

CodSP-100-NSPA

NATO Support and Procurement Agency

(NSPA)

November 2024



NATO Codification System Section in NATO Support and Procurement Agency (NSPA)

1. Introduction

The NATO Codification System Section of LD Programme in the NATO Support and Procurement Agency (NSPA) is responsible for all matters concerning codification services to the users of the NATO Codification System (NCS), as specified by the Group of National Directors on Codification (AC/135), and for codification services internally in NSPA and other NATO agencies.

2. Mandate

The mandate of the NATO Support and Procurement Agency (NSPA) in relation to AC/135 is defined in a revised Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between AC/135 and the NATO Support and Procurement Agency (NSPA) of 19 November 2015. Note that the legal status of NSPA is identical to that of former NAMSA. The full text of the MOU is found in the Allied Codification Publication No. 1 (ACodP-1), Annex A to Chapter 1.

3. Responsibilities

The tasks to be undertaken by NSPA in support of the NCS include:

- creation and operation of files in accordance with decisions taken by AC/135;
- data exchange with the users of the NCS by use of Telecommunications;
- participation in and co-ordination of codification support for NATO Agencies, NATO Military Commands, NATO Bodies and Common & NATO Projects when decided by their Board/Steering Committees;
- participation in meetings with AC/135 Main Group, Panel A, Working and Task Groups as needed for the establishment and the co-ordination of operating procedures.

4. History

Year	Event Description
1958	The North Atlantic Council (NAC) creates the NATO Maintenance Supply Services System (NMSSS) and its executive element, the NATO Maintenance Supply Services Agency (NMSSA), in Paris. Its role is limited to procurement of spares for F-84, F-86 and C-119 aircraft.
1961	The NATO Maintenance Supply Services Agency (NMSSA) takes over the management of the NATO Supply Centre in Châteauroux, France, which includes central stocks of spares, maintenance and repair of equipment. NMSSA's role is expanded to support six weapon/equipment systems.
1964	The North Atlantic Council (NAC) approves a new Charter and new names: NATO Maintenance and Supply Organization (NAMSO) and NATO Maintenance and Supply Agency (NAMSA).
	Establishment of a Documentation Research and Cataloguing Division (CX Division) within NAMSA in Châteauroux, France.

Year	Event Description
1968	NAMSA moves to Luxembourg: the Headquarters being located in Luxembourg City and the operational facilities in Capellen (former Luxembourg Army barracks and depot).
	Setting up of a "Documentation Research Division – PC" under Directorate P (Procurement).
1973	NAMSA decides to use NATO Data Exchange System (NADEX) to support a global procurement system.
1986	The NAMSA "Documentation Research Division – PC" situated under Directorate P (Procurement) is renamed to "Materiel Identification/Codification Division – LI" and placed under Directorate L (Logistics).
	NAMSA signs a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the AC/135 and assumes tasks to manage NCS (MOU signed at Washington DC on 11 Aug 1986 – NAMSO Basic Text No. 180).
1987	NAMSA Headquarters relocates to Capellen, alongside the operational facilities
1990	Tasked by AC/135, NAMSA launches the NATO Mailbox System (NMBS).
	A permanent post is established in NAMSA for providing secretarial support to AC/135.
1993	The NAMSA Codification Management System (NACOMS) is established to automate the support to NCS.
1994	The first release (FEB 1994) of the NATO Master Cross Reference List (NMCRL) on CD-ROM (MS DOS version) is published by NAMSA (in co-operation with contractor USA Systems Inc., Virginia Beach, VA, USA).
1995	NAMSA, Materiel Identification/Codification Division (LI) is renamed to "Codification Support Division – LI".
1996	NAMSA is tasked by AC/135 to maintain and update the Allied Codification Publications (ACodP-1, HB on Aims, CodSP, and later on AC/135 web site, etc.).
1997	After some re-structuring, the Codification Support Division becomes the "Codification Services Branch" of the "NATO Co-operative Logistics Programme – LZ".
1998	Program BASELOG, to be co-ordinated by NAMSA, is approved by AC/135.
	The first release (FEB 1998) of the dual DOS/Windows version of CD-NMCRL is published by NAMSA (in co-operation with new contractor Optimus Corp., Ft. Collins, CO, USA).
2002	In addition to CD-ROM media, NMCRL becomes available on DVD. The acronym NMCRL takes over the name "NATO Master Catalogue of References for Logistics".

Year	Event Description
2008	NAMSA introduces an in-house developed web version of NMCRL, called NMCRL-WEB.
2009	NAMSA adds a "Search by Characteristics" functionality to the NMCRL-WEB.
	NAMSA launches a web tool for S & I CAGE codes registration.
	NAMSA develops a new Multilingual ACodP2-P3 web site application with online upload tool to be used by nations involved in the translation process.
2011	Launching of a new NMCRL-DVD product (FEB 2011) based on the layout of NMCRL-WEB and developed in-house by NAMSA.
2012	The North Atlantic Council (NAC) approves a new Charter and new names: creation of the NATO Support Organisation (NSPO) and the NATO Support Agency (NSPA) as its executive arm i.e. merging of the Central Europe Pipeline Management Agency (CEPMA), the NATO Airlift Management Agency (NAMA) and the NATO Maintenance and Supply Agency (NAMSA) into a new single agency, called NATO Support Agency (NSPA) by 1 st July 2012.
2014	<p>Merger of the NATO Cooperative Logistics Programme (LZ) with the General Services Programme (LG) approved by the Agency Supervisory Board (ASB) in December 2013. As of 1st January 2014 these two Programmes become the General and Cooperative Services Programme (LB) supporting five customer groups and numerous projects. Aside from the customer groups, LB will also be responsible for NATO codification matters (internal & external), the acquisition of NATO Capability Packages, and the management of Partnership for Peace Trust Fund projects in many parts of the world. i.e. LZ + LG = LB so that the "Codification Services Branch" of LZ Programme becomes the "Codification Support Section" of LB Programme.</p> <p>Implementation of new NACOMS – NSPA Codification Management System, (complete re-engineering) beginning 8th January 2014.</p>
2015	<p>The North Atlantic Council (NAC) approves a new Charter and new names: creation of the NATO Support and <i>Procurement</i> Organisation (NSPO) and the NATO Support and <i>Procurement</i> Agency (NSPA) as its executive arm i.e. merging of the NATO Procurement Agency (NPA) and the NATO Support Agency (NSPA) into a new single agency, called NATO Support and Procurement Agency (NSPA) by 1st April 2015.</p> <p>Launching of AC/135 Management Information System (MIS) and implementation of NMCRL Web Services.</p> <p>Signing of new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between AC/135 and NSPA at Capellen (Luxembourg) on 19 November 2015. This revised MOU updates the formal framework for NSPA's continuing successful provision of services in support of the NATO Codification System.</p>
2016	Implementation of the Online Maintenance Tool (OMT) within NMCRL-WEB

Year	Event Description
2017	Release of NMCRL WEB Lite (1 months free trial subscription)
	NMCRL Offline Redesign (application available via secure download)
	NCAGE XML Implementation in NACOMS
2018	Beginning of the participation in NATO Data Exchange Redesign (NDER) Working Group
2019	Development of NDER NACOMS, specification of other NDER codification applications (ATT, CINEMS, MIS)
2020	Transfer of the “Codification Support Section” from the General and Cooperative Services Programme (LB) to the Communications, Air and Missile Defence Programme Office (LD), System Life Cycle Management Branch, with revised naming “NATO Codification System Section (LD-ED)”
	NDER Compliance Tests under the management of NSPA
	Development and testing of Name and Class Look Up, NDER ATT and NDER MIS
2021	NDER project implementation and final testing
	New NMCRL WEB, MIS and NACOMS development, testing and implementation
2022	NDER project completed: NSN data exchange via XML
2023	OCT – Online Collaboration tool in production
	Systemic Collaboration on NSN Cancellation specification and development
2024	MIS enhancements for MG (dashboards)
	Development and implementation of NMCRL Xport product/function

5. Operations overview

The work of NSPA falls into two main categories: External Support and Internal Support. The External Support covers common and specific tasks related to the AC/135 and the Internal Support covers NSPA requirements for codification support to items in NSPA logistics systems.

External Services:

The External Services are based on requirements expressed by the AC/135. Every year AC/135 and NSPA review these requirements, and a programme of work for the subsequent year is agreed upon. NSPA ensures that the necessary resources are dedicated to the tasks.

The main areas of support are:

- Common functional and technical support to AC/135
 - AC/135 Main Group and Panel A support
 - Sponsorship support of non-NATO nations
- Secretarial Support to all administrative matters arising from activities of AC/135
- Management of AC/135 Publications and its Web site
- Management and Functional Support of NATO Codification Applications/Tools
 - NATO Codification and Management System (NACOMS)
 - NMCRL (WEB, Offline, Xport, Raw Data, API)
 - NCAGE Code Request Tool (NCRT)
 - Online Maintenance Tool (OMT)
 - Online Collaboration Tool (OCT)
 - Name and Class Lookup (NCL)
 - Automated Testing Tool (ATT)
 - NATO Subscription Management System (NSMS)
- Management of Codification data transmission and its quality
 - Telecommunication Support (NMBS and NABS)
 - Management of Data Integration and Quality (Management Information System)

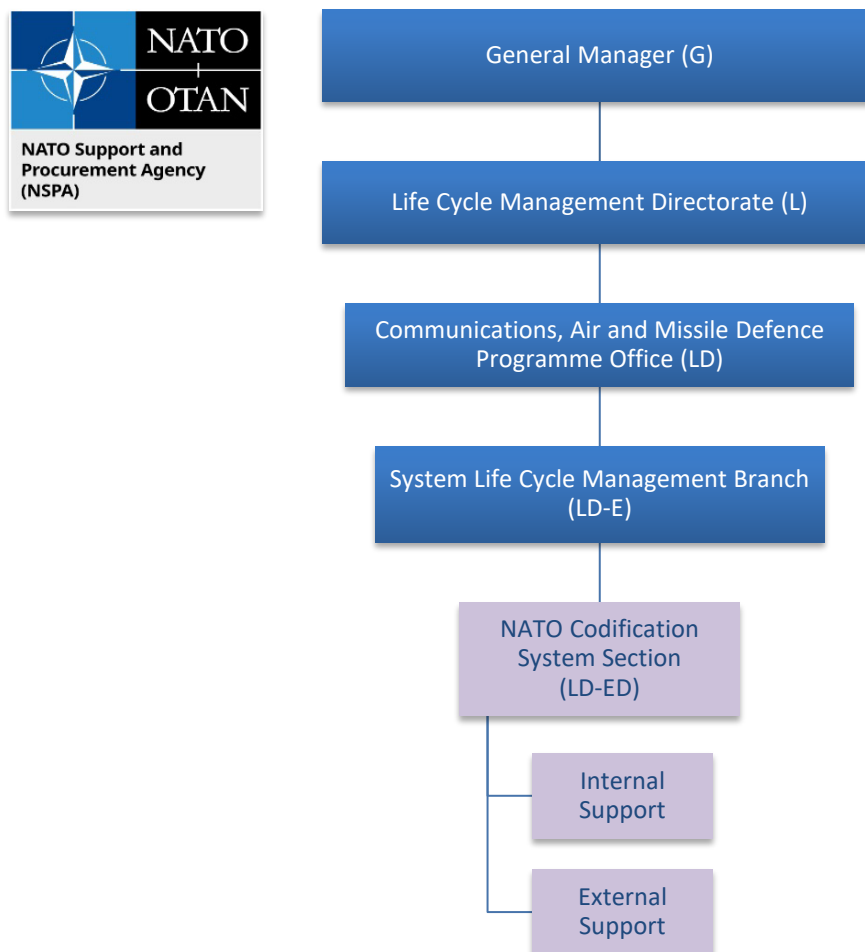
Internal Services:

The Internal Support provides codification services as required internally by NSPA and other NATO agencies.

Although NSPA does not assign own NSNs, the NSPA logistics system SAP uses NCS data. NSPA NATO Codification System Section handles the request for a new codification as well as all the maintenance transactions for NSPA and other NATO agencies' users.

NSPA manages own codification application called Codification Information Exchange and Management System (CINEMS). CINEMS is interfaced to the NSPA logistics system – SAP. CINEMS supports more than 70 NSPA in service support projects with NSN data.

6. Organisation



The NATO Codification System Section (LD-ED) is staffed by 9 personnel – all civilians recruited from various NATO countries. The codification personnel of LD-ED employs cross-functioning realization of tasks through knowledge and expertise sharing.

7. Codification system applications

NACOMS

NSPA Codification Management System (NACOMS) is a main application amassing all codification data provided by the Nations.

NATO Master Catalogue of References for Logistics (NMCRL)

NMCRL is a subscription based multilingual product.

NSPA operates NATO Master Catalogue of References for Logistics as WEB application and OFFLINE application. National Codification Bureaux and governmental entities may opt for NMCRL Raw Data and/or API services as well.

From 2025, NSPA operates also a new NMCRL product called NMCRL Xport, which is add on product to NMCRL WEB/PACK.

NCAGE Code Request Tool (NCRT)

NCRT is open public tool providing search capabilities on all NATO Commercial and Government Entity (NCAGE) codes assigned across the world. The tool allows submitting requests for a creation/update of the NCAGE codes' records.

Name and Class Lookup (NCL)

The multilingual tool, based on ACodP-2/3 standards, provides search capabilities on all NATO Groups and Classes and on Items Names used in NCS.

Online Maintenance Tool (OMT)

The tool dedicated to the private subscribers of NMCRL WEB/PACK allowing to raise the maintenance request on NSN data records. OMT secures communication and request exchange between the private industry and domestic NCB only.

Online Collaboration Tool (OCT)

The tool allows NCBs to handle the Problem Reports and collaborate on NSN Cancellations, Tables (former IIG) and NSN Duplicates.

Management Information System (MIS)

The tool provides the Key Performance Indicators (KPI) of the NCS, using quality metrics that are capable of identifying the critical strengths, weaknesses and shortfalls within the current system. The MIS provides data on the performance of the system, the number of good and bad records, the ability of NCBs to meet turnaround times, and the overall quality of the NCS and NCBs.

Automated Testing Tool (ATT)

The tool allows NSPA to perform the compliance/acceptance tests with different NCBs concerning different projects (NDER project, systemic Collaboration on NSN Cancellation) and situations when the nation becomes NATO/Tier2 member.

NATO Business System (NABS)

The NABS is a framework designed to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of NATO's operations, governance, and support processes. It integrates various business practices and technologies to streamline decision-making, resource allocation, and operational planning within the organization.

NATO Mail Box System (NMBS)

The NATO Mail Box System is a secure communications system used by NATO member countries to facilitate the data exchange. This system ensures that messages are transmitted securely and efficiently, adhering to NATO's standards for information security.

CINEMS

The NSPA codification tool that is used for the efficient management and exchange of codification data, in contexts of logistics, supply chain management, and inventory control. It helps NSPA to standardize and share information about items, ensuring consistency and accuracy across different NSPA systems and platforms.

8. Point of Contact

Address:

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ANNEX A:

1. What is NSPA?



NSPA IS NATO'S LEAD ORGANISATION FOR MULTINATIONAL ACQUISITION, SUPPORT AND SUSTAINMENT IN ALL DOMAINS

This support ranges from the multinational acquisition of complex platforms, such as aircraft, helicopters and uncrewed systems, to the provision of supplies such as fuel, spare parts and ammunition, or services including the maintenance of radars for air defence, or deployable infrastructure, transportation, medical and catering services.

For more information: <https://www.nspa.nato.int/>