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HARMONIZATION OF TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS

Transmitted by the Governments of France and Poland

Note: The representatives of France and Poland have prepared a proposal for a new subdivision of the NST/2000 classes to serve as a model for all UN/ECE member countries. The proposal appears below.

**PREPARATION OF THE SECOND LEVEL OF NST/2000 - JOINT PROPOSAL BY
FRANCE'S ECONOMIC AND STATISTICAL SERVICE AND POLAND'S GUS**

EUROSTAT organized a working group on the preparation of a new Standard Goods Classification for Transport Statistics "2000" (NST/2000) on 4 and 5 May 2000, at the initiative of Mr. John Allen. The guiding principle behind this was to link this classification with the statistical classification of products by activity (CPA), the European classification established by Council Regulation (EEC) No. 3696/93 and Commission Regulation (EC) No. 204/2002, itself closely related to the United Nations Common Product Classification (CPC). This should make comparisons with other statistics (national accounts, for example) easier; interpretations of borderline cases could be referred to the interpretation of the CPA and revisions of this international classification would quite naturally take the form of subsequent revisions of the NST.

France, represented by Mr. Alain Gallais and Mr. Jean-Pierre Decure of the Economic and Statistical Service of the French Ministry of Transport, then submitted a proposal for the development of second and third levels for the NST/2000, still linked with the CPA,¹ while endeavouring to recover the “building blocks” of the 176 headings of the NST/R.

Poland had in fact established an “NST/2000” classification in 2000, comprising a second level linked with the CPA, which is already being used for national statistics on the transport of goods.

Subsequently, EUROSTAT, then UN/ECE in Geneva at its November 2001 meeting, adopted the first level of NST/2000 which has undergone minor renumbering (hence a difference with the first version of the Polish NST/2000). France and Poland expressed their wish for a second official level, with the intention of bringing their contributions to the next meeting of UN/ECE. Following this, they exchanged views at a working meeting in Paris on 3 April 2002. It emerged that a joint proposal for a second level NST/2000 nomenclature could be submitted, setting out 89 headings. The CPA divisions or groups often constitute obvious second-level details. There may sometimes be some doubt as to the level of detail to be included; certain headings may be of interest for some countries or some analyses, but their volume suggests that they should be kept for a third level of the classification so as not to inflate the number of second level headings unnecessarily. The French-Polish compromise has generally chosen the more aggregate level of the two proposals, except where the old NST has given importance to the disaggregate level.

The detail of agricultural products has required most compromise because the predominance of this activity (animal/plant grouping, then grouping by animal or plant types) in the CPA appears particularly far removed from transport concerns. Two options emerge: to favour the traditional transport approach (beetroot, potatoes, etc.), even if it means establishing sundry “other products” headings; or to favour the CPA groups, even if it means losing the follow-up of these very special transport markets.

In order to cast light on future discussions of the choices made, a commentary on the initial divergences between the French and the Polish proposals is annexed to the tables.

¹ This is because it is the actual principle of the NST/2000 to be defined in relation to the CPA. The fact that some first level headings proved a stumbling-block for the discussion has meant that it has not been possible to study this proposal in depth. It also seemed more constructive for the discussion that a second country should take a parallel step of this kind with regard to the second level only, so as to pinpoint any spontaneous convergences or divergences. If a second official level of the NST/2000 were adopted, the timeliness of a third official level (which would no doubt permit of a level of detail equivalent to that of the present NST) could then be considered; the countries might also prefer to keep their national independence at that level of detail.

Group 01: Products of agriculture, hunting and forestry; fish and other fishing products (CPA 01, 02 and 05)

Sections	Description	In CPA
011	Cereals	01.11.1
012	Potatoes	01.11.21
013	Sugar beet	01.11.51
014	Other fresh fruit and vegetables	Others 01.11.2 and 01.11.5, 01.12.1, 01.13.1, 01.13.2
015	Wood and cork	02
016	Plants, flowers and other substances of vegetable origin	Other 01.1
017	Live animals (except for fish, crustaceans and molluscs)	01.21.1, 01.22.1, 01.23.1, 01.24.1, 01.25.1
018	Fish, crustaceans and molluscs	05
019	Raw materials of animal origin	Other 01.2

Group 02: Coal and lignite, crude petroleum, uranium (CPA 10, 11 and 12)

Sections	Description	In CPA
021	Solid mineral fuels	10
022	Crude petroleum	11.10.1, 11.10.4
023	Natural gas	11.10.2
024	Uranium ores	12

Group 03: Metal ores and other mining products (CPA 13 and 14)

Sections	Description	In CPA
031	Metal ores (except uranium)	13
032	Chemical and natural fertilizer minerals	14.3
033	Salt	14.4
034	Sand, gravel, clay, slag, other stones, earth and minerals	14.1, 14.2 and 14.5

Group 04: Food products, beverages and tobacco (CPA 15 and 16)

Sections	Description	In CPA
041	Meat, skins and meat-based products	15.1
042	Fish and fish products, prepared	15.2
043	Fruit and vegetable-based preparations	15.3
044	Oils, oilcakes and fats	15.4
045	Milk products and ice creams	15.5
046	Flours, processed cereals and other animal feeds, n.e.c.	15.6, 15.7
047	Beverages	15.9
048	Other food products (n.e.c. except in parcel service or grouped in bulk)	15.8, 16
049	Various food products in parcel service or grouped in bulk	Various in 15 or 16

Group 05: Textiles, textile products, leather (CPA 17, 18 and 19)

Sections	Description	In CPA
051	Textile products	17
052	Wearing apparel and furs	18
053	Leather, travel articles, furs	19

Group 06: Wood, paper or paperboard articles (CPA 20, 21 and 22)

Sections	Description	In CPA
061	Wood and products of wood	20
062	Paper and paperboard	21
063	Newspapers, books, printed matter, records and cassettes	22

Group 07: Coke, refined petroleum and nuclear industry products (CPA 23)

Sections	Description	In CPA
071	Coke	23.1
072	Liquid refined petroleum products	23.20.1
073	Gaseous, liquefied or compressed petroleum products	23.20.2
074	Solid or waxy refined petroleum products	23.20.3
075	Products of the nuclear industry	23.3

Group 08: Chemical products, rubber and plastic products (CPA 24, 25)

Sections	Description	In CPA
081	Basic mineral chemical products	24.11, 24.12, 24.13
082	Basic organic chemical products	24.14
083	Nitrogen compounds, except fertilizers	24.15.1, 24.15.2
084	Fertilizers	24.15.3 to 24.15.8
085	Basic plastics and synthetic rubber in primary forms	24.16, 24.17
086	Pharmaceuticals and paracheicals	24.2 to 24.7
087	Rubber or plastic products	25

Group 09: Other non-metallic mineral products (CPA 26)

Sections	Description	In CPA
091	Glass, glassware, ceramic goods	26.1 to 26.3
094	Cement, lime and plaster	26.5
099	Other construction materials, manufactures	26.4, 26.6, 26.7, 26.8

Group 10: Metal work and fabricated metal products (CPA 27 and 28)

Sections	Description	In CPA
101	Iron and steel products	27.1, 27.3
102	Non-ferrous metals	27.4
103	Tubes, pipes, castings and forgings	27.2, 27.5
108	Structural metal products	28.1
109	Boilers, hardware, other metal manufactures	28.2 to 28.7

Group 11: Machinery and electronic products (CPA 29, 30, 31, 32, 33)

Sections	Description	In CPA
111	Tractors, agricultural machinery and equipment, also disassembled and parts	29.3
112	White goods	29.7
113	Office machines and computer equipment	30
114	Electric machines and appliances	31
115	Electronic components and emission and transmission appliances	32.1 and 32.2
116	Brown goods	32.3
117	Medical, precision and optical instruments, watches and clocks	33
119	Other machines, engines and parts	29.1, 29.2, 29.4, 29.5, 29.6

Group 12: Vehicles and transport equipment (CPA 34 and 35)

Sections	Description	In CPA
121	Automobile industry products	34
122	Other transport equipment	35

Group 13: Furniture and other manufactured goods (CPA 36)

Sections	Description	In CPA
131	Furniture and furnishings	36.1
132	Other manufactured goods	36.2

Group 14: Wastes not specified elsewhere (CPA 37 + household waste and others)

Sections	Description	In CPA
141	Household and municipal waste	Not relevant
142	Waste from construction and public works	Not relevant
143	Industrial waste n.e.c.	Not relevant
144	Wrecks and damaged vehicles	Not relevant
145	Plant or agricultural waste n.e.c.	Not relevant
146	Hospital waste	Not relevant
149	Waste not specified elsewhere	Not relevant

Group 15: Mail, parcels, small packages

Sections	Description	In CPA
151	Mail	To be linked with NACE 64.1?
152	Parcels, small packages	Not relevant

Group 16: Packagings in service, empty or otherwise and accompanying vehicles

Section	Description	In CPA
161	Containers in service, empty or otherwise	Not relevant
162	Swap bodies in service, empty or otherwise	Not relevant
163	Pallets in service, empty or otherwise	Not relevant
164	Other packagings in service, empty or otherwise	Not relevant
165	Vehicles accompanying goods	Not relevant
166	Vehicles accompanying passengers	Not relevant

Group 17: Goods other than market goods - household removals, baggage, vehicles for repair, etc.

Sections	Description	In CPA
171	Household removal	Not relevant
172	Baggage and articles accompanying travellers	Not relevant
173	Vehicles for repair	Not relevant
179	Goods other than market goods	Not relevant

Group 18: Grouped goods

Sections	Description	In CPA
180	Grouped goods	Not relevant

Group 19: Unidentifiable goods

Sections	Description	In CPA
191	Unidentifiable goods in containers	Not relevant
192	Unidentifiable goods in swap bodies	Not relevant
198	Unidentifiable goods in other intermodal transport units	Not relevant
199	Unidentifiable goods not carried in intermodal transport units	Not relevant

Group 20: Other goods not elsewhere classified

Sections	Description	In CPA
200	Other goods not elsewhere classified	Not relevant

Annex: Items which gave rise to discussion during the preparation of the French-Polish summary

The choice of keeping potatoes (heading 012) and sugar beet (heading 013) strictly speaking complicates the link with the CPA and the definition of heading 014 (“other fresh fruit and vegetables”). Preference might have been given to keeping slightly broader definitions modelled on the CPA: potatoes and dried leguminous vegetables (CPA 01.11.2) and sugar beet and sugar cane (CPA 01.11.5), respectively.

Solid mineral fuels could have been broken down at the second level into hard coal (CPA 10.10) and lignite and peat (CPA 10.20 and 10.30), respectively.

Similarly, sand, gravel, clay, slag, other stones, earth and minerals (heading 034) could have been broken down into sand and clay (CPA 14.2) and building stone and other mining and quarrying products (CPA 14.1 and 14.5), respectively.

Coke (heading 071) could have been broken down at the second level into coke and semi-coke (CPA 23.10.1) and tars (CPA 23.10.2), respectively. However, it should be noted that coal gas is classified as CPA 40.20.10, even though its production is classified as activity 23.1.

The first three headings of group 10 (metallurgy and metal-working) are linked with the CPA but to a very limited extent with the forms of these products, which would be more easily identifiable by customs officers and more useful for problems of transport.

In our opinion, group 13 (furniture and other manufactured goods) contains neither furniture in the course of removal (non-market goods the place of which is therefore in group 17) nor computer software, recorded cassettes, etc. which could wrongly be taken to be CPA 72.20.1, 74.81.1, etc. (in fact they are services!) but which should in fact be identified as CPA products 22.3 and therefore classified in group 06.

Lastly, it may be questioned whether it is useful to break down groups 15, 16 and 19, either for lack of an issue (16), because of not being easily operational (15) or because of redundancy with the packaging variable (19).
