The NCS is managed by the NATO Group of National Directors on Codification, Allied Committee 135 (AC/135). NCS rules and procedures are laid down in the NATO Manual on Codification ACodP-1 downloadable from www.nato.int/codification.

Nations have a Codification System that has been certified as being fully compliant with the NCS procedures. Tier 2 sponsorship is characterized by a two-way data exchange and participation in technical NCS management.

The “basic” level of sponsorship including some use of unclassified NATO Stock Number (NSN) information. Tier 1 sponsorship is characterized by a one-way data exchange.