

# *News Release*

## **DEFENSE LOGISTICS INFORMATION SERVICE**

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### **For Immediate Release**

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## **Who Uses Catalog Data?**

BATTLE CREEK, Mich. -- They quietly provide information to keep the wheels of logistics going. Catalogers in the United States, NATO and other associated countries daily feed a worldwide system used by virtually all logisticians.

What information? It is called the Federal Catalog System in the United States. In Europe, Asia, the Pacific and elsewhere it is called the NATO Codification System (NCS). It amounts to one standard, worldwide approach for recording information about items of supply and suppliers.

The Defense Logistics Information Service (DLIS) has the responsibility for maintaining this system in the United States. This includes collecting the data and enforcing the necessary discipline so that all users can benefit. The NATO Allied Committee 135, in which DLIS plays a major role, maintains the international standard.

National Stock Numbers (NSNs, also called NATO Stock Numbers) are index numbers to item of supply information. Commercial and Government Entity codes (CAGE) are the key to information about suppliers. Together they provide a wealth of information for logisticians.

There are more than 6.1 million active numbers in use by the United States and another 10 million assigned within the rest of NATO.

The catalog information is available in multiple products and media, such as:

- FED LOG
- WEBFLIS
- NATO Master Catalogue of References for Logistics
- Routine direct data pushes
- Commercial data providers

The supply sergeant in Korea must use the same data as the Defense Supply Center Columbus (Ohio) in order for requisitions to flow. Otherwise there might be chaos, waste and mission failure if all of these players used different sets of information about items of supply. Logistics today is so complicated that it is essential for everyone work from the same sets of data.

So, who uses catalog information? Answer: nearly everyone in logistics and then some.

The following pages provide examples of users of standard catalog data.

For more information about catalog data products and services see [www.dlis.dla.mil](http://www.dlis.dla.mil) or email [dlis-support@dlis.dla.mil](mailto:dlis-support@dlis.dla.mil). For WebFLIS access see <http://www.dlis.dla.mil/WebFlis/default.asp> and choose “Public Query,” or call the Battle Creek Customer Contact Center at (888) 352-9333.



| <b>Users of Catalog Information</b>                                      | <b>Typical Questions</b>  | <b>How the Catalog Provides Answers</b>   |
|--|---|---|
| <b>FINANCIAL MANAGERS AND ACCOUNTING TECHNICIANS</b>                     | How much does it cost?<br>Can it be re-used?<br>How much are we spending?<br>Can we get it cheaper?   | Provides key financial information necessary to predict and capture costs.  |
| <b>BUYERS</b>  | Is it already stock listed?<br>Are we being overcharged?<br>What should we call this?<br>Is technical data available?<br>Who makes this item? | Shows key logistics support decisions made by:<br>-- Equipment Specialist<br>-- Item Manager<br>-- Codifier<br><br>Provides identification information.<br><br>Shows supplier information for potential sources/promotes competitive bidding.<br><br>Provides technical information or an NSN/Part Number to help locate technical information. |
| <b>MANUFACTURERS AND DISTRIBUTORS</b>                                    | What is the NSN for this item so I can advise government customers?   | Provides a cross reference between manufacturer part numbers and NSNs.  |
| <b>SUPPLY MANAGERS PROGRAM MANAGERS, WEAPONS SYSTEM SUPPORT MANAGERS</b> | What's the last recorded price?<br>Who manages the item?<br>What FSC is it?<br>Is it repairable?<br>What is the shelf life?                   | Records initial logistics support decisions.<br><br>Records changes to those decisions throughout life cycle.<br><br>Provides means to notify all users of changes  |
| <b>REQUISITION PROCESSERS (e.g. DAAS)</b>                                | Who manages the item?   | Provides source of supply information for the Defense Automated Address System to direct requisitions to the correct source   |
| <b>TRANSPORTATION WORKERS</b>  | What is it called?<br>Is it hazardous?<br>What is the value?<br>What is the unit of issue?<br>What is the freight classification?             | Answers these questions and more and provides input to daily transportation processing.   |

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|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| <b>PROVISIONERS</b>                 | Does this item already have an NSN?  | Avoids duplicate items in the supply system through pre-screening proposed new items. Saves at least 30% on avoiding redundant inventory.                                 |
| <b>HIGH LEVEL LOGISTICIANS</b>      | How can I have asset visibility?   | NSN'S provide a standard way of identifying items of supply. Without it there is little possibility of full asset visibility.   |
| <b>WAREHOUSEMEN</b>                 | What is it?<br>What's the shelf life?<br>Does it contain hazardous chemicals?<br>Packaging data available?<br>Is it likely to be stolen?   | Indicates hazardous material content, precious metals content, physical security requirements, and other characteristics. Helps identify items returned from the field.   |
| <b>UNIT SUPPLY TECHNICIANS</b>      | What is the NSN?<br>How much does it cost?<br>What is the unit of issue?   | Provides all information needed to identify and place requisitions.   |
| <b>MAINTENANCE WORKER</b>           | What is it?<br>Where can I get it?<br>Is it stocked?<br>Local purchase?<br>Can I substitute part B if I can't get part A?<br>Who makes it?<br>What's the mean time between failures?<br>Is it a "throw away" item? | Takes the "wrench turner" from repair manual to the supply system<br><br>Provides information on alternate sources, substitutable parts, interchangeability, and so forth |
| <b>FMS LOGISTICIANS</b>             | What data do I need for my Foreign Military Sales (FMS) case?<br><br>What countries use this item?   | Provides identification data used worldwide.<br><br>Provides user registration for every U.S. service and foreign governments.  |
| <b>DISPOSAL WORKERS</b>             | What is it?<br>Are there precious metals we can recover?<br>Is demilitarization required?<br>How can we safely dispose of it?<br>Can it be recycled?   | Provides demilitarization information<br>Enables Precious Metals recovery<br>Helps ensure environmentally sound disposal  |