

CHAPTER 6 : THE NUMBERING SYSTEMBASIC CHARACTER OF THE NUMBERING SYSTEM

A strict decimal numbering system has not been adopted in the ASIC because such a system would either impose limitations on the number of categories which could be established in various parts of the Classification, or would require the use of very long reference numbers. For example, a decimal numbering system in which the first digit was used to identify divisions would require that the number of divisions be limited to ten. Alternatively, if two digits were used for each of the levels of the ASIC, an eight digit reference number system would be necessary.

2. On the other hand, a decimal numbering system can be a useful aid in bringing out clearly the hierarchic structure of a classification, and can also provide a good deal of practical convenience in the Bureau's internal work, for example in the specification of procedural instructions for classifying establishments.

3. The numbering system adopted in the ASIC has been devised with the purpose of providing greater flexibility than a strict decimal four digit system, whilst retaining the advantages of a decimal system as far as practicable, i.e. within each division. There are thirteen divisions in the ASIC, each identified by an alphabetic character. Each subdivision is identified by a two digit number, each group by a three digit number and each class by a four digit number.

4. The number of subdivisions, groups and classes within each division is shown in the table below.

Division	Number of: Subdivisions	Groups	Classes
A	4	9	31
B	6	8	23
C	12	41	173
D	2	3	4
E	2	4	18
F	2	16	77
G	7	11	30
H	1	1	1
I	3	12	38
J	2	4	6
K	4	11	37
L	4	8	27
M	1	1	1
TOTAL	50	129	466

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CHANGES TO CODE NUMBERS

5. The only part of the Classification that was substantially revised in the preparation of this edition is ASIC Division G, Transport and storage.

6. In accordance with previous practice, new code numbers have been allocated to all these industries. In addition, it has been necessary to change the industry codes for ASIC Division H, because of the increase in the number of subdivisions in Division G and the need to maintain a decimal code structure.

UNDEFINED CLASSES, GROUPS, ETC

7. For certain statistical operations it is necessary to make provision for classifying establishments by industry in cases where only incomplete information is available on the activities of the establishment. For example, in classifying people in the workforce in a Population Census by industry - i.e. by entering the appropriate ASIC code numbers on the Population Census schedules - a particular Population Census schedule might provide insufficient information to enable the establishment at which a person is employed to be identified (as required for the method of classification described in Chapter 4). Moreover, that census schedule might show only a broad industry description for the place of work at which the person is employed such as 'clothing retailing', without any indication of whether the establishment concerned is mainly engaged in retailing men's clothing or women's clothing. To meet this situation it would be necessary to have provision for classifying the data to some such heading as 'Clothing Retailing undefined'. To avoid having a large number of such 'undefined' headings in the ASIC, the numbering system provides for the same result to be achieved by classifying inadequately described cases to a broader level of the Classification.

8. For this purpose provision has been made in the numbering system of the Classification for, so called, undefined classes, groups and subdivisions (Division M, Non-classifiable economic units, represents, in effect, the undefined division) by not using code numbers ending in zero unless there is only one class in a group, or one group in a subdivision, or one subdivision in a division - in such situations the lower category always equals the higher, hierarchically related, category in any case.

9. For statistical processing purposes undefined categories, i.e. undefined classes, groups and subdivisions, can thus be inserted in the relevant processing systems by using codes ending in zero. Accordingly, there is provision in the Classification for having:

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- one undefined class within each multi class group (representing the group and having the code of the group with an added zero),
- one undefined group within each multi group subdivision (representing the subdivision and having the code of the subdivision with an added zero),
- one undefined subdivision within each multi subdivision division (representing the division - however, their code must be a new number because division codes are alphabetical characters).

10. As already mentioned, Division M represents the undefined division.

11. Further, each undefined subdivision could be represented as an undefined group or class by the addition of extra zeros to the code. Similarly each undefined group could be represented as an undefined class by the addition of an extra zero to the code number.

12. For example, the undefined categories relevant to the industries in Subdivision 24 Clothing and footwear (in Division C, Manufacturing) are included in the full listing of this subdivision as follows.

Subdivision	Group	Class	Title
24			CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR
	240	2400	Clothing and footwear <u>undefined</u>
	244		Knitting mills
		2440	Knitting mills <u>undefined</u>
		2441	Hosiery
		2442	Cardigans and pullovers
		2443	Knitted goods n.e.c.
	245		Clothing
		2450	Clothing <u>undefined</u>
		2451	Men's trousers and shorts; work clothing
		2452	Men's suits and coats; waterproof clothing
		2453	Women's outerwear n.e.c.
		2454	Foundation garments
		2455	Underwear and infants' clothing n.e.c.
		2456	Headwear and clothing n.e.c.
	246	2460	Footwear

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13. The detailed Classification does not list or include these undefined categories. Their use is in processing statistical data and they should not be used for the purpose of presenting or publishing statistical data. For that purpose only the defined industry categories should be used.