

CodSP-100-USA
The National Codification Bureau of the
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FEDERAL CATALOG SYSTEM OF THE UNITED STATES

AIM

- The United States Federal Catalog System is a management tool used in supply management operations within and between the supply systems of the U.S. Military Services, other Department of Defense (DoD) activities, civil agencies and foreign governments. It is an item intelligence-gathering and information providing service. Its aim is to obtain, verify, record and distribute logistics information. It is designed to:
 - establish a single supply language of item identification;
 - provide accurate information as to the identity of items-of-supply;
 - record the source of supply of items;
 - record the governmental activities which manage and use each item;
 - support numerous government supply functions and management concepts;
 - serve as managerial tool to influence uniformity and to establish a common supply language

HISTORY

- The Federal Catalog System traces its history to 1918 when the Department of the Navy initiated a Naval Depot Supply and Stock Catalog.
- In 1929 the Bureau of the Budget ordered preparation of a Federal Standard Stock Catalog; however, it contained only general issue items. Each of the military services operated one or more different systems of identification and classification to satisfy their own cataloging needs.
- In 1952 the Defense Cataloging and Standardization Act was passed. As a result, the huge task of developing, establishing and maintaining a uniform catalog system within the DoD and the civil agencies of the government was initiated.
- In 1958 conversion from individual systems to the Federal Catalog System was substantially completed.
- In 1962 the Defense Supply Agency was organized. This included the former Armed Forces Supply Support Center which was renamed Defense Logistics Services Center (DLSC).
- In 1965 a redesign of cataloging was accomplished. A primary correction action was to assure that each item catalogued had one and only one stock number assigned.

Federal Catalog System of the United States

- In 1966 the improved Federal Item Identification Guide was introduced into the system.
- In 1975 the Defense Integrated Data System (DIDS) was implemented. Word processing equipment was installed and used to convert written and printed material directly to a computer processable medium.

- In 1976 the DIDS Characteristics Screening and Search Programs were implemented.
- In 1992, the DIDS hierarchical data base was replaced by a relational data base, called the Defense Logistics Information System (DLIS). Data processing hardware was completely replaced and the system redesigned to make it more user friendly, faster, and increase its storage capacity.
- Approximately one year later, the name of the system was renamed Federal Logistics Information System (FLIS) to indicate that the system is used by civilian as well as defense agencies.
- In 1998, Defense Logistics Services Center (DLSC) was renamed the Defense Logistics Information Service (DLIS).
- The consolidation of all US government codification services at DLIS was completed in 2000.
- In 2010, Defense Logistics Information Service (DLIS) was renamed DLA Logistics Information Service.
- In 2014, DLA Logistics Information Services was renamed DLA Logistics Information Services.

ORGANIZATION

- The Secretary of Defense is directly responsible for DoD management of the Federal Catalog System.
 - The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) is responsible for the administration of cataloging policies, programs, procedures and overall control of cataloging for the U.S. Government.
 - The U.S. Military Services and Primary Level Field Activities control their respective supply systems based on policy initiated by DLA.
 - The Defense Supply Centers are responsible for integrated material management of commonly used items.
 - DLA has given DLA Logistics Information Services the following responsibilities:
 - Central operating point for the Federal Catalog System.
 - Preparation of cataloging publications.
 - Processing and approval of item identifications with their related management data.
 - Assignment of all U.S. stock numbers.
 - Maintenance of a complete central logistics data file for all U.S. stock numbers and selected stock numbers from other NATO countries.
 - National Codification Bureau (NCB) for the U.S.

- U.S. Civil Agencies, under working agreements with the DoD, participate with each other in the Federal Catalog System. All civil agencies use the same policies, rules procedures and cataloging tools as the DoD.

SYSTEM AND DATA BASE

- The Federal Catalog System consists of over 6 million active items.
- Major functions of the Federal Catalog System are, as follows:
 - Item Identification
 - Interchangeability and Substitutability
 - Publications
 - Supply Management
 - Statistical Reports
 - System Support Records
 - Special Operations
- Two types of data, item-oriented and system-oriented, portray the organization of the FLIS data base. Item-oriented data, such as the National Item Identification Number, screening characteristics, and reference numbers, is retrieved as required by users of the system. System oriented data, such as addresses, item names, NATO Supply Classifications, standard look-up tables, and process controls, is used for storing, updating and retrieving item data.
- The Total Item Record (TIR), which contains item-oriented data, is maintained by input transactions processed by the functional segments.
- The System Support Record (SSR), which contains system-oriented data, is used to maintain the TIR and to prepare output, reports and publications. DLA Logistics Information Services maintains system support files used by countries throughout the NCS.
- Item-oriented data is stored in the TIR in the segments shown below:

A	Identification Data
B	Major Organizational Entity Rule Data
C	Reference Number Data
E	Standardization Decision Data
G	Freight Classification Data
H	Catalog Management Data
J	Source of Supply Data
V	Characteristics Data
W	Packaging Data
Z	Future Data

All of these segments are subject to output to data receivers. Also, Segment V (encoded data) is normally converted to Segment M (decoded data) for output purposes.

- **Public Logistics Data on Mobile Media (PUB LOG)** is a Logistics Information Services product intended for use by public entities requiring National Stock Number (NSN) information and other cataloging information including Federal Supply Classification (FSC) data and Commercial and Government Entity (CAGE) codes. It is an interactive product available on DVD which is updated monthly and available through a subscription process. <http://www.dla.mil/HQ/InformationOperations/Offers/Products/LogisticsApplications/PUBLOG.aspx>
- **Public Logistics Data on Mobile Media (PUB LOG) Federal Logistics Information System (FLIS) Search** is an Information Operations web service intended for use by public entities requiring information about supply items including National Stock Number (NSN), Item Name, Reference/Part Numbers, Commercial and Government Entity (CAGE) codes and other Federal logistics data. Available for download from the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Electronic Reading Room, PUB LOG FLIS Search requires no subscription or Common Access Card (CAC) authorization. <http://www.dla.mil/HQ/InformationOperations/LogisticsInformationServices/FOIAReading.aspx>

PUBLICATIONS

- **Federal Logistics (FED LOG)** Information on mobile media is currently offered as a single DVD or a 5-disc DC Set. It is available to DOD employees and other Government Agencies.
- For more information on DLA Logistics Information Services CD-ROM/DVD products, go to <http://www.dla.mil/HQ/InformationOperations/Offers/Services/CustomerOutreach/Subscriptions.aspx>

NATO SYSTEM

- The U.S. NCB DLA Logistics Information Services provides a number of system support files and tools that are used throughout the NATO Codification System, including those listed below. These items are used to support the automated data processing systems for codification used by the NATO countries and other countries that use the NCS.
 - Master Requirements Directory (MRD): The MRD is the tool that allows the coding and decoding of characteristics data.
 - Reference Drawing Group Drawings: The RDG file contains electronic pictures of all the RDG drawings used in Item Identification Guides (IIGs).
 - Item Name Directory: Provides a complete list of Approved Item Names (AINs), AIN definitions, and colloquial names.
 - NATO Supply Groups and Classes: Contains the NATO Supply Groups, NATO Supply Classes, and their definitions and delimitations.
 - Commercial and Government Entity (CAGE) Code Data: Provides information on a specific establishment or entity which either fabricates items of production or has design control for items procured by the NCS community, or certain numbering systems developed by government agencies, panels or committees used in the identification of catalog data.

Those files can be downloaded at

<http://www.dla.mil/HQ/InformationOperations/Offers/Services/FIC/CatalogToolsTables.aspx>

SERVICES

- DLA Logistics Information Services operates the Customer Interaction Center (CIC) which is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, including Government holidays. Dedicated, knowledgeable agents provide real time answers to customer logistics needs around the world. Technicians can help locate a supply item in the database, assist in obtaining product accesses, or give step by step instructions over the telephone to connect a disc drive unit to a PC for CD-ROM products.

TRAINING

- DLA Logistics Information Services has developed a training program to present information on all facets of the Federal Catalog System. The program provides training for personnel from the entry through executive levels in the military services, civilian agencies, the private sector, and foreign governments.
- DLA Logistics Information Services provides classroom instruction at DLA Logistics Information Service or on-site at other locations. DLA Logistics Information Services also offers an extensive array of Computer Based Training (CBT) modules.

THE U.S. NCB ON INTERNET

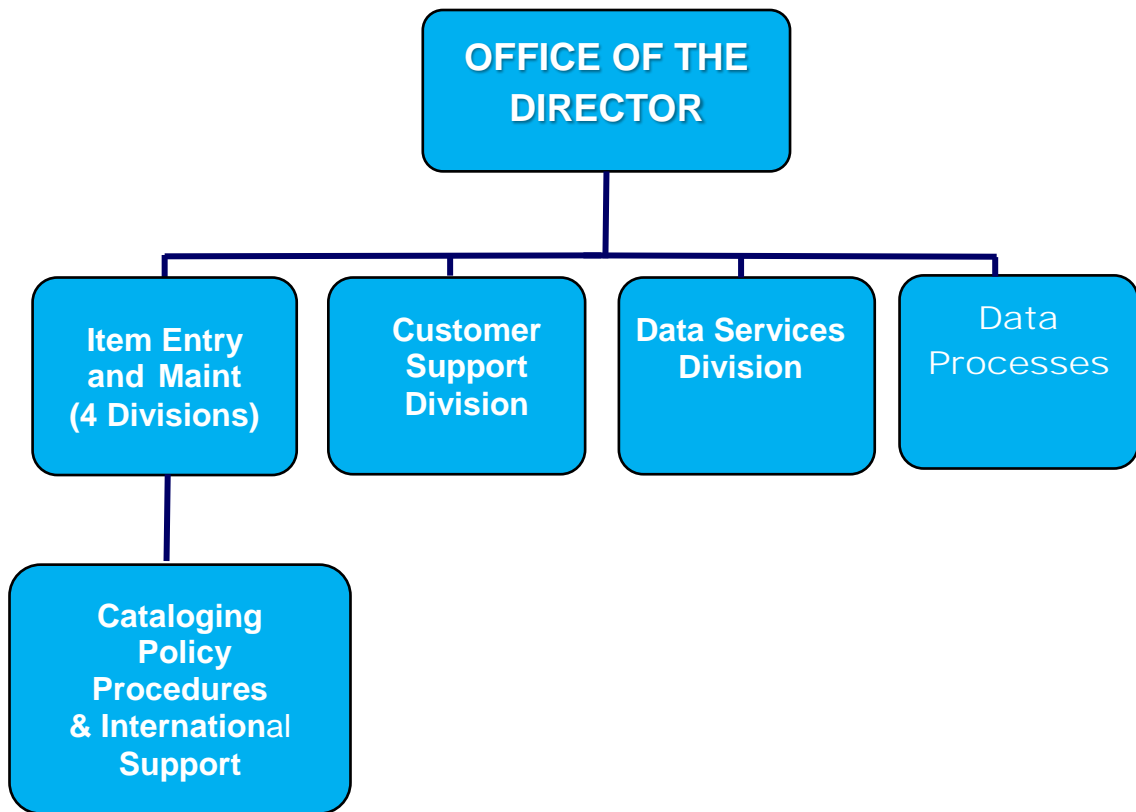
- The home page for the U.S. NCB can be found at <http://www.dla.mil/HQ/InformationOperations/Offers/Services/FIC/NATO.aspx> on the Internet. The DLA Logistics Information Services home page is at <http://www.dla.mil/HQ/InformationOperations/LogisticsInformationServices.aspx>. The DLA Logistics Information Services Web site contains a vast amount of information about DLA Logistics Information Services' products and services, has basic information on U.S. NCAGEs, an item name search application, and many other items.

BILATERAL AGREEMENTS

- The U.S. currently has bilateral agreements, in the form of Foreign Military Sales (FMS) cases, with the following 18 non-NATO countries for codification services and/or publications:

Argentina	Finland	Saudi Arabia	Thailand
Austria	Georgia	Serbia	Ukraine
Bosnia & Herzegovina	Malaysia	Singapore	United Arab Emirates
Brazil	Morocco	South Africa	
Colombia	Oman	Sweden	

Organization Chart of US NCB



Besides the cataloging branches located in Directorate of Logistics Data, the U.S. National Codification Branch has a chief, 1 Foreign Military Sales case manager, 3 positions for managing special projects/programs, and 1 policies and procedures manager.

