

CodSP-100-SGP

The National Codification Bureau of Singapore

Feb 2025



THE SINGAPORE NATIONAL CODIFICATION BUREAU

1. INTRODUCTION

- The NATO AC/135 accepted Singapore as a Sponsored non-NATO nation, participating in the NATO Codification System (NCS) in 1976.
- The Singapore Armed Forces Cataloguing Authority (SAFCA) has been established by the Ministry of Defence (MINDEF) to manage the SAF Cataloguing System (SAFCS). It resides in the Defence Science and Technology Agency (DSTA).
- SAFCA is Singapore's point of contact with other participating countries in the NCS. It is Singapore's National Codification Bureau or NCB, with a country code '32'.
- Singapore became a NCS Tier 2 nation in June 2002, and the SAFCS is certified to the ISO 9001:2000 Quality Management System. Besides MINDEF and the SAF, SAFCA codifies the items of supply in the other Government Ministries and private companies in Singapore when called upon.

2. MISSION

Our mission is "to deliver optimal cataloguing services and value to support our customers' supply chain excellence".

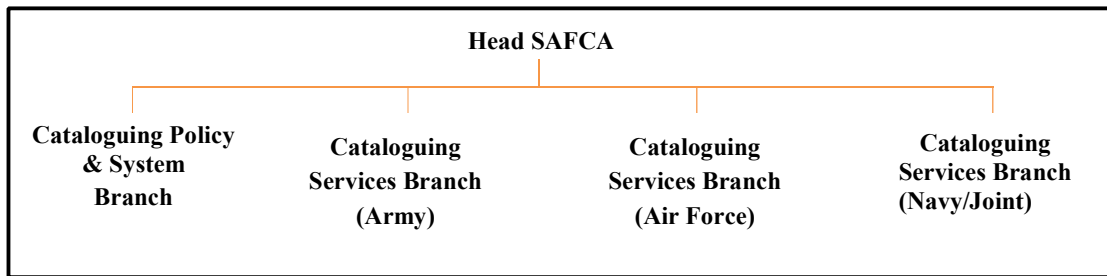
3. SERVICES

The services provided by SAFCA include:

- codification of Items of Supply
- maintenance of the Total Item Record (TIR) for each Item of Supply codified
- screening of proposed new Items of Supply against the TIRs held
- production and promulgation of item data in support of the SAF and other nations participating in the NCS
- conduct of cataloguing lectures and briefings to users on the policies, principles and concepts of the NCS and their applications.

4. ORGANISATION

Due to the re-organisation of DSTA in April 2006, SAFCA is currently under the management of the Procurement Programme Centre. SAFCA is structured into 4 branches and staffed by approximately 23 personnel. The organisation structure of SAFCA is shown here:



- The Cataloguing Policy and System Branch (CPSB) looks after the SAFCS and the N-CORE NG (N-CORE New Generation). It formulates policies and ensures that all cataloguing activities are carried out in accordance with the tenets of the NCS. CPSB represents SAFCA in international cataloguing matters and is the point of contact with the foreign NCBs.
- The Cataloguing Services Branches (CSBs) are responsible for the efficient and effective cataloguing of inventorised items within the guidelines and procedures prescribed in the SAFCS. CSBs are also responsible for providing up-to-date cataloguing information and value added services in support of the SAF's Logistics and Supply Chain Management.

5. TRAINING

SAFCA provides an in-house induction training program for new cataloguers. This comprises the 'Introduction to the NCS', briefings on policies and concept of the SAFCS by Managers and experienced Cataloguing Executives, and On-the-Job training on the practical aspects of Item Identification and Cataloguing Transactions, through the hands-on usage of N-CORE NG (N-CORE New Generation).

6. HISTORY

Before 1976	The Army, Navy and Air Force had their own cataloguing system. Each assigned their own unique stock numbers.
1976	MINDEF directed a common cataloguing system to be implemented for the SAF. Singapore adopted the NCS and SAFCA was established.
1987	The computerisation of the SAFCS resulted in the birth of the first generation SAF Cataloguing Information System (SCIS), which operated on the IBM mainframe.
1997	Singapore was emplaced under NCS Tier 1 when NATO introduced the 2 Tier membership structure.
1998	The 2nd generation SAF Cataloguing Information System 2 (SCIS 2) was implemented in February 1998.
2000	With restructuring within MINDEF, several engineering and logistics organisations were taken out of the Ministry and grouped under a Statutory Board. The new organisation is called the Defence Science and Technology Agency (DSTA). SAFCA came under DSTA in Apr 2000.

2002	SAFCA attained the NCS Tier 2 nation status in June 2002.
2003	SCIS 2's system performance was improved with the upgrade of the server, operating system software and the database management system.
2007	SCIS+, the 3 rd generation SAF Cataloguing Information System was implemented on 1 October 2007. It operates on the J2EE application platform.
2018	The Next Generation Procurement System (NGPS-Cataloguing) NGPS based on Outsystems is an upgraded system replaces the previous SCIS+ which is already end of support. NGPS-Cataloguing was implemented in May 2018.
2021	NGPS-Cataloguing was upgraded as part of the NATO Data Exchange Redesign (NDER) project by Dec 2021, as the current NATO Data Exchange (NADEX), on which NGPS-Cataloguing was based upon, would cease operation from Jan 2022.
2022	The N-CORE NG (N-CORE New Generation) is a web-based application built on Java Enterprise (J2EE) technology and it is based on the rules and procedures on NATO Codification System (NCS). The N-CORE NG was successfully launched with NATO NDER on 10 Jan 22.
2023	SAFCA implemented a Supplier Portal to improve productivity for New System Buy (NSB) cataloguing. It is a COTS product known as Integrated Product Support for Defense (IPSD). The IPSD is a content management system that is used to import, validate and review spare parts master data to support cataloguing and BOC process, e.g. provision of Master Material Data (MMD), workflow, cataloguing management of spares till to the end process of ES initialization. The IPSD will minimize manual tasks and improve efficiency by automating process e.g. auto validation of MMD from supplier. The system is rolled out in Aug 23.

7. BILATERAL AGREEMENTS

Singapore has bilateral agreements with the following countries for the exchange of cataloguing data and services:

NATO NATIONS	NON-NATO SPONSORED NATIONS
Belgium	Australia
Denmark	New Zealand
France	
Germany	
Italy	
Netherlands	
UK	
USA	

SAFCA is also exchanging cataloguing data and services with some NATO and NCS nations without bilateral agreements in place.

8. CATALOGUING SYSTEM

- The N-CORE NG (N-CORE New Generation) is the Cataloguing MIS employed by SAFCA to support its cataloguing operations, as well as the logistics functions in the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF). N-CORE NG encapsulates the rules of the NATO Codification System (NCS) and supports SAFCA as the National Codification Bureau (NCB) in the NCS, for the

international exchange of codification data with other NCS nations.

- N-CORE NG is a web application built on-Java Enterprise (J2EE) technology a new system as part of NDER project to replace the previous NGPS-Cataloguing in NADEX format which was ceased in Dec 2021.
- Apart from technology upgrade, the cataloguing workflow has been streamlined such that fewer steps are required to retrieve information, and new capabilities like item characteristics screening are featured.

- The N-CORE NG Codification System consists of the following essential function group:
 - Total Item Record
 - Manufacturer
 - Project Management
 - Codification
 - Information
 - Administration

9. N-CORE NG DATABASE

The N-CORE NG database consists of approximately 1 million active items of local and overseas origin. The item oriented data, contained in the total item record (TIR) are stored by segments.

- Segment A – Item Identification Data
- Segment B – MOE Rule Data
- Segment C – Item Reference Data
- Segment K – Item Cancellation-Replacement Data
- Segment V – Item Characteristics Data (Coded)

10. TELETRANSMISSION

In 1997, Singapore implemented the NATO Mailbox System (NMBS) for data exchange with other NCBs. Singapore also subscribes to the NATO Automated Business System (NABS) since 2001 to access AC/135 documents.

11. FOREIGN CATALOGUING TOOLS

SAFCA uses the following tools:

- NATO MCRL

12. INTERNET LINKS

The homepage of the Defence Science and Technology (DSTA) can be found at the www.dsta.gov.sg. Links to the Singapore Ministry of Defence is accessible via www.mindef.gov.sg.