

The New Zealand National Codification Bureau

Directorate of Supply Chain Management Defence Logistics Command New Zealand Defence Force

Introduction

New Zealand participates in the NATO Codification System (NCS) as a Tier 2 Non-NATO Sponsored Nation.

The New Zealand National Codification Bureau (NZNCB) is established within the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) to control and co-ordinate the operation and development of the NCS.



Aim & Mandate

The aim of the NZNCB is to provide quality codification data to the NZDF, and to participating NCS nations, in the most effective manner. In achieving this goal, the NZNCB has three key responsibilities:

- To issue, control and maintain all of the codes used within the NZDF for item identification, including NSNs, PSCNs, NCAGEs and DVACs (a breakdown of the various stock number and vendor code formats used in New Zealand is shown at Annex A) as well as the master data and technical characteristics associated with those codes.
- To act as the single point of contact on codification matters between New Zealand and other NCS participating nations. This includes negotiation of sponsorship and bilateral agreements where required, representation at NATO AC/135 and other relevant codification meetings, and the exchange of data and other relevant information with foreign NCBs.
- To maintain the NZDF corporate item identification data base, provide codification data to other dependent information systems, and to allow approved NZDF personnel access to the information through both on-line and off-line means.

Within New Zealand, the military is the main user of the NCS. However, the role of the NZNCB includes fostering the interest of non-Defence Government entities in the use of codification, and increasing awareness within Industry of the benefits that can accrue from the use of NCS principles and practices.

Organisation

The NZNCB is currently established as an element of the Directorate of Supply Chain Management (DSCM) within the Headquarters - Defence Logistics Command (DLC). The Manager NZNCB reports to the Director of Supply Chain Management, and then through to the Commander Logistics (COMLOG). A diagram of the high-level organisation of the NZDF is at Annex B.

The Defence Logistics Command (DLC) was set up in 2010 under a one-star position, to amalgamate the logistics functions across the NZDF, supporting the three services and Headquarters Joint Forces. DLC is organised into the headquarters, three environmental commands (Land, Air and Maritime), Defence Equipment Management Organisation (DEMO) Defence Shared Services Group (garrison support to camps/bases/units) and the DSCM, which includes a number of enabling functions and centres of excellence including the National Codification Bureau. A breakdown of the NZDF logistic structure, showing NZNCB's position within the DLC is at Annex C.

The NZNCB is organised on the centralised model. All codification activity within the New Zealand Defence Force is carried out by the staff of the bureau, including initial screening, item name assignment, preparation of descriptive identifications and allocation of stock numbers. Logistics personnel around the country simply submit electronic requests for codification or maintenance to the

NZNCB, and have view-only access to the item identification data via an interface between the codification tool (N-CORE NG) and the NZDF's SAP-based ERP system.

The personnel establishment of the NZNCB consists of a Manager and a staff of nine, all of whom are NZDF civilian employees. A detailed organisational chart of the NZNCB is shown at Annex D.

NZNCB is located at the Somme Defence Centre at Trentham, some 35 kilometres north of New Zealand's capital city, Wellington. Trentham is a significant location for the NZ Defence Force, with a number of major units sited in a small area, including an Army Camp, Logistics and Repair Depot, Headquarters Joint Forces Command, and part of the Defence College.



History

New Zealand has been operating the NCS for more than forty years. In the mid 1960s, the New Zealand Army and Royal New Zealand Air Force introduced supply systems based on the US Federal Cataloguing System. New Zealand was subsequently admitted into the AC/135 community in 1969, as one of the first four non-NATO nations under the sponsorship of the United Kingdom. Since that time the NZNCB has gained considerable knowledge and expertise in codification. When the new Sponsorship policy was created by AC/135 Main Group in the mid 1990s, New Zealand was able to participate on a more official footing. After achieving Tier 2 status in 1999, NZNCB has gone on to play an increasing role in the management and development of the NCS.

Significant dates include:

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| May 1969 | The Defence Council directs the establishment of a National Codification Bureau to introduce the NCS as the single codification system to be used within all branches of the New Zealand Ministry of Defence. |
| Sep 1969 | New Zealand is sponsored into the NCS by the United Kingdom, as a non-NATO Sponsored Nation. |
| Dec 1972 | The first official "98" NATO Stock Number is assigned. |
| Jun 1991 | A new codification information management system (DIDS) goes live, automating the workflow of the NZNCB and allowing military personnel throughout the country real time access to codification data. |
| Mar 1997 | After a review of policy regarding the involvement of non-NATO countries, the Chairman AC/135 replaces the United Kingdom as the sponsor of New Zealand. |
| Aug 1997 | The NZNCB connects to the NATO Mailbox System and begins exchanging all NCS data electronically, via NAMSA. |
| Dec 1999 | New Zealand is granted Tier 2 status by AC/135. As a result, two-way data exchange commences with all NATO member nations. |
| Aug 2000 | New Zealand data is included within the NATO Master Cross Reference List (CD-NMCRL) for the first time. |
| Sep 2000 | The NZNCB connects to the NATO Automated Business System and begins to play a full part within AC/135 Panel A, attending meetings on a regular basis. |
| Nov 2006 | NZNCB becomes part of the Joint Logistic and Support Organisation (JLSO) and is relocated to the JLSO National Service Centre at Trentham. |
| Jul 2008 | After 17 years of service, the DIDS system was decommissioned and NZNCB rolled out N-CORE NG as the new codification tool. |
| Dec 2009 | A new workflow tool based on MS SharePoint enables all internal new codification requests to be submitted to NZNCB electronically (E-SUB). |

Jul 2010	The Defence Logistics Command is created and the JLSC is renamed Defence Shared Services (DSS).
Jan 2011	Electronic workflow (E-Sub) receives CDF Recognition and is extended to include all types of maintenance requests.
Jun 2013	NZNCB is transferred to Defence Logistics Command (Support Services)
Jun 2016	NZNCB DLC(SS) is dissolved and NZNCB becomes part of DSCM.

Codification Database

NZNCB's first fully automated codification tool (DIDS) was developed in New Zealand and went live in 1991. It was upgraded in 1999 and migrated onto a UNIX platform. However, by 2005 it was obvious that DIDS2 need to be replaced, because maintenance costs had increased, the system was no longer fully compliant with ACodP-1, and integration with the NZDF ERP system (SAP) had become very difficult.



After investigating the available options, it was decided to seek a Commercial-Off-The-Shelf solution. In March 2008 a contract was signed with ESG GmbH of Munich, to supply their NATO Codification Repository – Next Generation product (N-CORE NG). Following a very short implementation the system went live in New Zealand on the 1st of July 2008. Since go live NZNCB has purchased additional modules for N-CORE NG, including those for KPI/Reporting, Data Health and Mass Change.

The N-CORE NG system within the NZDF operates as a standalone application holding the master data for all stocked items. The main user of N-CORE data is the New Zealand Defence Force ERP system, which utilises SAP software. The NZDF has a combined system for both the Finance and Supply functions, and currently employs the Asset Management, Materiel Management, Inventory Management, Plant Maintenance and Sales/Distribution modules of SAP, along with the FICO and ARAP modules for Finance, and the HR module. Data exchange between N-CORE and SAP takes place in real time for search queries (RFC Calls) and twice daily for data updates (IDocs). NZDF is currently working through a Future ERP project (FERP) which will see eventual migration to SAP S/4 HANA.

Bilateral Agreements

As a non-NATO Nation sponsored by AC/135, New Zealand has negotiated bilateral agreements to exchange data and codification services with both NATO and non-NATO nations. Many of these agreements have been in place for more than thirty years and predate the current sponsorship rules. Following the approval of Tier 2 status in 1999, the NZNCB is now able to undertake two-way data exchange with all NATO members and Tier 2 Sponsored Nations, most of whom no longer require a separate bilateral agreement.

Valid agreements are currently in place with:

Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, and the United States of America

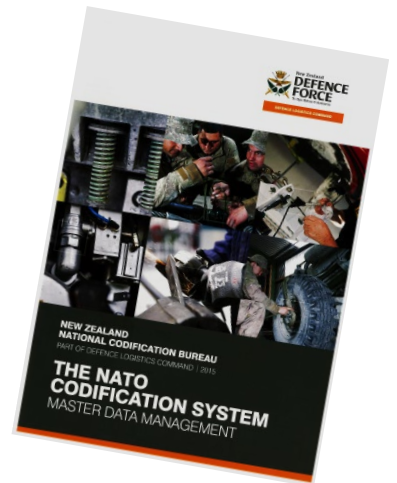
International Engagement

NZNCB fully participates in AC/135 meetings and Task Groups. The goal is to attend both meetings of the Main Group and Panel A each year. New Zealand has acted as Chair of Panel A for two terms from 2016 to 2020 and has also maintained an active participation in the Transformation Steering Working Group (TSWG) taking on the Chair role for the second time in 2026. NZNCB has also supported other nations in the Pacific Area as they have progressed along the journey to NCS Sponsorship.

Publications

The NZNCB utilises a mix of AC/135 and locally produced publications to support the NCS. ACodP-1 - *The NATO Manual on Codification* is promulgated nationally, along with a specific chapter of DFI 40.1 – *Materiel and Equipment Management* which sets out the local rules and procedures specific to New Zealand. A locally produced guide *The NCS & Master Data Management* is used along with the AC/135 Brochure to promote NCS throughout New Zealand, both internally within the NZDF and to wider Government and Industry.

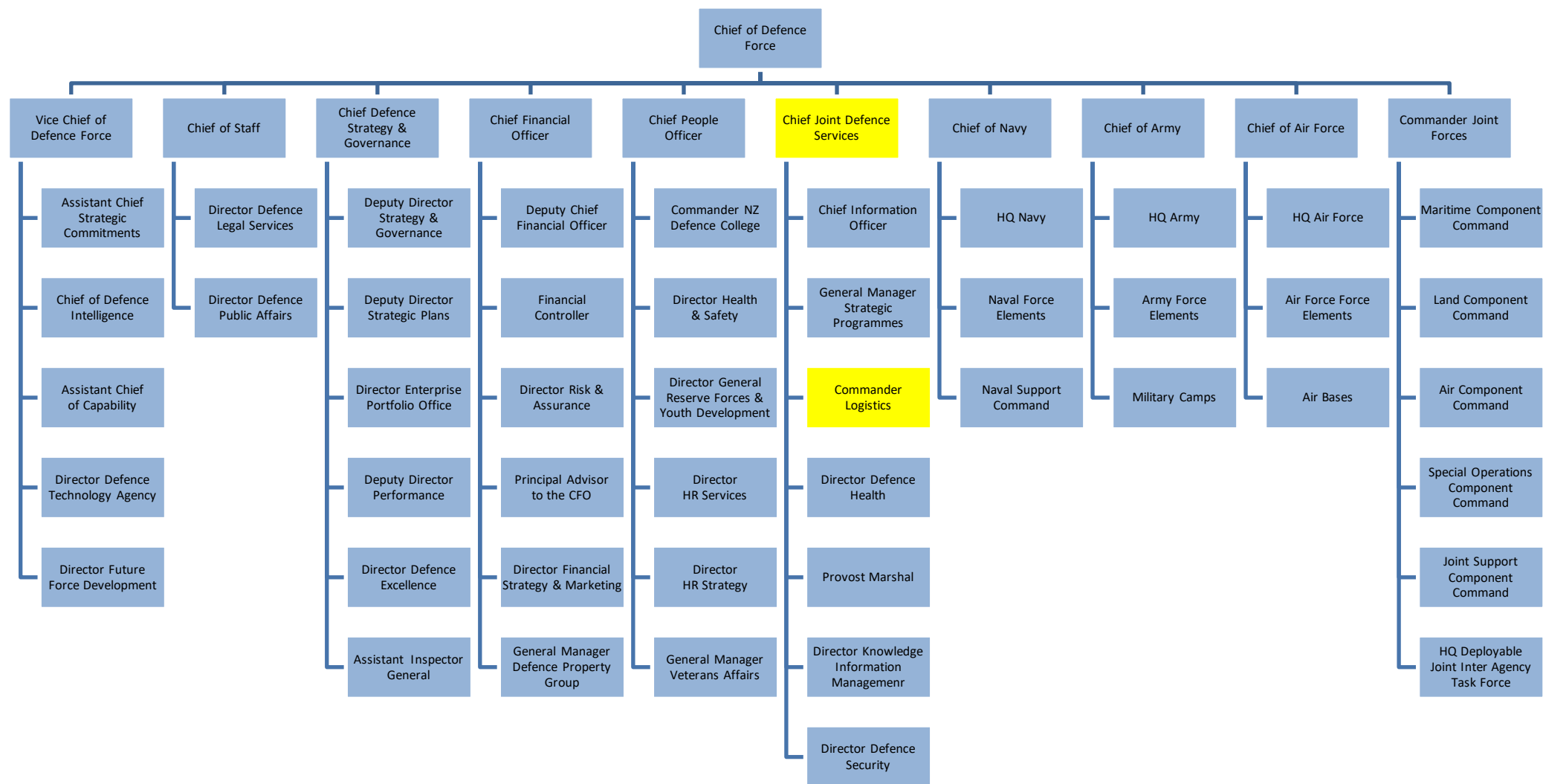
The basic information about the operation of the NCS in New Zealand, and some helpful advice for Industry is maintained on an external NZDF Internet site.

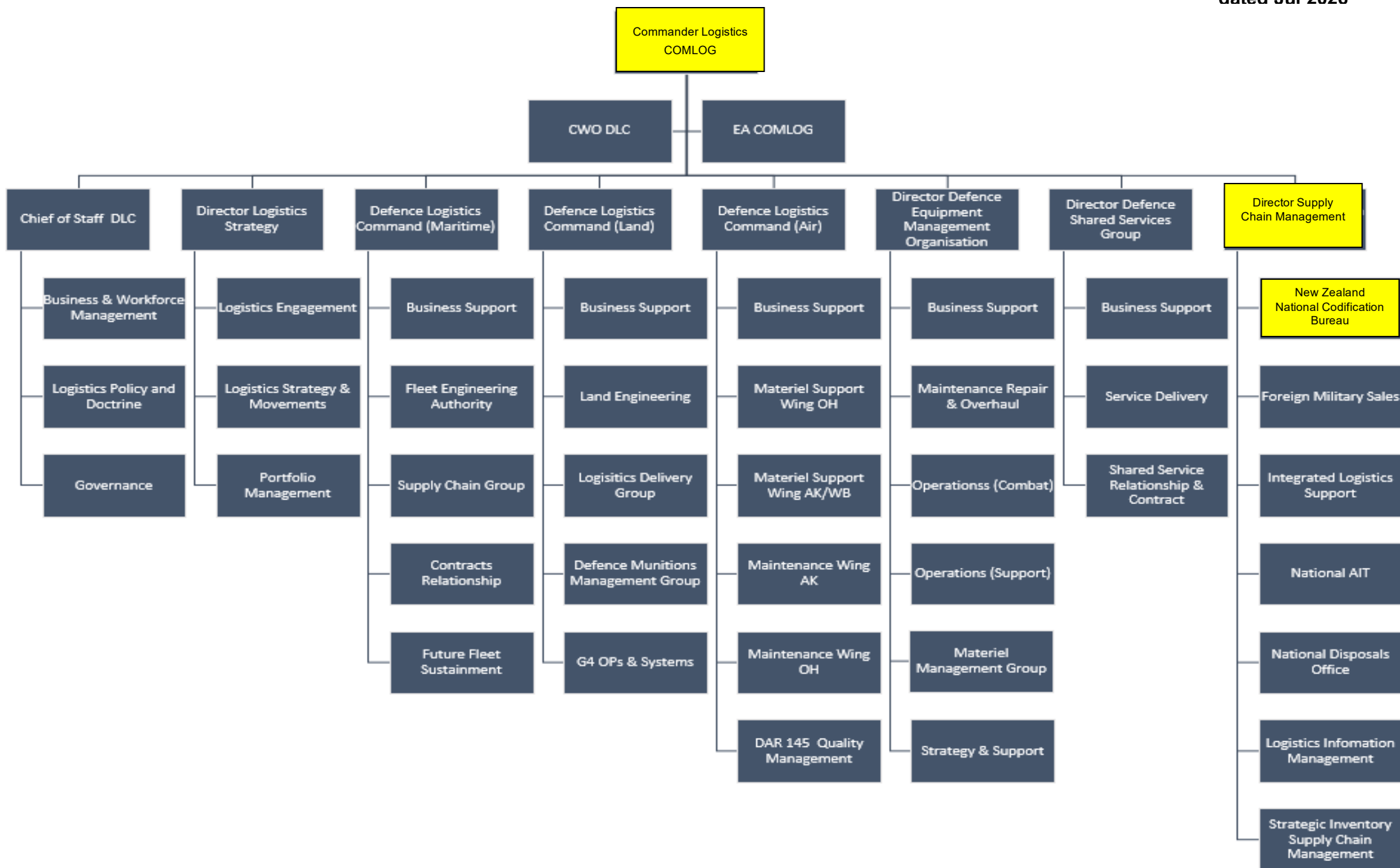


Types of Stock Number used in the NZDF Inventory

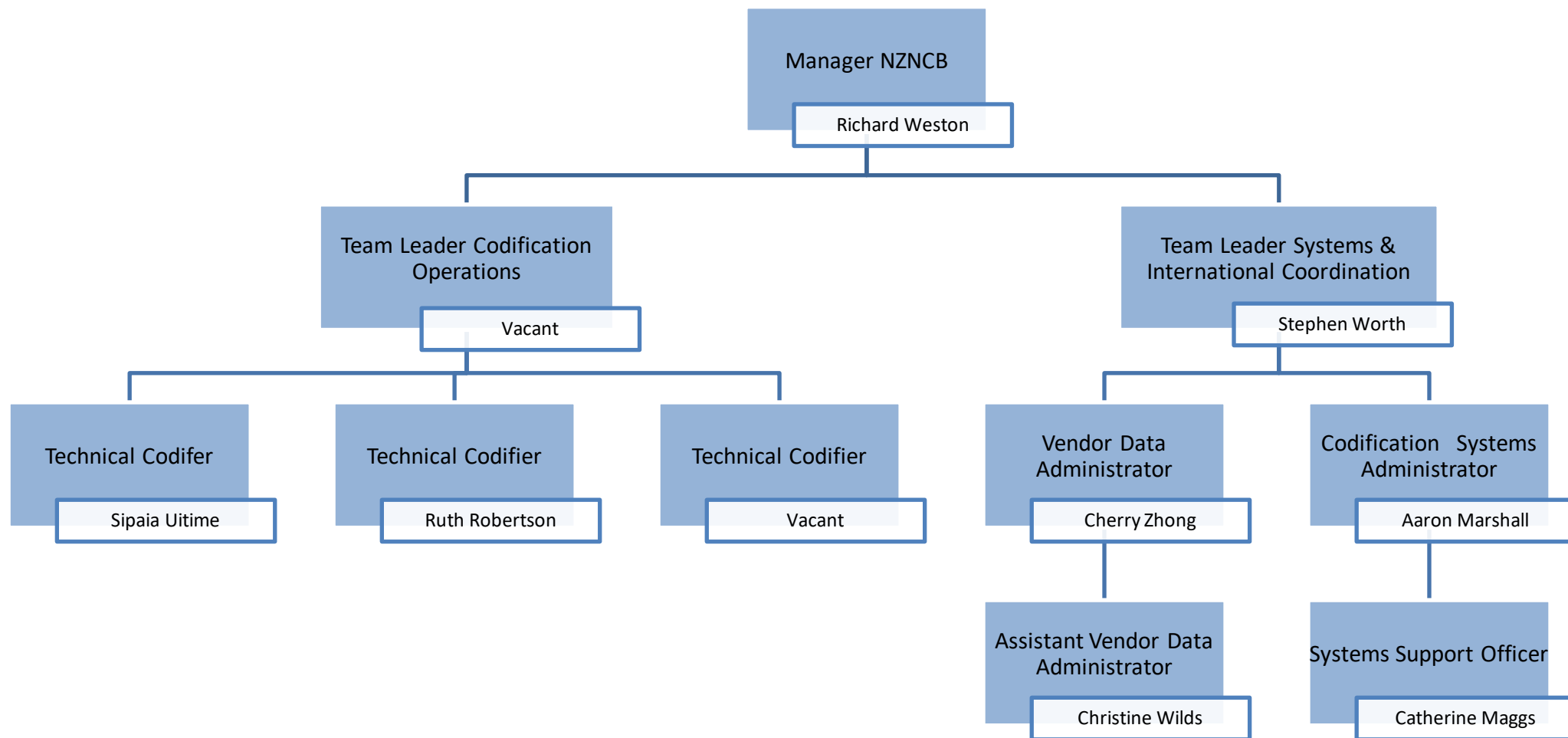
1. There are three types of stock number currently used within the NZNCB's N-CORE NG codification tool and the NZDF ERP. These are the only identification numbers permitted on stocked items within the Defence Force. Each type is formatted in a particular way, to identify the kind of item and how it is used.
2. All three types of stock number are centrally managed and maintained by NZNCB. The Manager NZNCB has been designated by the Chief of Defence Force as the sole authority for the issue of these numbers. The types of stock number, in order of precedence are:
 - a. **NATO Stock Number (NSN)** e.g. **5320-98-208-1234**
 - the highest level of stock number in the NZDF
 - has the most comprehensive characteristic description possible
 - allocated to IOS that are operationally employed and/or repetitively stocked
 - normally codified in the country of manufacture
 - issued, controlled and maintained by the country of origin
 - valid for transmission internationally throughout the NCS
 - b. **Permanent System Control Number (PSCN)** e.g. **5320-98-DAG-1234**
 - Nation Code will always be 98
 - has no item characteristics at all
 - used as a short lived temporary number until the true NSN has been identified
 - will only be issued by the NZNCB to a foreign sourced IOS
 - will normally be replaced by a valid foreign NSN
 - can be used like a DLAN if foreign codification request is rejected, e.g. the item is obsolete or no longer manufactured in the country of origin
 - issued, controlled and maintained by the NZNCB
 - *for local use only within NZ – not to be transmitted throughout the NCS*
 - c. **Defence Logistic Accounting Number (DLAN)** e.g. **5320-GAA-1234**
 - the lowest level of stock number in the NZDF
 - Nation Code will always be 98
 - has enough characteristics to establish the reason for allocation
 - are issued for accounting purposes only, short service life requirements, or for trial of new equipment
 - are often used to identify Fixed Assets within the SAP system
 - can be superseded to an NSN or PSCN
 - issued, controlled and maintained by the NZNCB
 - *for local use only within NZ – not to be transmitted throughout the NCS*
3. There are two types of vendor code used with the NZDF ERP System. Every NIIN must be associated with a valid NCAGE, and every Purchase Order and Invoice must match to either an NCAGE or DVAC before payment is permitted. Both types are issued and maintained by NZNCB.
 - a. **NATO Commercial and Government Entity Code (NCAGE)** e.g. **E1234**
 - the highest level of vendor code in the NZDF
 - will always be prefixed with the letter E and end with a number
 - fully meets the data requirements laid down in ACodP-1, Section 240
 - b. **Defence Vendor Accounting Code (DVAC)** e.g. **NZ001234**
 - lowest level of vendor code used in NZDF ERP system (SAP)
 - issued if the entity is unlikely to be required for codification/payment by another NCB
 - Can be superseded to an NCAGE
 - *for local use only within NZ – not to be transmitted throughout the NCS*

High Level Organisation of the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF)



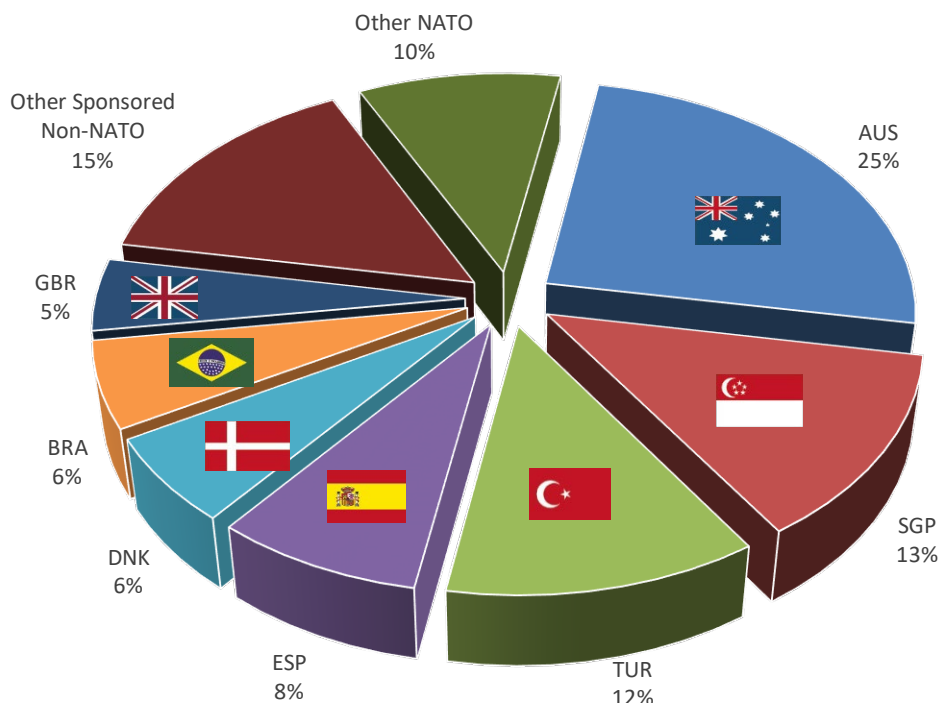


Establishment of the New Zealand National Codification Bureau (NZNCB)



Composition of the New Zealand Total Item Record

Foreign Users of 98 NIINs

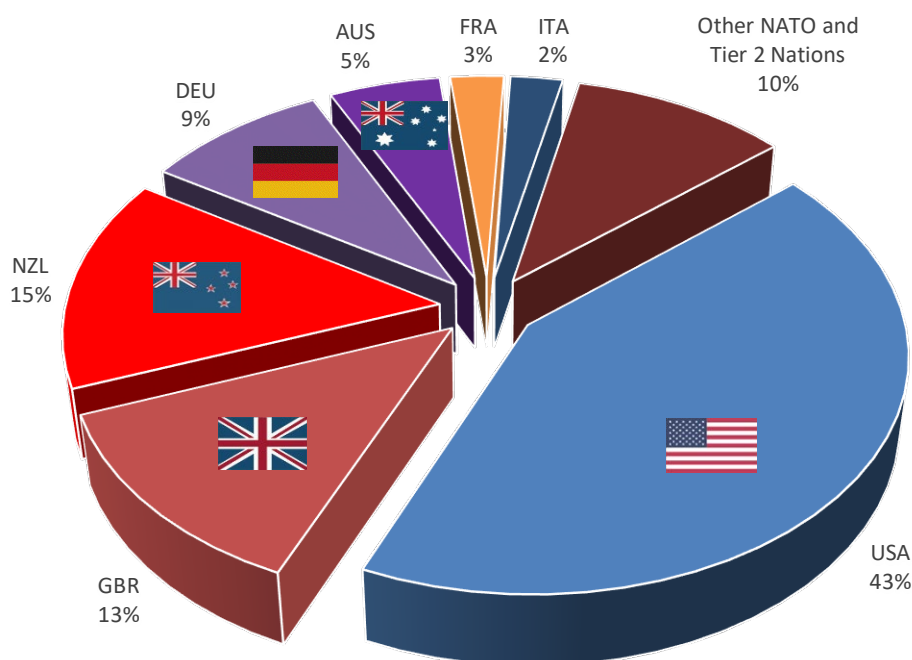


Approximately 8,261 active New Zealand NIINs have at least one other nation registered as a user.

Currently the largest foreign users of New Zealand stock numbers are Australia at 25%, Singapore at 13%, Türkiye at 12%, Spain at 9%, Denmark at 6%, Brazil at 6%, and the United Kingdom at 5%.

As at February 2026, there are 42 other nations who are also users of NZL NSNs. Most of these are registered for less than 100 NIINs.

Active NIINs in the NZDF Inventory



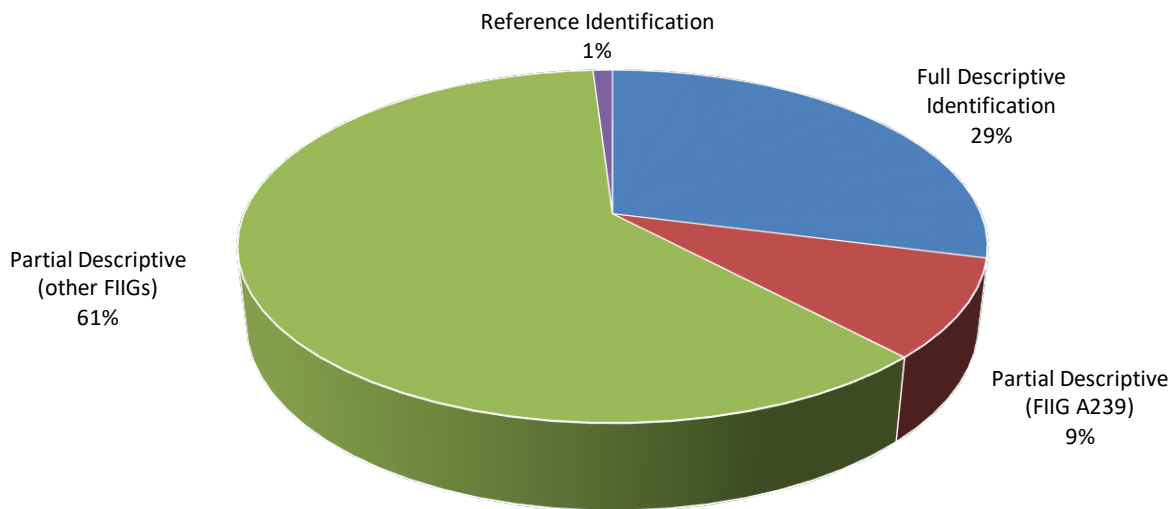
The majority of the approximately 485,515 active NSNs in the NZNCB TIR are of US and UK origin.

As at February 2026, New Zealand was registered as a user of 269,433 NIINs originating from 36 countries. These were in addition to 56,658 active NZL NSNs

Data Quality and Completion Time Frames

Since the early 2000's, and particularly following the replacement of our legacy tool with N-CORE NG in 2008, NZNCB has placed increased emphasis on Data Quality. The initial focus was on improving the data on new codifications, while more recent efforts have focused on the legacy NIINs created over the previous forty years. Specific initiatives have included strict control over the allocation of Non-Approved Item Names (NAIN), almost eliminating the use of Type 2 identifications for new NIINs, and actively working to reduce or eliminate the anomalies reported by the AC/135 Management Information System (MIS). As at July 2026 NZNCB's reported NSN Quality KPI is 99.96%

Item Identification Types for Active 98 NIINs



Completion Times for Local and Foreign Submissions

NZNCB is justifiably proud of our completion rates. Since the go live of N-CORE NG, the average time to complete internal requests and supply a stock number for use in SAP has been under two working days. The time to process foreign requests fluctuates more, due to the variation in the volumes received and the quality of submissions. However, the average over the last eighteen years is around eight working days.

