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Translation

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Harmonised Commodity Code (NHM)

Nomenclature harmonisée des marchandises (NHM)
Harmonisiertes Güterverzeichnis (NHM)



UNION INTERNATIONALE DES CHEMINS DE FER
INTERNATIONALER EISENBAHNVERBAND
INTERNATIONAL UNION OF RAILWAYS

Leaflet to be classified in Volume:

II - Freight traffic

Application:

With effect from 01.01.2004

All members of the International Union of Railways

As a result of co-operation with the OSJD (Organisation for Collaboration between Railways), the GNG, a commodity code with content consistent with the NHM, shall be applied from the same date by all OSJD member railways.

Record of updates

1st edition, January 1976	First issue, titled: "Standard goods nomenclature (NCM)" and 1 Amendment
2nd edition, January 1986	Titled: "Freight commodity nomenclature (NCM) - Wagonload consignments"
3rd edition, January 1994	Titled: "Harmonised Commodity Code (NHM)" and 1 Amendment
4th edition, June 2004	Overhaul of Leaflet, processing with Frame Maker, adaptation to the editor's guide M1

The person responsible for this leaflet is named in the UIC Code

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Summary

- The Harmonised Commodity Code (NHM) is based on the international standard Harmonised System (HS) used to describe and code goods in international trade published by the World Customs Organisation (WCO). It also contains railway-specific content in chapters 27 and 99.
- The NHM is an important basis for conducting international freight traffic. It is a standard and compatible commodity code and thereby facilitates compilation, comparison and analysis of data exchanged between customers, railway undertakings (RU) and administrative bodies. At the same time, it assists the RUs in monitoring the market.
- The NHM enables tariffs to be differentiated based on the type of commodity and contributes to the harmonisation of the tariff systems applied by RUs.

1 - Source of data

The Harmonised Commodity Code (NHM) is available in electronic form only.

The HS data that forms the basis of the NHM is supplied by the European Commission (TAXUD Directorate General) and is then supplemented with railway-specific content by UIC in chapters 27 and 99.

2 - Structure of the NHM

The NHM consists of:

- a multilingual database (English/French/German at least),
- the relevant records, composed according to the following scheme:

A 6-digit code structured as follows:

1st and 2nd digits = chapter

1st to 4th digits = NHM position

1st to 6th digits = NHM sub-position

with two additional digits, derived from the EU customs tariff, appended onto the NHM position:

1st to 8th digits = commodity code based on EU customs tariff

plus the HS-compliant terms habitually used to describe the commodities in trade.

Chapter 99 is dedicated to railway-specific positions, for in-house use only. Positions 9901 – 9959 are used uniformly at the international level, positions 9960 – 9999 may be used by RUs at the national level.

3 - Obligatory application

3.1 - RUs must mandatorily use the Harmonised Commodity Code (NHM) when classifying and coding goods.

3.2 - The NHM codes are to be used when setting international freight tariffs for specific commodities.

3.3 - In the case of consignments forwarded in international traffic, the forwarding RU shall enter the six-digit NHM code for the commodity transported in the appropriate box in the consignment note.

4 - Changes to the NHM

Changes may only be made to the NHM subsequent to adjustment of the HS.

The NHM positions in chapter 99 may be modified by the NHM Management Committee autonomously.

5 - Management of the leaflet

The Freight Commission shall delegate authority for managing UIC Leaflet 221 to the NHM Managing Committee.

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