>Grouped goods: a mixture of types of goods which are transported together</p> <p><i>Note: this heading is used whenever it is not considered appropriate to assign the goods to separately to groups 01-16.</i></p>			
19	<p>Unidentifiable goods: goods which for any reason cannot be identified and therefore cannot be assigned to groups 01-16.</p> <p><i>Note: this heading is intended to cover goods where the reporting unit does not have information on the type of goods being transported.</i></p>			

NST-2000 groups	Description of goods	Defined by products in CPA divisions	Products related to activities in NACE Rev. 1 ISIC Rev. 3	Nearest equivalent headings in CPC V1.0
20	<p>Other goods n.e.c.</p> <p><i>Note: this heading covers any items which cannot be assigned to any of the groups 01-19. Since the groups 01-19 are intended to cover all foreseeable categories of transported goods, the use of group 20 should be considered unusual and may indicate a need for further checking of the data reported under this heading.</i></p>			

Annex 2

Glossary

CPA	Statistical classification of products by activity in the European Economic Community Legal base: Council Regulation (EEC) No 3696/93 of 29 October 1993 on the statistical classification of products by activity (CPA) in the European Economic Community, OJ No L342, 31.12.1993, p. 1 (and subsequent amendments) Publication: Eurostat (1998) CPA 1996. Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities.
NACE Rev. 1	Statistical classification of economic activities in the European Community Legal base: Council Regulation (EEC) No 3037/90 of 9 October 1990 on the statistical classification of economic activities in the European Community, OJ No L83, 3.4.1993, p 1 (and subsequent amendments) Publication: Eurostat (1996) NACE Rev. 1. . Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities.
CN	Combined Nomenclature
CPC V1.0	Common Product Classification V1.0
HS	Harmonised System
ISIC Rev. 3	International Standard Industrial Classification Rev. 3
n.e.c.	not elsewhere classified