NATO CODIFICATION

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the site of the National Codification Bureau of Greece (NCB).

“Codification is the basis for modern Logistics operations. It plays a major role in the acquisition of material, management of resources, maintenance and disposal. The Codification System must be able to respond to the requirements of Logisticians in the areas of Logistics Operations.”

The National Codification Bureau of Greece (NCB) is the Codification Department of the Directorate of Offset Benefits & Quality Assurance that comes under the General Directorate for Defence Investments & Armament which is based at Fakinou Camp in Papagou area and is responsible for the operation of NATO Codification System.

The NATO Codification System is the official programme under which equipment components and parts of the military supply systems are uniformly named, described, classified, and assigned a NATO Stock Number.

Relaying on NATO rules, the National Codification Bureau of Greece answers to the needs of the material managers and to those of the Countries member of the NATO Codification System, also promoting on the international scene the products manufactured in Greece.

MISSION

The mission of the Greek NCB (Codification Department of GDDIA/DOBQA) is:

- The implementation of NATO Codification System in the Hellenic Armed Forces, through the corresponding Codification agencies of the three branches.
- The observation and follow-up of international developments in NATO Codification according to NATO instructions (NCS) and the participation at AC/135 meetings.
- The coordination of Codification Agencies activities for the codification of items.

HISTORICAL DATA

In 1961 Greece signed the STANAG’s 3150 and 3151 and undertook the obligation to develop and materialize the codification system in the Armed Forces.

For this purpose in 1970 was established as a national codification body the Hellenic Codification Center and in 1972 the corresponding codification agencies of the three branches of the Armed Forces.

In 1990, Greece signed STANAG’s 4199 and 4177 and in 1982 was developed the computerized application for the support of automated data processing.

In 1996, the Hellenic Codification Center came under the General Armament Directorate and renamed to Codification Department of Support Material Directorate.

Starting at the year 2002 since March 2006, the Hellenic National Codification Bureau was the Codification department of the Joint Procurement Material Directorate that was being under the General Secretariat for Financial Planning & Defense Investments (GSFPDI/GDDI/JPMD), which was established according to Decree-law 151/2002.

On April 2006 according to Law 3433/2006 article 72 (Defense Material Procurements for the Armed Forces), the General Secretary for Financial Planning & Defense Investment as well as the National Defense Minister’s Staff ended their operation, and three new General Directorates have been constituted: the General Directorate for Financial Planning & Support, the General Directorate for Defense Armaments & Investments and the General Directorate for National Defense Policy & International Relationships.

The General Directorates detailed management of the National Ministry of Defense, is defined according to the Presidential Decree No.73 (FEK 76 A, 10 April 2006), which has been issued with regards to the clauses of Law 3433/2006 article72. In accordance to that Presidential Decree, the Hellenic National Codification Bureau is the codification department of the Offset Benefits & Quality Assurance Directorate which comes under the Defense Investments & Armaments General Directorate (GDDIA/DOBQA).
Nowadays, the NATO Codification System in our country is implemented by the Hellenic National Codification Bureau (department of GDDIA/DOBQA) and the Codification Agencies of the three branches of the Armed Forces (Army – Navy – Air Force).

STRUCTURE OF HELLENIC NCB

The Codification department (National Codification Bureau) comes under the Directorate of Offset Benefits & Quality Assurance (GDDIA/DOBQA) and in order to implement its mission it is organized in three offices:

a. Office of NATO Coding Monitoring
b. Office of Defense Equipment Codification
c. Office of Initial Services Material Codification
NATO Codification System (NCS)

INTRODUCTION

The NATO Codification System (NCS) is a uniform and common system for identification, classification and stock numbering of Items of Supply of user nations.

It is designed to achieve maximum effectiveness in logistics support and to facilitate material data management.

Now days, the NATO Codification System can be characterized as an “INTERNATIONAL CODIFICATION SYSTEM”, as has been recognized and adopted by all NATO nations as well as by an increasing number of non-NATO nations which participate in the system with the “SPONSORSHIP” program.

The NATO Codification System is governed by the NATO Group of National Directors on Codification (AC/135) and implemented by the National Codification Bureau (NCB) of each user nation.

USE OF NATO CODIFICATION SYSTEM

The establishment, operation and maintenance of the NATO Codification System, provide a uniform identification language for use within national activities (e.g. Supply management, standardization etc.) and among member nations, including non-NATO nations that are sponsored members of the NCS.

The use of NATO Codification System for data exchange and Codification services between nations is based on the following principles:

- The responsibility for codification of an IoS rests with the nation that controls the design authority of the IoS, even if the IoS is not used within that nation. In these circumstances the purchasing nation has to request codification action from the design control nation.

- The IoS produced by manufacturers not located in a NATO nation or Tier 2 Sponsored nation, which do not have an NCB (do not participate in NCS) are codified by the NCBs of purchasing nations.

ELEMENTS OF THE SYSTEM

In order to be achieved the goals of NATO Codification System, the System provides for each “IoS” to be assigned with:

- A unique ITEM NAME
- A unique CLASSIFICATION
- A unique IDENTIFICATION
- A unique NATO STOCK NUMBER

NATO STOCK NUMBER (NSN)

The NATO STOCK NUMBER of an Item is 13digit number which is assigned to items of supply by the National Codification Bureaus in order to define its identity when its identification has been completed, which means that has been defined the item name, the Group, class, have been recorded
the minimum technical characteristics and have been acquired the manufacturer data (NATO Commercial and Government Entity Code/NCAGE-Part Number) which define the item as unique. Basic Rule: “One item of supply, one NATO STOCK NUMBER”.
An example of an NSN with its related terms is shown below:

5 3 0 6 - 2 3 - 1 1 0 7 9 3 7
Group –Class
Country (NCB) Non-significant Serial Number

Federal Supply Group/Class National Item Identification Number (NIIN)
(FSC)

NATIONAL STOCK NUMBER (NSN)

BENEFITS OF THE NATO CODIFICATION SYSTEM

The NATO Codification System (NCS) provides accurate information to the identity of an IoS, it permits recording of the sources of supply, provides a uniform identification language for use within national activities (e.g. procurement management, standardisation etc.) and between member nations, including non-NATO nations which are sponsored members of the NCS and generally provides fully operational and economic advantages which are the following:

- National and International awareness of all available military assets and resources as far as NCS provides access to the full range of information on all Items of Supply in the inventories of user nations.

- Reduction of cost, inventories, storage space, record keeping and personnel through the database which allows the designer and project manager to screen for parts which are already stocked in the supply system and which could be utilised rather than producing a new IoS concept. This practice reduces the variety of Items of Supply to be managed and eliminates unnecessary costs for identification, storage and other related supply functions.

- Effective co-ordination in procurement, improved determination of material requirements and budgeting, elimination of concurrent acquisition and disposal of the same IoS, through greater knowledge of Items of Supply in stock and consolidating orders from several users to benefit from price reductions on bulk purchases.

- Use of a common supply language understood by all users, simplifies the technical dialogue between participation nations and other users.

- Supporting force multiplication and enhancing interoperability between the Armed Forces.

- Improved surplus and excess material disposal operations through the uniform identification of each item of supply, including the prevention of erroneous disposal.

- Improved government – industry understanding and relations, through the use of a single identification system and common language.

- Descriptions of Items of Supply by characteristics enable design engineers to accurately search for and select components or equipment, meeting technical or functional characteristics more efficiently than with any commercial catalogue.

- The accurate descriptions recorded in the NCS including form, fit and functional dimensions, material and surface treatment for Items of Supply, facilitates the work of military and civilian standardization agencies responsible for developing guidelines.
The in-depth knowledge of the composition of Items of Supply, through detailed recording of hazardous and precious materials, promotes recycling activities which will assist in the recovery of precious materials and assist in the protection of the environment whilst contributing to the avoidance of prohibitive reclamation costs of returning polluted sites to civilian use.

Promotion of domestic industry in abroad, through their registration on Item Codification Files "NMCRL" (NATO MASTER Cross Reference List) which provides information for items that have been codified by nations participating at the NCS and at "FED-LOG" (Federal Logistics) which provides information for items that have been codified by the U.S. Armed Forces.

ORGANISATION OF NATO CODIFICATION SYSTEM IN GREECE

For the implementation of NATO Codification System in Greece, the following bodies have been established.

- The National Codification Bureau (NCB) (GDDIA/DOBQA / Codification Section).
- The Codification Agencies of the three branches of the Armed Forces and particularly:
  - The Codification Agency of the Army which operates as a special service at KEY, responsible for the codification of Army Items.
  - The Codification Agency of Navy which operates as a special service at KEFN, responsible for the codification of Navy Items.
  - The Codification Agency of Air-Force which operates as a special service at 201 KEFA, responsible for the codification of Air Force items.
ASSIGNING NCAGE CODE

The NATO Commercial and Governmental Entity Code (NCAGE) of an item of supply is a 5-digit NATO code (characters and number) which is assigned by the NCB of producing nation to the manufacturer of this nation and is essential for the item identification.

For manufacturers come from nations which do not participate of the system, the NATO Commercial and Governmental Entity Code is assigned by NAMSA.

REQUEST FOR A NATO COMMERCIAL AND GOVERNMENT ENTITY CODE (NCAGE)
Item Identification Guide (IIG)

DESCRIPTION

An Item Identification Guide (IIG) is used for the descriptive method of item identification. An Item Identification Guide (IIG) is a document used to identify an IoS (Item of Supply) by describing its attributes or characteristics in order to distinguish it from other Items of Supply and to record the necessary supplementary data required for logistics management. Each IIG is an independent document containing instructions for use, questions for answering regarding the IoS and every necessary element to establish the IoS's individual identification. Each IIG covers a complete “family” of similar Items of Supply and questionnaires for the recording of the IoS’s characteristics, ready-formatted for machine processing.

As an additional tool for use with the descriptive method, the use of reference drawings has been developed. The purpose of these drawings is to express, pictorially, characteristics of Items of Supply which cannot be adequately by words alone. Such reference drawings are integrated in Item Identification Guides.

In order to implement the Descriptive Method for the full identification of Items of Supply, each provider-manufacturer should complete all data referred at the corresponding Federal Item Identification Guides (FIIG’S) at the web-page https://public.logisticsinformation.dla.mil/iig/

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETION OF ITEM IDENTIFICATION GUIDES (FIIG)


- Selecting carefully the corresponding INC (Item Name Code – Approved Item Name) according to the items included in the contract.

- Answering all related questions.

- For explanation of each code, select on it.

CLAUSE CONTRACT

Signing contracts with the MOD requires the obligation of the supplier to accepting "CLAUSE CODIFICATION" for materials procured by armed forces and is encoded by NATO

Clause Contract (PDF)