NC eProcurement
Selecting a Commodity Code

In NC eProcurement, the system uses UNSPSC Commodity Codes to classify, track, and analyze state purchases. UNSPSC is an internationally accepted, open standard, public classification system that allows for business analysis of expenses and the creation of cost saving contracts.

During the 2020 upgrade of the NC eProcurement system, the State of North Carolina chose to adopt UNSPSC Commodity Codes as the new commodity protocol. The UNSPSC protocol replaced the NIGP protocol within the NC eProcurement tool. Certain financial systems, such Colleague, will continue to use NIGP. A mapping between UNSPSC in NC eProcurement and NIGP in the financial systems has been created to provide a link between these systems.
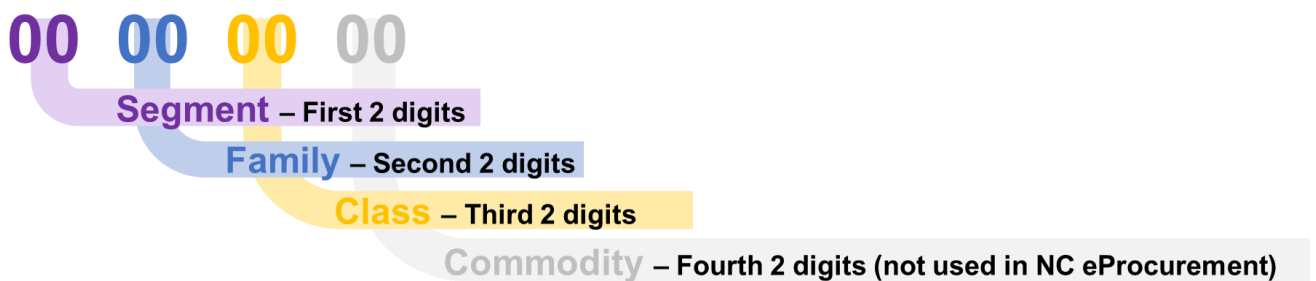
When using NC eProcurement or eVP, vendors can now only work with UNSPSC codes. Buyers should use UNSPSC codes in NC eProcurement, but buyers will still see NIGP codes in their financial systems.

For more information regarding the UNSPSC Commodity Code classification, access the UNSPSC website, and for help with commodity code selection contact the NCEP Help Desk.
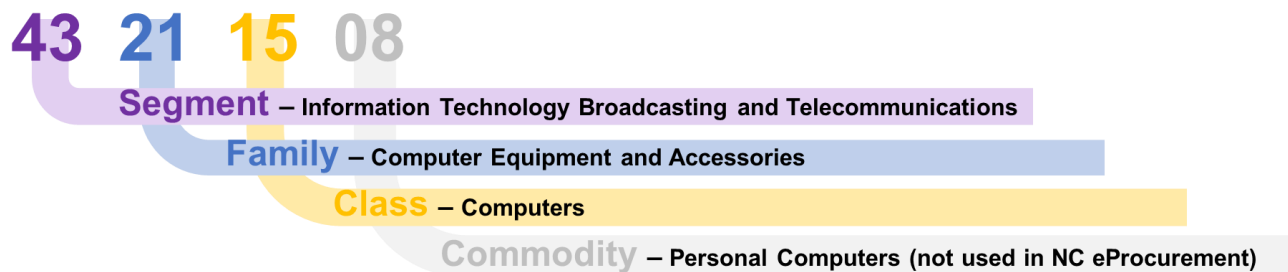
I. Commodity Code Explanation

- A commodity code is a standard system of numbers that are used to identify the goods and services that are being purchased. Using standardized codes enables the State to determine the level of spend in various categories.

- The new version of NC eProcurement uses the UNSPSC Commodity Code system, which utilizes hierarchical groupings of numbers to identify and list commodities and services by categories and classes.

UNSPSC Commodity Code Structure

00 00 00 00

Segment – First 2 digits
Family – Second 2 digits
Class – Third 2 digits
Commodity – Fourth 2 digits (not used in NC eProcurement)

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STATE DEPARTMENT STATE BRANCH
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CITY COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NORTH CAROLINA ePROCUREMENT PURCHASE
ONLINE SHOPPING STATEWIDE TERM CONTRACTS
ELECTRONIC VENDOR PORTAL HUB CERTIFIED V
QUOTE PUNCHOUT CATALOG
L PURCHASE ORDER
SOURCING
BIDDING
BUY

Example of UNSPSC Commodity Code Structure

43 21 15 08

Segment – Information Technology Broadcasting and Telecommunications

Family – Computer Equipment and Accessories

Class – Computers

Commodity – Personal Computers (not used in NC eProcurement)

- The NIGP Commodity Code system that the State previously used was made up of five digits, with the first three digits of the code specifying the class and the second two digits specifying the item within the class category. The NIGP classification system is available through an annual licensing agreement. Therefore, users cannot search NIGP codes publicly.

- Because the classification is completely open, users can search UNSPSC Commodity Codes through the public UNSPSC website.

  Note: The UNSPSC Commodity Codes listed on the UNSPSC website are specified to the eight-digit level (XX XX XX XX). Because NC eProcurement utilizes Commodity Codes specified up to the six-digit level, users should only select the first six-digit codes of the eight-digit commodity code describing the desired good or service (e.g. 43 21 15 ~~08~~).

  For example, if the desired commodity is personal computers (with the commodity code 43211508) the class level code (432115) should be entered in NC eProcurement.

- UNSPSC Commodity Codes are organized by segment into a logical sequence that reflects how value is progressively added to products. These segments are divided into goods and services. Goods are made up of UNSPSC Commodity Codes in the segments ranging from '10' through '60.' Services are made up of UNSPSC Commodity Codes in the segments ranging from '70' through '94.'

UNSPSC Segment Organization

RAW MATERIALS	INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT	COMPONENTS AND SUPPLIES	END USE PRODUCTS	SERVICES
SEGMENTS 10-15	SEGMENTS 20-27	SEGMENTS 30-41	SEGMENTS 42-60	SEGMENTS 70-94

GOODS

II. Most Commonly Selected Commodity Codes

While there are thousands of options for UNSPSC Commodity Codes, some are selected much more frequently than others. The Top 20 Commodities chosen may be found below, beginning with the commodity code selected most often.

The UNSPSC Commodity Codes and related descriptions are matched with the equivalent NIGP description. Users can utilize this matching to select the commonly mapped UNSPSC Commodity Code.

Top 20 Commodities

UNSPSC Commodity Code	UNSPSC Description	NIGP Description
441017	Printer and photocopier and facsimile accessories	Printer Accessories and Supplies
781018	Road cargo transport	Shipping and Transportation of Goods
491017	Awards	Service Awards
531115	Boots	Leather Boots
551217	Signage	Metal Signs
441217	Writing instruments	Pens for Writing
401615	Filters	Filters: Air, Fuel, Oil, etc.
441220	Folders and binders and indexes	Binders and File Folders
141115	Printing and writing paper	Writing Pads and Tablets
501718	Sauces and spreads and condiments	Dressings, Condiments, Sauces, etc.
301220	Specialized external flooring and paving materials	Aggregate, Precoated
501115	Minimally processed meat and poultry products	Meat and Meat Products
811126	Computer hardware offsite or depot maintenance, repair and support	Software Maintenance and Support
421516	Dental and subspecialty instruments and devices	Dental Kits and Supplies
504468	Frozen nominant vegetables	Frozen Vegetables
432116	Computer accessories	Computer Accessories and Supplies
441024	Labeling machines	Stamps, Stamp Pads, and Ink
271217	Hydraulic hose and tube fittings	Hydraulic Hose and Fittings
241022	Packing tools	Tape and Tape Dispensers
521515	Domestic disposable kitchenware	Plastic and Styrofoam Kitchen Products