



Introduction and Overview UNSPSC®

United Nations Standard Products and Services Code®

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Agenda

- What is UNSPSC?
- UNSPSC Design
- Access to the UNSPSC Codeset



What is the UNSPSC?

- United Nations Standard Products and Services Code[®] (UNSPSC[®])
 - A free open standard
 - A taxonomy of materials, products, and services
 - A practical business tool
- Owned by **The United Nations Development Program (UNDP)**
- Fully community funded



UNSPSC: Timeline & Provenance

- Started by Dun & Bradstreet as the Standard Product and Services Code (SPSC)
 - First generation spend analytics derived from DUNS numbers as a (“from whom”) entity identifier.
- 1998: Merged with UNCCS
 - Owned and operated by The United Nations Development Program (UNDP)
 - Became the United Nations Standards and Products Code (UNSPSC)
- 2003: UNDP contracted GS1 US to operate UNSPSC. The codeset development and maintenance must be self funded.
- 2019: Addition of over 65,000 ICD-10 diagnostic codes to the codeset
- 2021: UNSPSC Codeset covers all materials, goods, and services
 - About 160,000 Codeset entries
 - Over 11,000 downloads per year from every continent





UNSPSC Design

- Hierarchical 4-level tree structure:
 - Segment, Family, Class and Commodity
 - Note: “Commodity” is not defined as bulk materials, e.g. futures contracts on soybeans, but in the broader sense as any article of commerce including capital equipment, high-value products, and professional services.
- Category titles are unambiguous and mutually exclusive
- Products appear in only one category; categories each have only have one parent
- Products are grouped according to dominate usage in world market



Example of UNSPSC

“root” = All Products and Services (implied)

- └─ **Segment 44** Office equipment and accessories and supplies
 - └─ **Family 10** Office machines and their supplies and accessories
 - └─ **Class 15** Duplicating machines
 - └─ **Commodity 01** Photocopiers
 - └─ **Class 31** Printer and facsimile and photocopier supplies
 - └─ **Commodity 03** Printer or facsimile toner



44101501 **Photocopiers**



44103103 **Toner**



UNSPSC Components

- UNSPSC Code: 8 digits, e.g. 44103103
- Title: natural language text up to 400 characters long, e.g. “Toner”
- Definition: free form text gives concise explanation
- Key/Unique ID: sequential, arbitrary code used to semi-automate version updates (optional to use)
- Synonyms: where applicable, these will provide other terms for the Commodity



How to access to UNSPSC

- The UNSPSC codeset can be used free of charge in software product and online services.
- UNSPSC codeset can searched free of charge on the UNSPSC web page.
- A PDF version with all information can be downloaded free of charge.
- A tabular version can be obtained for a fee.
- Changes to the codeset can only be requested by subscribers. Subscribers need to pay a fee.