NCS Chairmanship

The NCB directors attending 107 meeting of AC/135 had thanked to the departing Chairman Col M. Dalkowski for his leadership and dedication to AC/135 activities.

Maj Thierry Vanden DRIES, director of the Belgium NCB was elected as a new Chairman of AC/135. At the same meeting, Mrs Elaine Chapman of the US was endorsed as the Chairman of the Budget and Strategic Planning Sub-Committee of AC/135.

Transition to XML

The NCS transformation project introducing XML into NCS data exchange will require significant national efforts and resources. The NCSTSWG currently develops a business case for moving from NADEX format of data exchange to XML. The XML training was organised on 9 March to promote awareness on XML advantages and to foster developing transition action plan. The existing NADEX system generated issues in NCAGE data exchanges due to dataset limitation concerning use of national characters in company names. The US continues working with SAM office on issues with data format as this causes legal issues in countries like Spain where the character “ñ” is recognised as a completely separate character from the basic “n”. The KHN data of manufacturers is about to move into testing phase of XML exchanges between NCBs.

NCS projects

The envisaged changes to characteristics data imply moving to Item Name Taxonomy or Logical groupings of Item Names based on what they are not how they are used. It will allow for more advanced method of finding the right item of supply and like items meaning better search capability with no impact to any NCB.

The changes to Item Identification Guides are coming at a much faster pace than they used to, which together with manual maintenance raises concern. The US NCB is looking forward to discuss options to resolving this issue. The possible opening all Master Requirement Codes to codification processes is being studied. The benefits of timely responses to characteristics changes as well as mass change capability can be realized. The impact on processes needs to be assessed, and comments from NCBs are essential of the success of this project.

The newly deployed Management Information System (MIS) supports endeavours to increase quality of codification data. MIS evolving into a data warehouse would enable customised analysis of the quality of data and transactions. NSPA works on phase two of MIS development and envisaged continuation of nations’ expected checks to be developed into the future. The data reports from all codifying countries is essential to have a complete overview of the NCS TIR, thus Tier 1 sponsored are invite to report through NSPA.

The successful implementation of ISO 8000 by Network Rail in the UK was written by Dr. Tim King of LSC Group. Case illustrates the kind of benefits that Supplier Sourced Codification (SSC) has the potential to deliver. Several countries continue enhancing ways of exchanging date with industry. Spain, Norway and the Netherlands have ongoing testing, Netherlands with Shipyards and has benefited from the increase in quality of data and processing speed. The automated exchanging data with industry with a provision of having Codification Contract Clauses in defence contracts is the way to the NCS future. It presents opportunity for industry having codification interest to engage more actively with NCBs on the future projects.

NATO Mailbox System (NMBS) facilitates exchange of over 164mln codification transactions per year. The forthcoming enhancements concern auto splitting of manufacturers’ (KHN) files in exchanges with the US as well as NMBS upgrade. The NMBS seminar is scheduled on 28 September 2015 at NSPA.

NMCRL

The ongoing projects enhancing NMCRL would allow for across-the-board use of wildcard in search criteria. The NMCRLOffline subscriber would be provided with capability to download the Setup Files via the Internet in its place of receiving those on a DVD-ROOM.

NCS promotion

The codification eLearning modules available from AC135 website provide a great tool in promoting the NCS as well as a prerequisite to national codification training. Number of countries continues to conduct similar events to educate and promote the NCS methodology and advantages. Slovenia NCB had organised promotional event with Slovenian industry representatives to present the NCS business case. 20 industrial representatives attended the session on 18 February 2015.