

UNSD-ECLAC Workshop on International Trade Statistics

Implementation of IMTS 2010 and a new vision for trade statistics

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Item 11: Commodity classification and quantity measurement

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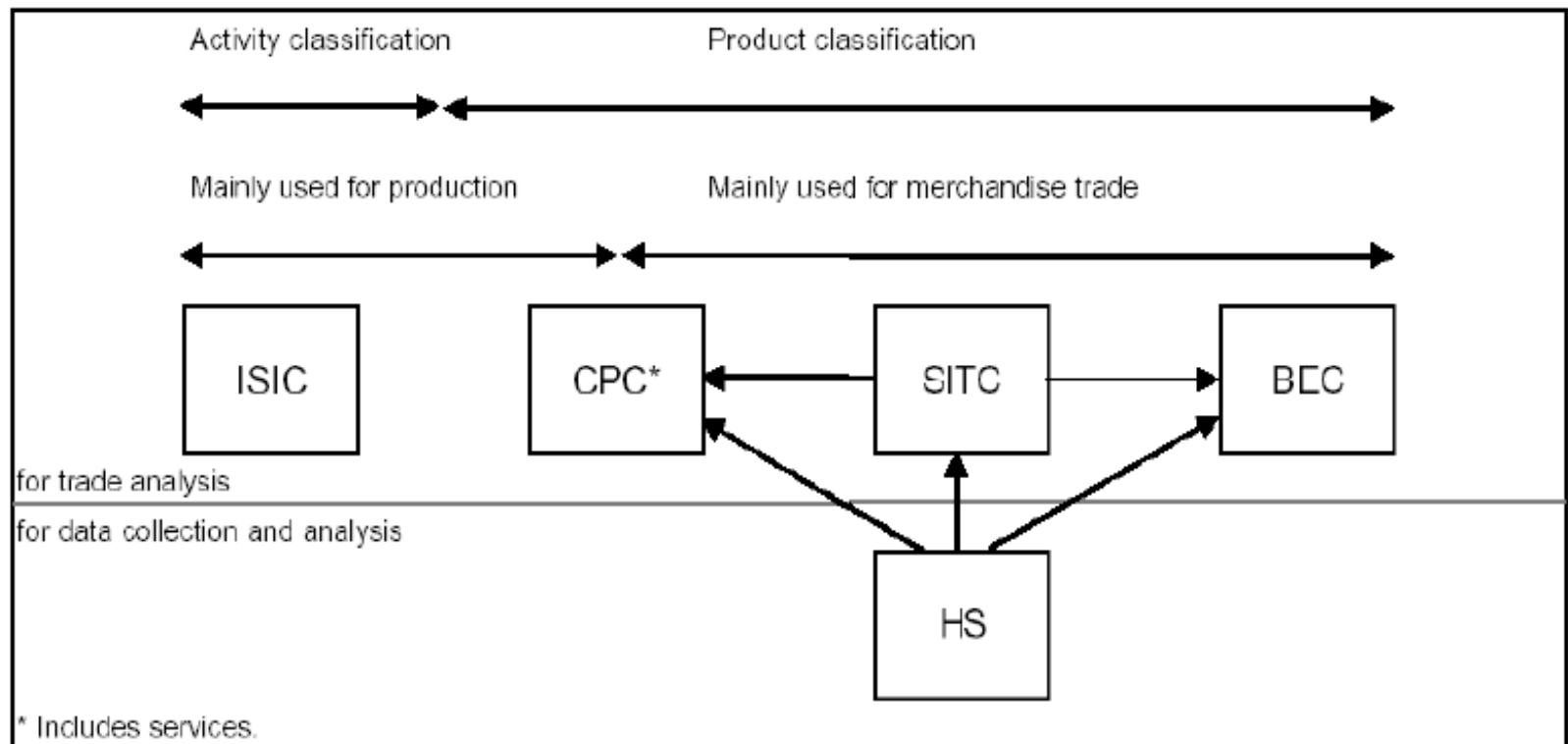
I. Commodity classification

IMTS2010 Chapter III:

- A. Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS)
- B. Standard International Trade Classification (SITC)
- C. Classification by Broad Economic Categories (BEC)
- D. Central Product Classification (CPC)
- E. International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC)

Overview

Graph 3.1: Relationship between different classifications



Correspondence tables

- Describe the relationship between different classifications (or versions)
- Use to convert HS to other classifications, for analytical purposes
- UNSD website provides access to correspondence and conversion tables

Recommendations

- IMTS2010 Recommendations
 - Use **HS** for the collection, compilation and dissemination of IMTS (3.11)
 - In addition to HS, use **SITC** for the dissemination and the analysis of IMTS according to users requirements (3.19)
- IMTS2010 Encouragements
 - Use the most current **version of HS** (3.11)

Note on ISIC

- HS, SITC, and CPC are **product** classifications; in contrast, ISIC is the classification of productive **activities**
- Nevertheless, a **correspondence table** between HS, SITC, CPC and ISIC can be established
 - *This correspondence may be useful when analyzing trade flows by activity categories*
- However, the alternative approach of **identifying the activity of the trader** should be given preference

Additional guidance in IMTS 2010 - CM

Chapter 13: Commodity classification

- A. Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System-
Introduction
- B. HS overview
- C. 2012 edition of HS
- D. Application of the HS for coding traded goods – challenges and
good practices
- E. Country experiences in the use of the HS for data
dissemination and analytical purposes

Additional guidance in IMTS 2010 - CM

Chapter 27: Other international classifications relevant for trade statistics

- A. Standard International Trade Classification
- B. Central Product Classification
- C. Classification by Broad Economic Categories
- D. International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities
- E. Correspondence and conversion tables and their use

Quantity measurement

Importance of Quantity Information

“...provides an additional dimension for the measurement of international movement of goods and which allows the verification of trade values and the construction of trade index number”

“...used for the compilation of transportation statistics, the calculation of food balances as well as for environmental and energy statistics.”

- In 1995, WCO adopted a recommendation on the use of **standard units of quantity** to facilitate the collection, comparison and analysis of international statistics based on the Harmonized System ([para. 5.3](#))
- The standard units of quantity are specified for each HS 6-digit subheading ([para. 5.4](#))

Quantity measurement

- The standard units of quantity recommended by the World Customs Organization (WCO) are: [\(para. 5.3\)](#)

Weight	kilograms (<i>kg</i>) carat (<i>carat</i>)
Length	metres (<i>m</i>)
Area	square metres (<i>m</i> ²)
Volume	cubic metres (<i>m</i> ³) litres (<i>l</i>)
Electrical power	1,000 kilowatt-hours (<i>1,000 kWh</i>)
Number (units)	pieces/items (<i>u</i>) pairs (<i>2u</i>) dozens (<i>12u</i>) thousand of pieces/items (<i>1,000u</i>) packs (<i>u (set/pack)</i>)

Recommendations

- IMTS2010 Recommendations
 - Collect or estimate, validate and report quantity information in **WCO standard units of quantity** and in **net weight** on all trade transactions (5.5)
 - Apply the same quantity units within one sub-heading (6-digit HS) (5.6) *Note: if not, explain*
 - Identify **estimated quantities**, as deemed necessary and provide information of methodology used (5.7)

Additional guidance in IMTS 2010 - CM

Chapter 15: Quantity measurement

- A. An overview of the WCO standard units of quantity
- B. Weight concept
- C. Compilation of quantity data from customs sources
- D. Compilation of quantity data from non-customs sources
- E. Conversion factors from non-standard to standard units of quantity
- F. Quality issues
- G. Estimation and imputation of quantity data



Thank you for your
attention