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REVISION OF CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS USED IN TRANSPORT STATISTICS

NST/2000 – The proposed standard classification for goods

Note prepared by the Secretariat

The proposed standard classification for goods – NST/2000 - is the result of the work undertaken by the UNECE and Eurostat to revise the classification systems used in transport statistics. The classification was adopted by the UNECE Transport Committee at its meeting in February 2002. The Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians agreed, at its meeting on 21-22 February 2002, to recommend to the Conference to endorse the revised classification.

I. Background and history

1. Historically, two classification systems for transport statistics have been used in Europe. The Commodity Classification for Transport Statistics in Europe (CSTE) revised by the UNECE in 1968 and the Standard Goods Classification for Transport Statistics (NST/R) of which the current version is the result of the revision process undertaken by the Commission of European Communities in 1967.
2. NST/2000 is a proposal for a new standard statistical classification for goods, which would replace the NST/R and the CSTE.
3. The need for a revision of the NST/R had been expressed by the ECE Inland Transport Committee's Working Party on Transport Statistics at several sessions in recent years. 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 by 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.

4. On 4-5 May 2000, an Ad Hoc Meeting convened jointly with Eurostat reviewed the NST/2000 proposal in detail. 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 (Classification of Products and Services according to Activities), whose structure is the same as in the NACE Rev 1 (Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community);
- Therefore, the NST/2000 can be based on the CPA divisions;
- The NST/2000 should not be based on the physical form of the goods.

5. 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 the adoption of the first level. Eurostat will use the first level of NST/2000 for data collection. Where appropriate, agreed second-level headings would be added to deal with the needs of specific transport modes (*inter alia* the need to have a code for crude oil for maritime transport).

6. The Working Party on Transport Statistics held its fifty-second session in Geneva from 14 to 16 November 2001. It was composed of representatives from National Statistical Offices and/or Transport Ministries of the following ECE member States and international organizations: Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States of America, the European Commission (DG Energy and Transport as well as Eurostat), the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT), the European Environment Agency (EEA), the International Union of Railways (UIC), the UNECE Trans-European North-South Motorway (TEM) and the Trans-European Railway (TER) Projects.

7. The Working Party considered and endorsed the final version of the proposed new classification for transport statistics (NST/2000) as presented in Annex I, and agreed that it should be submitted to the next annual sessions of the ECE Inland Transport Committee (ITC) and of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) for approval and adoption as the new pan-European classification in this field. It also recommended that the new classification be submitted to the UN Statistical Commission for approval and adoption at the world level (TRANS/WP/.6/141, para. 41). In addition, the Working Party asked Eurostat to explore the possibility of convening an informal ad hoc meeting in 2002 to prepare a contribution for a future sub-division of the NST/2000 classes, which should serve as a model for all ECE countries, for submission to the next session of the Working Party (TRANS/WP.6/141, para. 43).

8. At its sixty-fourth session (18-21 February 2002) the Inland Transport Committee adopted the final version of the new classification system for transport statistics (NST/2000) (ECE/TRANS/139), as reproduced in Annex 1 of this document.

II. The proposal

9. 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 Central Product Classification (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.

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

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
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
15	Mail, parcels <i>Note: this heading is normally used for goods transported by postal administrations and specialized courier services in NACE Rev. 1 division 64</i>		64	
16	Equipment and material utilised in the transport of goods <i>Note: this heading covers items such as empty containers, palletes, boxes, crates and roll cages. It also covers vehicles used to contain goods, where the vehicle is itself carried on another vehicle.</i> <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>			
17	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.			

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
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 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>			
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
