

# ***CodSP-100-AUS***

***The National Codification Bureau of Australia***

***February 2024***



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Defence**

# THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CODIFICATION BUREAU

## ORGANISATION

The Australian National Codification Bureau (NCB) is responsible for the promotion and day-to-day management of the NATO Codification System (NCS) within Australia. The Australian NCB is part of the Department of Defence and is based in Melbourne, Victoria. The Australian NCB is the custodian of the MC-CATALOGUE (Materiel Codification Catalogue) system, which contains over 636 thousand NATO Stock Number (NSN) records identifying and describing items of supply used by the Australian Defence Force (ADF).

Australia is a Tier 2 member of the NATO Codification System (NCS) and the Australian NCB represents its interests on the Pacific Area Codification Seminar (PACS), NATO Group of National Directors of Codification (AC/135) and Panel A meetings. The Australian NCB collaborates closely with foreign member nations and is the focus for international codification transactions.

Codification operations in Australia is conducted within the Department of Defence - Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group, which incorporates the major acquisition and sustainment elements providing support across the Land, Air, Sea and Space environments. The Australian NCB office provides system support files, (containing NCAGE, National Supply Classification, Item Name Codes and IIG data), systems and Information Technology support. The Codification Bureau provides support for the ADF as well as International Codification and local Defence Industry partners.

## HISTORY

- 1953 - Joint US/UK invitation for Australia to join American British Canadian Supply Classification system (ABCSC).
- 1955 - Australia assigned "66" code under ABCSC. This was confirmed by the NATO Working Party on Cataloguing the following year.
- 1958 - Australian NCB established.
- 1963 - AC/135 agrees that all NATO countries can establish data exchange with Australia. TIR (Total Item record) = 167,000 NSNs.
- 1973 - One millionth item of supply recorded in TIR.
- 1982 - Original CENCAT system goes live.
- 1995 - Tier 1 sponsorship.
- 1998 - Tier 2 sponsorship.
- 2005 - CENCAT-3 goes live.
- 2008 - Australian NCB celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday
- 2016 - MC CATALOGUE goes live.
- 2017 - Australian NCB hosts the World Codification Forum in Melbourne.
- 2018 - Australian NCB celebrates its 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday.
- 2019 - Australian NCB starts receiving and transmitting NCAGE XML data.
- 2022 - MC CATALOGUE converts to NDER.

## ROLE

The role of the Australian NCB is to provide codification services to the acquirers, sustainers and logistic managers of Defence materiel.

## AIM

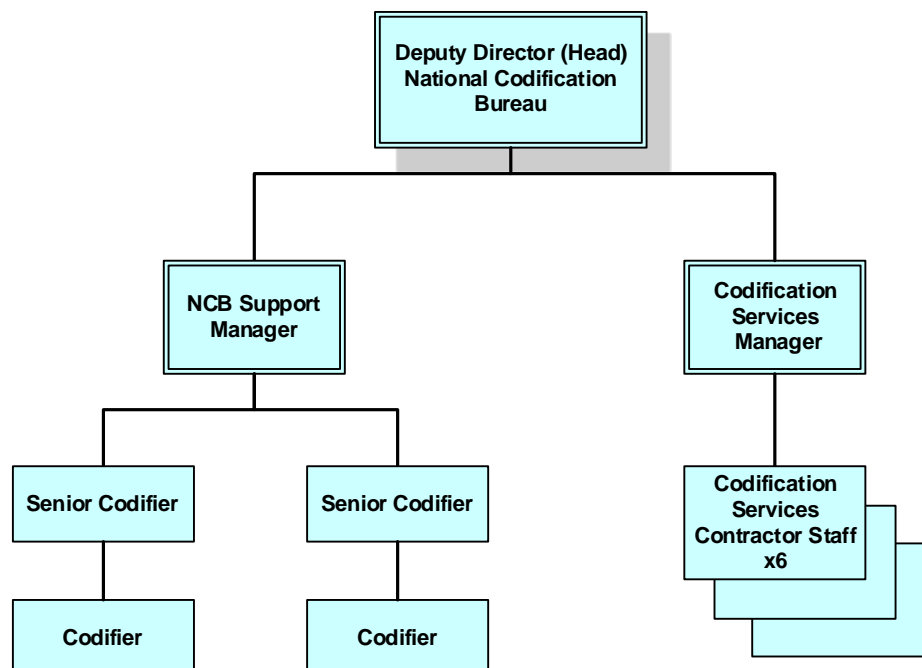
Our aim is to provide a service that is responsive to customer needs and maintains the high standards of data quality that underpin the NCS and the Defence logistics business environments.

## ORGANISATIONAL CHART

The Australian NCBs organisational structure is represented below. The NCB establishment consists of 7 civilian positions (Australian Commonwealth Public Servants), with the capacity to employ a variable number of up to 6 Commonwealth employed contractors.

The Support Section is responsible for the overall technical operations of the NCB, including policy and procedures, NMBS operations, security access to various codification tools, data quality reviews and Help Desk customer support.

The Codification Services section is responsible for the general codification transactional services and national NCAGE processing, which occurs on a daily basis.



## TRAINING

The Australian NCB, in conjunction with its training provider, have developed a suite of training modules to ensure all codification officers are certified and proficient in the process of codification and the use of information systems supporting the process. An “Introduction to Codification” training course is also mandated to all Defence personnel that submit codification requests to the NCB.

After successful completion of the suite of training modules, codification officers and submitters are issued a competency in codification.

## SYSTEM

MC-CATALOGUE is the Australian NCBs COTS codification information system which was implemented as a Software as a Service (SaaS) solution in July 2016. It replaced the ageing CENCAT-3 bespoke system that served the NCB well during its 10 years of operational life. MC-CATALOGUE is provided by AURA, s.r.o., of Czechia, who is also engaged to provide ongoing support of the software.

MC CATALOGUE also provides a workflow module that allows Australian Defence users to submit their codification requests directly within the codification tool. This provides a range of efficiencies for the Australian NCB with over 900 active Defence customers utilising MC-CATALOGUE.

AUSTRALIAN TIR

The MC CATALOGUE TIR holds the materiel master database for the ADF and contains approx. 636K active items of supply (of which approximately 69% are codified from overseas ), and approx. 1.3M active manufacturer/suppliers (of which more than 96% are assigned from overseas).

The MC CATALOGUE database maintains a range of local and foreign sourced items of supply with the distribution of TIR records graphically represented below:

