Codification

Codification (Cataloguing) is a uniform and disciplined process which examines Items of Production from Manufacturers, compares the technical and functional characteristics of each item, and where these are found to be identical, allocates a unique 13-digit NATO Stock Number to each Item of Supply.

Allied Committee 135 (AC135)

The NATO Codification System (NCS) is controlled and directed by Allied Committee 135 - the Group of National Directors of Codification. AC135 is made up of Directors and Technical Experts from all National Codification Bureaux – both NATO and non-NATO – supported by NSPA.

AC135 defines, implements and monitors Codification Policy and Procedures worldwide.

CODIFICATION BENEFITS

• Operational
• Economic
• Asset Management

GROUP

3 Primary and 8 equipment components

CLASS

Resistors

THE NATO STOCK NUMBER (NSN)

5905 - 00 - 7345199

Purpose

• To establish a common supply language throughout all logistics operations
• To enable interoperability of materiel
• To optimise resource management by avoiding duplication in inventories
• To facilitate master data management and enhance data quality

AC135 Mission

"To provide and promote the NATO Codification System as the primary means of materiel identification by Armed Forces, Government and Industry in support of interoperable and effective global logistics operations."

Partnerships

AC135 and the NCS is defined by the variety and strength of its Global Partnerships.

Today one third of all nations in the world belong to the NCS – the majority of these countries are not directly affiliated to NATO. Our Partnerships are the means by which we build a Worldwide Codification Community of common interests and objectives, reliant upon each other and creating mutual trust, respect, confidence and understanding which enables Codification, and many other aspects of the Global Supply Chain, to flourish and grow and achieve national and international objectives.

Partnerships

• 90 million manufacturers and defence suppliers
• 20 million references and items of production
• 1.5 million Taliban 2010.14.3224604

NMCRL - Nato Master Catalogue Of References For Logistics

The NMCRL represents the largest national inventory database in the world.

This database is presented in the multi-lingual NMCRL and is available on subscription from NSPA in DVD and Web-based formats.

It includes:

• 17 million NATO Stock Numbers for Items of Supply
• 35 million Manufacturer's References for Items of Production
• 90 million lines of Technical Characteristics

ONE WORLD

ONE CODIFICATION SYSTEM

ONE GLOBAL DATA STANDARD

www.nato.int/codification
Codification

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CODIFICATION BENEFITS
• Operational
• Economic
• Asset Management

GROUP

NATO Code
59 = Miscellaneous equipment components
59 = Miscellaneous equipment components
59 = Miscellaneous equipment components
59 = Miscellaneous equipment components

CLASS

Resistors

NON-SIGNIFICANT NUMBER WHICH, WITH NATO CODE, UNIQUELY IDENTIFIES THE ITEM

THE NATO STOCK NUMBER (NSN)

5905-00-7345199

Purpose

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www.nato.int/codification
**Codification**

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AC135 defines, implements and monitors Codification Policy and Procedures worldwide.

**CODIFICATION BENEFITS**

- Operational
- Economic
- Asset Management

**GROUP**

Electrical and electronics equipment components

**CLASS**

Resistors

**THE NATO STOCK NUMBER (NSN)**

5905 - 00 - 7245199

Non-significant numbers are used to uniquely identify the Item of Supply.

**AC135 Mission**

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**NMCRL - NATO Master Catalogue Of References For Logistics**

The Total Item Record for the NATO Codification System represents the largest materiel inventory database in the world. This database is presented in the multi-lingual NMCRL and is available on subscription from NSPA in off-line and web-based formats.

- 18 million NATO Stock Numbers for Items of Supply
- 38 million Manufacturer's References for Items of Production
- 90 million lines of Technical Characteristics
- 2.7 million Manufacturers and Defence Suppliers

www.nato.int/codification
NATO CODIFICATION

NATO SUPPORT & PROCUREMENT AGENCY
Codification Services Branch
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www.nato.int/codification

The common language of logistics
Codification History

The principles implemented today to identify defence material have a universal character and are rooted in history.

The oldest text we know of that speaks of the identification of military material dates from 1608. It is a letter written by the mathematician Simon Stevin – who was the Quartermaster-General of the armies of the Stadtholder of the Netherlands, Maurice de Nassau, Prince of Orange – and addressed to the Duke of Sully, Minister to King Henry IV of France.

Of course, Simon Stevin is much better known for his work on decimal numbers, statics and hydraulics, but he had two passions that are a guiding thread in all his works: a passion for things military and a passion for order and classification. Simon Stevin had taught the student Maurice de Nassau at Leiden University and when Maurice came to power as Stadtholder, Stevin remained a trusted advisor.

Simon Stevin was tasked to reform the finances of the Netherlands and of its armies. Sully, who had heard about this reform, had asked Stevin to share his experience and achievements in the area of streamlining resources and the modernisation of the financial affairs of the State and the Army.

In his response, Simon indicated that his approach had not been entirely new. It had been largely based on the principles he had absorbed from reading about the campaigns of Alexander the Great (in the 4th Century BC) and of Julius Caesar (who had already created the position of "Logistica" Officer to manage the equipment of the Roman legions). His personal contribution was the creation of a rigorous classification based on a mathematical approach that allowed knowledge of the material assets to be easily exploited and consequently generated savings in the management of the stocks of State-owned equipment (as opposed to the personal weapons that Flemish citizens had to keep and maintain at their own expense). It is interesting to note that Simon Stevin was already emphasizing the idea of a "universal language".

Simon's precepts were used as a basis by Vauban, then a minister of Louis XIV, to establish in France a corps of military engineers to whom were answerable, among others, the "Gardes Magasin" or "storekeepers". At that time, 12 classes were used to identify military material: handguns, throwing weapons, arquebuses and other portable firearms, cannons and culverins, cordage, etc.

One may suppose that this advanced logistics played an important role in the victories of the Duke of Luxembourg, then Commander in chief of the French armies, in particular against the Netherlands.

This principle of classifying and identifying material was then spread throughout Europe by the logistics unit created by Napoleon that was attached to the Imperial Guard that was with him in all his campaigns.

More recently, in the years 1920-1930, a study on the modernization of material identification was conducted in France in the school of military engineers. This study highlighted the usefulness of describing material prior to classification to permit interoperability and to optimize the stocks. But the study was not followed up within the French army because the newly-established League of Nations seemed to hold the promise of a long period of peace that did not justify the investment involved.

The concept was however taken up by the Wehrmacht in the period of German rearmament in the 1930s, these ideas being more easily implementable for material in the development phase. They contributed to the logistics success of the German forces during the 1940-1945 conflict.
Towards the end of the hostilities, a report conveying an initial assessment of US wartime logistics was forwarded to President Roosevelt. The outcome was not positive. One of the first observations was that some American depots were crammed with material that had been cruelly lacking in the field.

Roosevelt ordered of a “think tank” to be set up to carry out an in-depth analysis and to propose solutions. This order was confirmed by President Truman. A major defect was detected in terms of material identification. Each depot had its own cataloguing system, which denied the logistics command a global view of the assets.

The commission then analyzed quite thoroughly the methods used by the other belligerents and the results achieved.

This study led them to propose that the USA adopt and improve on the German system based on the "Item of Supply" principle, i.e. the creation of a non-significant number that serves as a unique key valid for all interchangeable items of production in all their applications, each item being distinguishable thanks to a method of description that gives complete "user visibility": "Form, Fit and Function".

Once this path had been chosen, groups of experts from all technical disciplines were formed. These groups had many participants, as it was mentioned that several hundred people worked over a period of years to produce the documentary basis for the "Federal Item Identification Guides" (FIIGS) on which were based what was to become the Federal Catalog System (FCS).

During the post-war period, under the Marshall Plan, European armies acquired much American materiel, and in parallel, became acquainted with this new method of identifying spare parts.

Faced with the complexity of their national systems, where each branch of each armed force had its own system, the senior logistics officers of the Air forces of 5 countries (Belgium, France, Germany, Great Britain, and the Netherlands) gathered in London in 1953 and General Fischer, in charge of the Federal Catalog System, offered to share this identification system with them. The offer was unanimously accepted and pressure was exerted in each of these countries for all the services to adopt this same system. In France, the CGA (Contrôle Général des Armées) played a decisive role in this.

After five years' work to refine the system, its use was extended to all NATO countries, and in 1958 in Paris (where NATO Headquarters was then located), the first meeting of the "Panel on Codification", forerunner of the Group of National Directors on Codification, was held, thus marking the birth of the NATO Codification System and of its parent Allied Support Committee – AC/135.

The chairmanship was offered to US General Fischer who declined, saying, "Now, it's up to Europe to work". The Dutch representative volunteered and was elected first chairman of this Group. He realized that to develop the NCS, it was necessary to publicize it outside the closed circle of codifiers and, in 1960, he organized in The Hague the first symposium on Codification open to a wider audience.

The Forum in Copenhagen is the 12th event of this type in 50 years.

In the early 90s, with the end of the Cold War, 2 factors influenced AC/135 activities:

Firstly, NATO Headquarters decided to stop the full and direct funding of Allied Committee 135. The Committee then realized that its work had commercial value, signed an MOU with the NATO Support Agency (NSPA) to consolidate all its codification data in a catalogue, and marketed it to both governments and industry, thus creating a true partnership with these entities.

The second factor was the reduction of international tensions, leading to the creation of the Partnership for Peace, the Mediterranean Dialogue, the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative and NATO's outreach to Contact Countries. AC/135 was a pioneer in these outreaches initiatives, so much so that today 66 countries, i.e. one third of all United Nations member countries, are actively involved in the NATO Codification System.

The lesson of this study is that material codification is indispensable and has been for centuries. It proves that, whatever the temporary difficulties, the history of NATO codification points to a resolutely optimistic vision of the future.
NATO Codification System (NCS) – Key Elements

The NCS applies two basic rules:

- Each item of supply will have a single unique number (One item – One number)
- The National Codification Bureau (NCB) of the producing nation codifies the items of supply produced by that nation, regardless of which nation is the end user (even if the producing nation does not use the item).

The NCS introduces a Standard for Classifying and Cataloguing Defence Materiel. The NATO Stock Number (NSN) acts as the primary key to access the information.

### NATO Stock Number (NSN)

5910-00-001-3193

The National Item Identification Number (NIIN) is unique across the NCS. It is never re-used and never repeated.

### NATO Supply Classification – NSC

Each Group covers a series of related Classes. Each class covers a relatively homogeneous area of commodities, with respect to their physical or performance characteristics, or with respect that the items included therein are such that they are usually requisitioned or issued together or constitute a related grouping for supply management purposes.

Examples of NATO Supply Classifications:

- **NATO Supply Group 10** = Weapons
  - **NSC 1005** – Guns, through 30mm
  - **NSC 1010** – Guns, over 30mm up to 75mm
  - **NSC 1015** – Guns, 75mm through 125mm

- **NATO Supply Group 89** = Subsistence
  - **NSC 8960** – Beverages, Nonalcoholic
  - **NSC 8965** – Beverages, Alcoholic

### Approved Item Names – AINs

An AIN is carefully delimited to designate a family or items of supply with similar characteristics mostly determined by a definition. The AIN is not designed to identify and individual item of supply uniquely. The definition and delimitation of an AIN is internationally agreed within AC/135, coded and published for use by all participating nations. International transactions exchange the coded data removing any ambiguity of meaning. The decode can then be translated into any language required.

**Example:** Bolt, Machine – Item Name Code 01847

An externally threaded fastener designed for insertion through holes in assembled parts and normally intended to be tightened or released by torquing a nut. The threaded and unthreaded portions are both of one nominal diameter of 0.190 inch (5 mm) or larger. The head is not designed to be held or driven with an inserted driver or by the thumb and fingers. A locking feature may be incorporated in the design of the head or threads. Head dimensions and sizes of threaded and unthreaded portions shall conform to internationally recognized fastener standards. For items having a grip length portion machined to a tolerance of 0.0015 inch (0.038 mm) or less, BOLT, SHEAR. See also SCREW, CAP, HEXAGON HEAD and SCREW, MACHINE.

"One World - One Codification System – One Global Standard"
NATO Commercial And Government Entity Code – NCAGE

The NCAGE identifies the manufacturer, supplier, or other organisations providing items of production against an NSN. The five-character code acts as the key to access the company name, address, contact details and status of the organisation.

Example: NCAGE Code KCQ73

Characteristic Data

The NCS uniquely identifies items of supply. An important aspect of this identification is the description of the item. This is termed ‘Characteristic Data’. The NCS adopts a question and answer approach to capturing an item’s attributes. These questions are determined by Item Identification Guides or ‘IIGs’ which set the appropriate questions associated with the chosen Approved Item Name (AIN). These attributes are captured and recorded in coded format for transmission between nations. They can then be decoded into the required language.

Example: AIN – Screw, Machine (Item Name Code 06657) – Characteristic Data

Additional Data on the NSN

The NSN acts as the key to access a range of procurement, supply management, identification & characteristic attribute information. It also contains linkages to other classification systems like Customs codes and CPV.

In addition to Classifying the item, naming the item, providing supplier details, providing linkages with other classifications, and describing the item the NSN can also provide packaging data, freight data, and Supply Management Data. In total the NATO Codification System truly is the DNA of Modern Logistics.
The Source Supplied Codification Project (SSC) has existed in the NATO Codification Community for around 10 years. The original theory of this project was to automate the population of data in any codification tool direct from the manufacturers’ electronic data repository. The main objective of the project has been bridge the gap between Defence and Industry trying to ensure that the data held by both is a perfect reflection, facilitating better management where the physical supply chain meets the data supply chain.

The project has grown in phases as technology developed, with phase IV just completed. A brief history of the project is outlined below:

**SSC Phase I** – Proved the concept that data used in the STEP design files could be used to harvest data for codification purposes.

**SSC Phase II** – Introduced ISO 8000 and ISO 22745 to the process. This phase focused on a Finnish designed Polish manufactured vehicle, ROSOMAK. 100 new Item of Supply Concepts were created during this phase of testing.

**SSC Phase III** – With IT capabilities developed by codification tool providers (NCORE, MC Catalogue & ISIS) and a manufacturer’s module deployed within a manufacturer, BAES GCS UK, this Phase moved forward to robustly test the automated transactions. In addition to testing the ability to move data automatically from the design tool to a codification tool, the quality of the data gathered in accordance with ISO 8000 was measured. 640 transactions took place with 320 new NSNs created. The resulting quality was:

*Type 1* 232 (72.5%)

*Type 4* 108 (37.5%)

*Type 2* 0 (0%)

This ratio is unprecedented in the UK. ISO 8000 pt 110 has now been submitted for inclusion in codification contracts in future UK procurement contracts.

**SSC Phase IV** – With phase III proving the benefit of ISO 8000 and that transactions can be automated when using the same ontology (Federal Item Identification Guides). This phase focused on the ability of ISO 22745 to manage transactions between two different Ontology’s. This is the language equivalent of a real time automated translation system that allows an English Speaker to be understood by French speaker and vice versa!

**Results and Cost Benefits**

A full report produced by the Phase IV project team will be published to the NCS Community shortly detailing all of the findings. The main benefit to an ISO 22745 produced item is the reduction in time to create a fully catalogued item. The population of data is reduced to the process described at verso page.
The Group of National Directors on Codification
Le groupe des directeurs nationaux pour la codification

To enter an property into a database requires a minimum of 3 mouse clicks (one to open the dialogue box, one to select the correct reply & one to close the dialogue and populate the reply) to complete. This record has 13 properties requiring a minimum of 39 mouse clicks to complete.

Reducing the time it takes to populate data records in this manner reduces the cost of creating those records accordingly. The studies at Phase IV of SSC measured what cost benefits can be achieved. Using the UK as a test study, if all NATO Stock Numbers were created in accordance with ISO 22745, a potential saving of £750,000.00 could be achieved. This equates to 75% of the UK budget for NSN creation.

If industry was to implement ISO 22745 and engage with their Home NCB at the design phase, the studies showed a potential for saving £1.4million in design engineering costs. This saving was based on 1879 items. The saving is generated when industry takes advantage of pre-existing NSN data to auto-populate their design tools with a template of data.

To find out more on this AC135 initiative, look out for the SSC workshops and presentations or contact the National Codification Bureau of the United Kingdom

“One World - One Codification System – One Global Standard”
The AC135 continues to place great emphasis on encouraging wider adoption of the NCS and the development of capabilities of the sponsored nations in maintaining and operating a complete codification services. There are more countries then NATO members that are operating the NATO Codification System to one degree or another.

Co-operative Logistics concept fosters cooperation based on the fact that Armed Forces can communicate in one standard language in the field of materiel management. The NATO Codification concept creates this common language by use of the NATO Stock Number. The adoption of the NATO codification concept is considered an important measure for countries to co-operate in the field of logistics to ensure interoperability and effective logistics support. The NATO Codification System (NCS) not only prescribes rules and procedures for codification of materiel; it also has a fully developed system for exchange of information between the participating countries and organizations and it provides visibility of all codified items, users and manufacturers.

Given the current emphasis placed on cooperation in Multinational Operations, Peace Support Operations, combined efforts must be made in the field of standardization. For multinational formations the overall mutual cooperation between all forces and units is essential. This requires a significant level of standardization. Over the last 50 years the NCS has a proven record of improving logistics cooperation within the NATO countries, these benefits can be extended to non-NATO countries. The principles used in the NCS are global, the system is not limited to NATO military materiel nor is it geographically limited to the NATO countries. All countries involved in logistics operations can achieve the benefits of the system.

More and more countries outside NATO, including Partnership for Peace, Mediterranean Dialogue and Istanbul Co-operation Initiative and Pacific Area Nations, are using the NCS. These countries have seen the benefits of adopting the NCS for internal purposes and for dealing with each other. Several more countries from different parts of the world are contemplating applying for sponsorship. The NATO sponsorship program was developed to deal with this situation. It will assist candidate countries on the road to become full members of the NCS community and it will safeguard the systems and procedures already in place to ensure a continuing high quality of services and information.

The AC/135 Sponsorship Programme, under NATO Conference of National Armament Directors (CNAD) supervision, provides non-NATO countries with a unique cooperation framework for participating in and benefiting from the use of the NATO Codification System (NCS). The Sponsorship Agreement duly signed by the applicant country representative and the Chairman of AC135, governs the exchange of codification data and services between Sponsored country and AC/135.

"One World - One Codification System – One Global Standard"
A national codification bureau needs to be established at applicant country to represent and consolidate all codification activities nationally and internationally. A national codification bureau varies in size and scope depending on size and complexity of equipment inventory, logistics requirements and the national industrial base. It may take from 1 – 5 years to establish a codification system in a country depending on the ambition level of the project. During this period the country may need assistance from countries having already established a codification system. The needs can be in the area of codification, consultation, training, data products or other services. To address these needs AC/135 has developed a concept called SPONSORSHIP.

**AC/135 RECOGNIZES TWO TYPES OF SPONSORSHIP AS TIER 1 AND TIER 2**

**TIER 1 (entry level)** – is a basic level of sponsorship, including some use of unclassified NATO Stock Number information for nations that have no codification system or a system that is not yet fully compliant with the NCS/Allied Codification Publication (ACodP-1) procedures. Tier 1 sponsorship is characterized by a one-way data exchange with the following privileges:

1. assignment of the necessary unique nation codes to start using or to develop a national codification system
2. request for codification of items produced in a NATO or Tier 2 nation
3. the user registration of any NATO stock number assigned by a NATO or Tier 2 nation (items already codified)
4. request for the assignment of NATO Commercial and Government Entity (NCAGE) codes from any of the NATO or Tier 2 nations
5. request for the assignment of non-NATO NCAGE codes from NSPA for items produced in a Tier 1 or non-sponsored nation
6. the publication of the national codification data into the consolidated NATO set of data products (NMCRL, Manufacturers file, etc.) on https://eportal.nspa.nato.int/ac135public/
7. receiving regular updates to Allied Codification publications, official documents and invitation to participate in the AC/135 Partnership meetings

**Tier 2** – nations have a codification system which has been certified as being fully compliant with the NCS procedures. Tier 2 sponsorship is characterized by two-way data exchange.

Only a Tier 1 sponsored nation may apply for Tier 2 Sponsorship. As a rule, a nation must have been at Tier 1 level for at least one full year before applying for Tier 2 level Sponsorship and all necessary Bilateral Agreements with NATO countries must be in place (with DNK, FRA, DEU, ITA, USA).

The minimum of 100 NATO Stock Numbers maintained in the national inventory and at least six months of codification data production is a MUST for application for Tier 2 status.

Tier 2 status is subject to AC/135 endorsement following completion of testing that includes a suite of codification interrogations that country is expected to respond in accordance with NATO Codification rules – ACodP-1. Testing is performed by the group of volunteers NATO Countries and NSPA.

*The sponsorship programme helps a country through the formalization of the entry into the NCS community and provides for a gradual increase in responsibilities and benefits. The Sponsorship programme has means to assists a country in developing the organization, systems and skills necessary to become a well functioning partner in this community. More information is available from AC135 Secretary.*

“One World - One Codification System – One Global Standard”
The NATO Codification System

- Established in 1958, the NCS is the worldwide standard for item identification of military and civilian government items of supply using NATO Stock Numbers (NSNs)
- Provides item names, suppliers and part numbers, and characteristics data needed in all phases of logistics, from procurement through disposal
- Provides linkage between NSNs and other classification systems like the Harmonized System codes of the World Customs Organization and the Common Procurement Vocabulary of the European Union
- The NCS is a common language of supply that promotes interoperability among nations and prevents duplication in supply chains
- Used by 29 NATO and 34 non-NATO nations worldwide
- If you have any questions, contact acl35secretary@nspa.nato.int
- For an overview of the NCS, go to http://www.nato.int/structur/AC/135/ncs_brochure/ncs_brochure_e/index.htm

The NATO Master Catalogue of References for Logistics (NMCRL)

- Contains data on more than 18 million NSNs, 2.7 million suppliers,
- Multilingual user interface
- Available on-line and off-line
- To subscribe or for more information, go to www.nato.int/nmcrl or send a message to nmcrl@nspa.nato.int
NMCRL-WEB News

IMAGES Display

- by NSN (responsibility of NCB)
- by References (responsibility of Manufacturer/Contractor and/or NCB)

Uploading of image file or link (URL) through dedicated “Image Management” tool at NMCRL-WEB interface

Example 1: NSN: 4220-58-000-2580

Example 2: Reference: F0541 / 3148510088402 associated to NSN 5120-14-201-1864

https://eportal.nspa.nato.int/ac135public/
PACKAGING DATA Display

Example: NSN 1270-00-000-0121

BASIC / ADVANCED Inquiry Mode

Possibility to switch from BASIC to ADVANCED mode at any time. The Basic mode is for non-experts and mostly displays plain text instead of NCS codes.

https://eportal.nspa.nato.int/ac135public/
NMCRL-WEB News – Images Display Examples

**IMAGES Display**

- by NSN (responsibility of NCB)
- by References (responsibility of Manufacturer/Contractor and/or NCB)

Upload of image file or link (URL) through dedicated “Image Management” tool at NMCRL-WEB interface

**Example 1**: NSN: 4220-58-000-2580

**Example 2**: Reference: F0541 / 3148510088402 associated to NSN 5120-14-201-1864

https://eportal.nspa.nato.int/ac135public/
Example 3: NSN: 4220-58-000-2577

Image display under NIIN (responsibility of NCB)

Image link (URL) for NCAGE/REFERENCE No. A142G/001917 (responsibility of Manufacturer and/or NCB)

https://eportal.nspa.nato.int/ac135public/
If you are a commercial supplier of defence equipment, why is it important to get your products NATO Codified and what’s the benefit to your customers? The easy answer is that having your products listed against a NATO Stock Number (NSN) puts that item in a shop window viewed by over 60 Nations Defence Logistics organisations worldwide. The NSN also forms the foundation for a successful supply chain in NATO Forces and Armed Services of all participating nations, enabling the right piece of kit, in the right place at the right time. If these two statements are true, the NATO Codification System (NCS) is the bridge between the commercial supply world and defence forces deployed around the world.

Each of the participating nations in the NCS have inventories that have to be controlled, not only within their own supply chains, but also in readiness for participation in coalition NATO Operations. The key to successful logistics management is in the establishment of a common supply language, not only for items already existing in inventory systems, but to easily identify potential solutions to challenges which can quickly be incorporated into deployed inventory. The NCS creates a catalogue of available equipment, similar to most commercial catalogue management solutions such as Argos, Ikea or B&Q. Using a database, the NATO Master Catalogue Reference List (NMCRL) data is collated from all participating nations and every single item currently available in all NATO and participating countries is recorded by its NSN. Each NSN also has the known commercial suppliers of that item listed in a string of data including contact and part reference. This catalogue of available inventory is issued to all deployed NATO defence forces. NMCRL is also available for a small subscription to commercial suppliers. Quite literally, tonnes of equipment gets moved through defence supply chains every day, quite often from one side of the world to the other. Most of that equipment has one thing in common, The NSNs not only stamped on the side of package crates, but as inventory lists and as part of the asset tracking label. The NSN forms not only the prime reference in the catalogue of available equipment on demand systems across a high proportion of the worlds defence forces, but also as the master identification data for items transiting the supply chains of those defence forces.

The NATO Codification System has been in existence and developing since 1953. There are approximately 18 million NSNs currently listed on the NMCRL product and approximately 20 million suppliers around the world recorded against those NSNs. This article began with the question, why is it important to get your products NATO Codified and what’s the benefit to your customers? Perhaps the question should be can you as a commercial supplier afford not to be included in one of the biggest catalogues in existence and the prime repository your customers access when identifying items of supply?

To find out more about the NATO Codification System or to subscribe to the NMCRL product please contact:

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