

***CodSP-100-ESP***

***The National Codification Bureau of Spain***

***November 2025***



# THE NATIONAL CODIFICATION BUREAU OF SPAIN

## 1. AIM

The overall aim of the Spanish National Codification Bureau (ESP NCB) is to manage a Codification System in Spain, in accordance with the doctrine and procedures of the NATO Codification System (NCS), to support the Spanish Armed Forces logistics and assure the objective of the interoperability at the national and international levels.

## 2. ORGANIZATION

ESP-NCB is under responsibility of the General Director of Armament and Material of the Ministry of Defence through the Deputy Director General of Inspection and Regulation. The ESP NCB Director reports monthly to the General Director of Strategy and Innovation of the Defence Industry (Spanish representative of CNAD).

**Annex A** shows the allocation of the NCB into the organization of the Ministry of Defence (MoD).

Functionally subordinated to the SECAT-OC, there are eight services (2<sup>nd</sup> Echelons), respectively in Defence Department, General Staff, Army, Navy, Air Force, Civil Guard, Medical Service and Military Emergency Unit, that perform and coordinate codification tasks in their respective environment. These services are responsible for submitting the Spanish new item of supply draft identifications and the maintenance transactions to the NCB to get the assignment of NATO Stock Numbers (NSN) and to update the Spanish Total Item Record.

Under each 2<sup>nd</sup> Echelon, there are a variable number of identification teams (1<sup>st</sup> Echelons) in different logistic units.

There are also codification companies (manufacturers/vendors and service providers), which perform codifications activities for the services (2<sup>nd</sup> Echelons) or directly for ESP-NCB, related with defence contracts. All these companies are certified by the ESP NCB.

**Annex B** shows the codification organization in Spain.

## 3. HISTORY

1984	The SECAT-OC was created.
1985	Spain ratified STANAGs 3150 (Codification of Equipment - Uniform System of Supply Classification) and 3151 (Codification of Equipment - Uniform System of Item Identification).
1986	The Spanish MoD approved the first National Codification Regulation according to the NATO Codification System (NCS).
1991	STANAGs 4177 (Codification of Items of Supply - Uniform System of Data Acquisition) and 4199 (Codification of Equipment - Uniform System of Exchange of Materiel Management) were ratified.
1993	The STANAG 4438 (Codification of Equipment – Uniform System of Dissemination of Data Associated with NSNs) was ratified.

- 2002 The Spanish MoD approved a new National Codification Regulation which improves the compliance of Codification Contract Clause and the participation of defence companies in Codification
- 2010 The Spanish MoD approved a new National Codification Regulation: Royal Decree 166/2010, February 19th. This new Regulation updates and extends the former one (2002) particularly in the participation of codification companies from all the European Union, according to the European Directive 2006/123/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on services in the international market.

#### 4. NCS DATA IN USE BY THE SPANISH MoD

These are the data used nationally and sent abroad from ESP NCB.

<i><b>DATA TYPE</b></i>	<i><b>USED NATIONALLY</b></i>	<i><b>SENT ABROAD</b></i>
Identification	X	X
User	X	X
Reference	X	X
Characteristics	X	X
Classification	X	X
Management <sup>(1)</sup>	X	
Packaging		

<sup>(1)</sup> Spain also reads Management data from USA.

#### 5. SICAD: THE SPANISH CODIFICATION SYSTEM

SICAD is a codification tool owned by the Spanish Ministry of Defence (MoD) which provides all functionalities to codify all the items of supply that are used by the Armed Forces in line with the NATO Codification System procedures.

SICAD is logistics-oriented as it is the result of the collaboration between the best logisticians and the best technicians. It is designed to send daily information to the logistics systems.

It is used by the Spanish, Belgian, Polish, Colombian, Saudia Arabian and Peruvian National Codification Bureaux.

It is a very easily customizable system. And it is also a multilingual system.

SICAD is a tool with more than thirty years of experience. In all these years the major milestones are as follows:

1. SICAD was born in Clipper technology in 1992.
2. In 1999 Spanish MoD reached an agreement with the Belgian MoD and SICAD was installed at BEL NCB.
3. At that time, a big change was being developed in SICAD. So, in 2001 SICAD was changed to Lotus Notes technology.
4. In 2001, a new agreement was reached with the Polish NCB, and SICAD was installed at POL NCB.
5. SICAD is currently developed in .net and Oracle technology. It has been deployed in Spain in October 2011.
6. In 2012, the new “Enterprises” Module went into production allowing codification companies, certified by ESP NCB, to access SICAD online within Electronic ID through <http://catalogacion-esp.mde.es>
7. In 2013, a new agreement was reached with the Colombian NCB, and SICAD was installed at COL NCB.
8. In 2019, a new agreement was reached with the Saudi Arabian NCB, and SICAD was installed at SAU NCB.
9. In 2019, a new agreement was reached with the Peruvian NCB, and SICAD was installed at PER NCB.
10. 10th January 2022 SICAD version 008.001.00 had already been installed in all SICAD users countries in order to internationally exchange data in XML format instead of NADEX as established by NATO Data Exchange Redesign project. A complete overhaul of the codification tool took place to simplify processes and make SICAD more user-friendly.

SICAD is accessible for all employees inside the MoD, as it has been published in the ESP MoD's intranet.

There are different types of access depending on the organizations where it is working (NCB, services, identification teams and codification companies) and also depending on the people's role within the organization. All SICAD users works on-line.

**Annex C** shows the main functions and actions managed by NCB.

## **6. TELETRANSMISSION**

Since 1992 Spain operates with the NATO Mailbox Box System (NMBS) which allows direct transmission of codification data with other NATO and Tier 2/Tier 1 nations through NSPA.

## **7. CODIFICATION STATISTICS**

The Spanish NCB is managing approximately 1,9 million of active NSNs in November 2025.

A more detailed breakdown by nation code, by item identification method and by Service user may be found in **Annex D**.

## **8. TRAINING**

Spanish NCB organizes two different types of courses on NCS: Training Course for Codifiers and Training Course for Codification Managers.

These courses are made up of two parts. The first part corresponds to a distance education phase in which the students get general codification knowledge by themselves. The second part is carried out physically at the Spanish NCB conducting practical exercises.

Training Course for Codifiers is tailored for people involved in item identification tasks at the levels of NCB, second and first echelons of military services, as well as codification companies. Distance education phase takes 12 weeks and the presence phase at the NCB takes 3 weeks. One course of this type is yearly arranged.

Training Course for Codification Managers is mainly thought for people engaged in management and direction of codification Services. Its distance phase takes 12 weeks and the presence one at the NCB takes 1 week. One course of this type is arranged every two years.

The courses can be attended by people from Armed Forces and NCBs of other countries with enough knowledge of Spanish language.

More information about codification courses at ESP NCB is located at Spanish Codification Bureau home page:

[www.defensa.gob.es/portalservicios/servicios/industriadefensa/catalogacion/](http://www.defensa.gob.es/portalservicios/servicios/industriadefensa/catalogacion/).

## **9. PUBLICATIONS**

The Spanish NCB publishes the following documents:

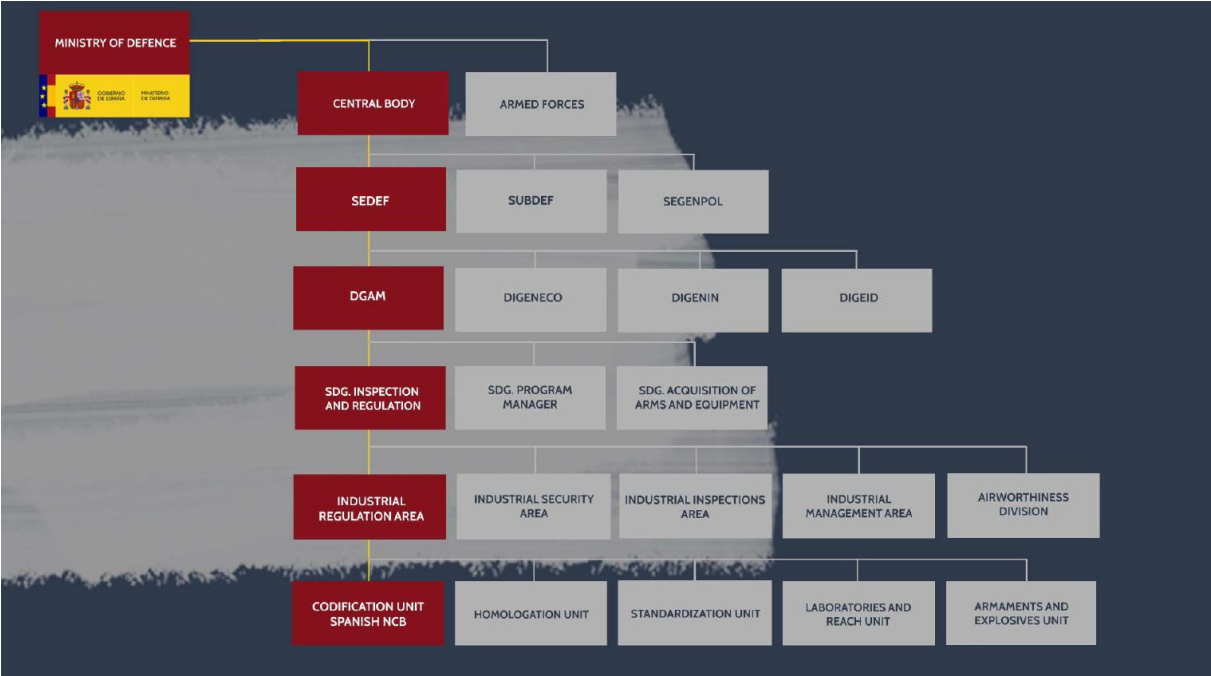
- 33C National Handbook on Defence Codification.
- 33H2 Guide for Items Classification (Groups and Classes).
- NATO Codification System Guide (adapted for national use).
- Brochure on the NATO Codification System.
- SICAD User and Administrator Handbooks.
- Spanish Codification Bureau home page:  
[www.defensa.gob.es/portalservicios/servicios/industriadefensa/catalogacion/](http://www.defensa.gob.es/portalservicios/servicios/industriadefensa/catalogacion/).

It contains general information on NATO codification, specific regulations (international and domestic ones), info about codification companies, training courses, etc.

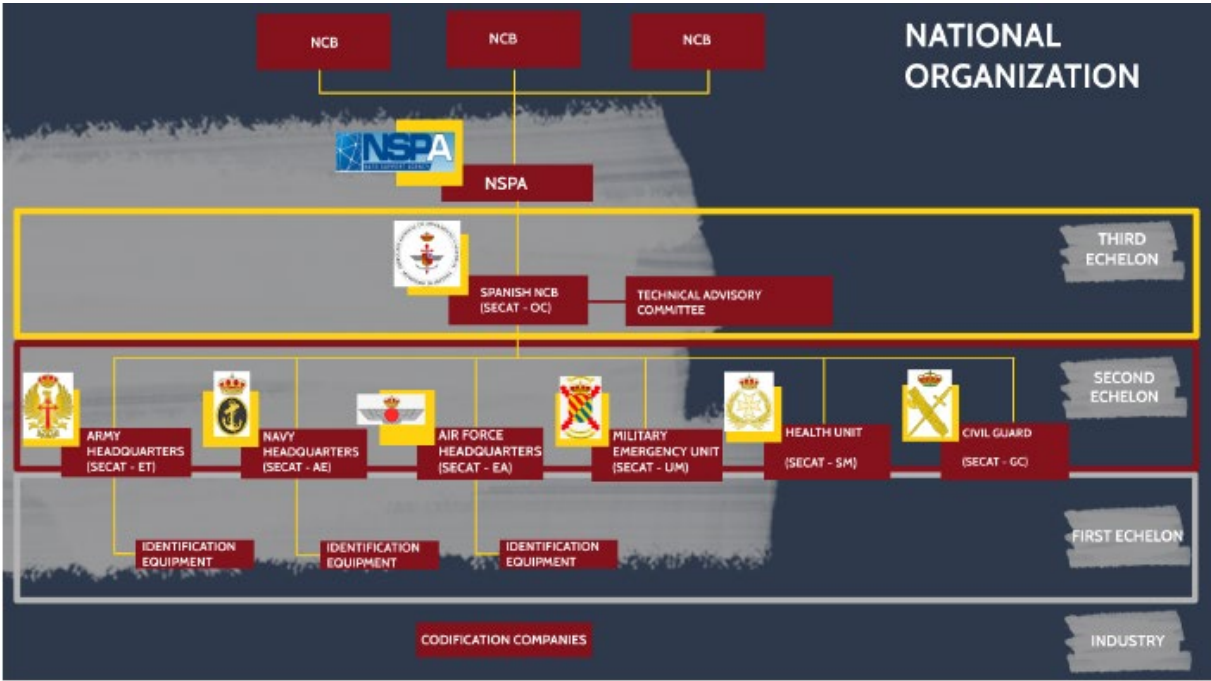
## **10. BILATERAL AGREEMENTS**

Current Spanish regulations do not require signature of bilateral agreements with any nation in both Tier 2 and Tier 1 levels, once their sponsorship on NCS by the AC/135 Community is approved.

ANNEX A: ALLOCATION OF THE SPANISH NCB WITHIN THE SPANISH MoD



ANNEX B: CODIFICATION ORGANIZATION IN SPAIN



**ANNEX C: SICAD - NATIONAL CODIFICATION BUREAU (NCB)****MAIN FUNCTIONS**

- Assign national NSNs.
- Build up the National TIR with all Spanish NSNs and foreign NSNs used by the Armed Forces.
- Check and follow up actions.
- Process actions from/to other NCBs and NSPA.
- Decoding Tool procedure.
- Maintenance of SSR: H2, H4, H6, MRD.
- Contribution of Spanish translations to ACodP-2/3.
- Web services to provide codification data for the Logistic Systems through a unique interface (Army, Navy, Air Force, Military emergency Unit).
- Storage and browsing of Technical Documentation related to NSNs.
- Table Maintenance: a module that allows to manage and maintain directly in SICAD the ACodP-1 / DLIS tables.
- CCC (Codification Contract Clause)
- “Enterprises” Module: the codification companies certified by ESP NCB access SICAD online within Electronic ID.
- Upload NMCRL Raw Data updates in SICAD

**ACTION MANAGEMENT**

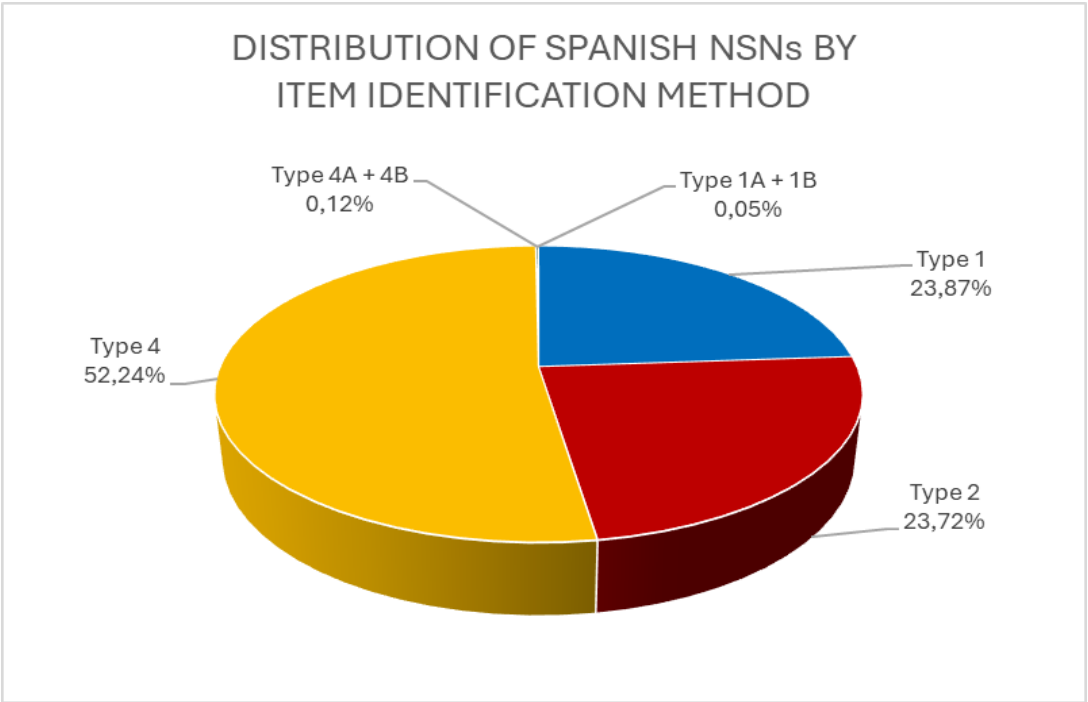
- CODIFICATION REQUESTS: Assign NIIN and Register User
- MAINTENANCE:
  - Identifications: Change INC/NSC
  - References: Add/Delete Reference and Change Reference Related Codes
  - Users: Add/Delete user
  - Characteristics: Add/Change/Delete Characteristics Data
  - National NSN Cancellation.
  - Images to NMCRL: Add/Delete
- REINSTATE NIIN AND REGISTER USER
- INTERROGATE:
  - NSN Data.
  - Request Status

**ANNEX D: CODIFICATION STATISTICS (November 2025)**

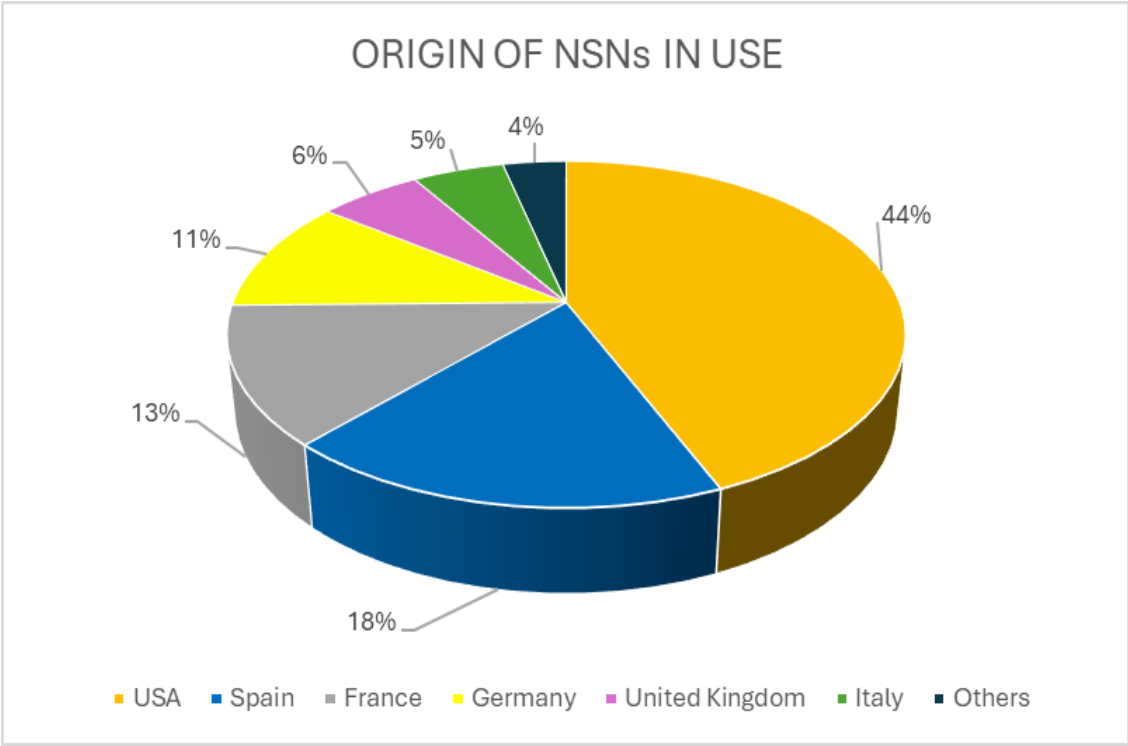
**TOTAL QUANTITY OF NSNs IN THE SPANISH TIR:**

Total active 33 NSN's	305.020
Total active Foreign NSN's	1.579.017
Total active NSN's	1.884.037

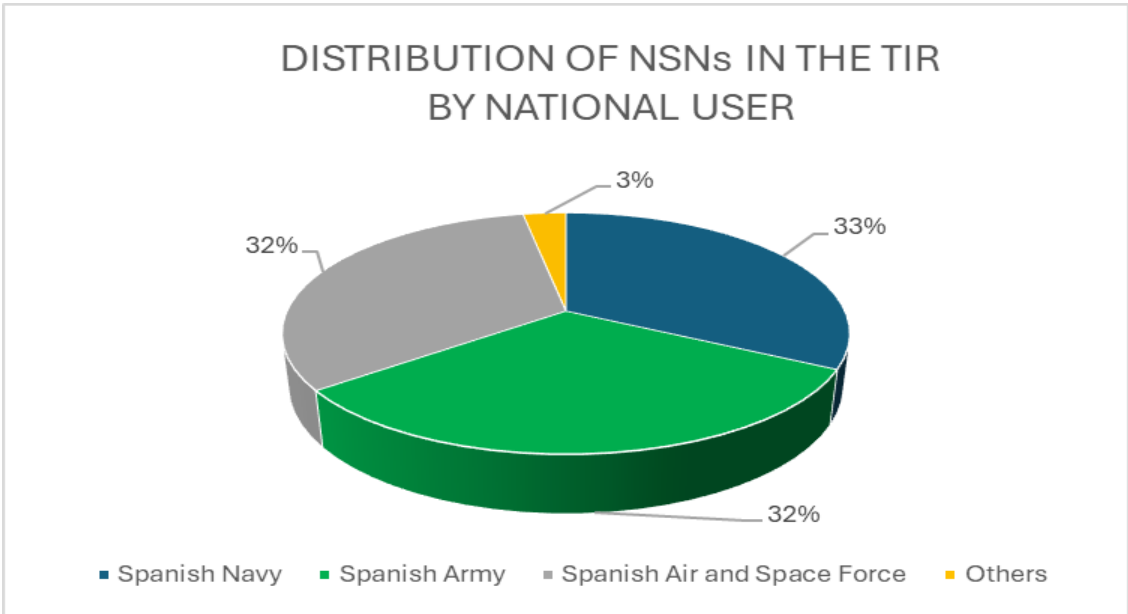
**DISTRIBUTION OF SPANISH NSNs BY ITEM IDENTIFICATION METHOD**



**ORIGIN OF NSNs IN USE**



**DISTRIBUTION OF NSNs IN TIR BY NATIONAL USER:**



(\*) used by each service exclusively

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