  
**Statistical Working Group  
Statistical Guidelines**

**CL\_ACTIVITY  
Code list for Activity**

**Version 1.1 – 17 May 2023**

**Name**: Code lists for Activity (ACTIVITY)

**Description**: These code lists provide lists of values for describing the economic activity, defined as the combination of actions that result in the production, distribution and consumption of goods or services.

**Established international standard(s) used as input for the code list**:

* ***For CL\_ACTIVITY\_ISIC4***: United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), "[International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC), Revision 4](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/cr/registry/regdntransfer.asp?f=135)", New York, 2008
* ***For CL\_ACTIVITY\_NACE2***: Eurostat, "[NACE Rev. 2. Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-RA-07-015/EN/KS-RA-07-015-EN.PDF)", Luxembourg, 2008
* ***For CL\_ACTIVITY\_ANZSIC06***: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Statistics New Zealand (Tatauranga Aotearoa), "[Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) 2006, Revision 2.0](http://www.stats.govt.nz/~/media/Statistics/surveys-and-methods/methods/class-stnd/industrial-classification/classification-anzsic06-complete-v1-0.xls)", Canberra, Auckland, 2013
* ***For CL\_INDUSTRY\_NAICS22***: North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) 2022, “[North American Industry Classification System](http://naics-scian.inegi.org.mx/naics_scian/default_scian.aspx)”

**Document history**

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| **Version** | **Date** | **Comments** |
| 1.0 | 24 March 2014 | Initial version |
| 1.1 | 17 May 2023 | Inclusion of NAICS |

**Remarks concerning the code lists**: The codes used in the code lists coincide with the categories of the official classifications published by the United Nations, Eurostat, the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Statistics New Zealand (Tatauranga Aotearoa), Mexico's Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI), Statistics Canada, and the United States Office of Management and Budget (OMB) respectively. The categories of the code lists CL\_ACTIVITY\_ISIC4, CL\_ACTIVITY\_NACE2 and CL\_ANZSIC06 have been prefixed with a one-letter character, in line with the SDMX “[Guidelines for the Creation and Maintenance of SDMX Cross-domain Code Lists](http://sdmx.org/)”; e.g. ISIC category “0121” (Growing of grapes) is coded as “A0121”. The CL\_INDUSTRY\_NAICS22 has not been prefixed with a one-letter character since it follows a different classification structure where the first hierarchical level is numeric.

The hierarchical levels of the classification are indicated in a distinct column in order to help implementers who would wish to select only some hierarchical levels of the classification, and not the whole classification.

Details about the four hierarchical levels of ISIC Rev. 4:

* *Hierarchical level 1*Sections, coded with one letter;
* *Hierarchical level 2* Divisions, coded with two digits;
* *Hierarchical level 3* Groups, coded with three digits;
* *Hierarchical level 4* Classes, coded with four digits.

Details about the four hierarchical levels of NACE Rev. 2:

* *Hierarchical level 1*Sections, coded with one letter;
* *Hierarchical level 2* Divisions, coded with two digits;
* *Hierarchical level 3* Groups, coded with three digits;
* *Hierarchical level 4* Classes, coded with four digits.

Details about the four hierarchical levels of ANZSIC 2006:

* *Hierarchical level 1*Divisions, coded with one letter;
* *Hierarchical level 2* Subdivisions, coded with two digits;
* *Hierarchical level 3* Groups, coded with three digits;
* *Hierarchical level 4* Classes, coded with four digits.

Details about the four hierarchical levels of NAICS 2022:

* *Hierarchical level 1*Sector, coded with two digits;
* *Hierarchical level 2* Subsector, coded with three digits;
* *Hierarchical level 3* Industry group, coded with four digits;
* *Hierarchical level 4* Industry, coded with five digits.

The field called “Annotation 2 - Sorting Order” is to be used for sorting the entries in their correct sequential order.

For convenience the code lists are presented in MS-Excel files.

**Why several code lists to represent one concept ?**

It is generally said that the ISIC classification, maintained by the United Nations, is the world standard for the classification of economic activities; this is not exactly how the situation actually looks like in practice. Since the implementation in the late '80s of the [integrated system of international classifications](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/ramon/other_documents/article_norbert_rainer/en_word.zip) at world and regional levels, this classification plays a central role in the compilation of harmonised statistics at world level, not because all countries are using it for the compilation, presentation and dissemination of statistics but rather because most national and international agencies in the world have committed themselves to use classifications of economic activities which are to the largest extent possible linked to the ISIC classification. In general, there is very good concordance at division level of ISIC (coded with two digits), this is less the case at lower levels where national and international agencies have developed variants tailored to their specific needs. However, correspondence tables have been developed over the years to establish links between ISIC and its variants.

As a consequence, making available an SDMX-compliant version of the ISIC classification only would not serve the needs of the whole SDMX community. The SDMX Statistical Working Group (SWG) has therefore decided to propose harmonised versions of the main international framework classifications of economic activities, namely ISIC (International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities) Revision 4, NACE (Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community) Revision 2, ANZSIC (Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification) 2006 and NAICS (North American Industry Classification System) 2022.

It should however be noted that Canada, Mexico and the United States for instance share a classification called the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) which is harmonised at the higher level but not at the lowest level. As much as possible, implementers should refer to the individual countries concerned or to SDMX registries would they require a copy of these national variants. The global registry will only host the shared version of the NAICS classification at a higher level (5-digits).

The code lists ISIC, NACE, ANZSIC and NAICS are presented here because they are largely used at international level. This does not mean in any way that these code lists are recommended for use and should have the precedence on other code lists. The sole aim of these code lists is to harmonise their coding and promote their reuse by making available to implementers “ready-to-go” input files. It should also be noted that these files contain only the official structure of the classifications, i.e. no aggregates or groupings are proposed.

**Maintenance of derived code lists**

It is important to note that when one of these code lists is used for a specific implementation and supplemented with additional codes (e.g. aggregates, groupings, generic codes) or restructured (e.g. removal of codes), the ownership and maintenance agency responsibilities linked to these derived code lists is *de facto* transferred to the agency(ies) owning and maintaining the specific implementation.

**Recommendations for the coding of national variants**

Very often, countries have developed national variants of the international standards because they need more detailed categories for national needs and implementations. This is the case for instance for NACE.

The recommendation for coding these national variants is quite straightforward; since codes for economic activities are generally not very long (classifications of economic activities are less detailed than product classifications): it is recommended to present codes in one string without any separators.

Example: French code 01.11Z should be coded A0111Z (because the first four digit of the French classification are obligatorily identical to the central NACE codes, the code may inherit the letter used for indicating the section).

In cases, where no letter is used as first character (in ISIC and NACE, it corresponds to the "Section" level, which is the highest hierarchical level of both classification), it is recommended that the codes start with a letter in order to comply with the guideline for the creation of SDMX cross-domain code lists which states that ideally, code elements should start with a letter.

In cases where some categories of the classification are aggregated (e.g. 45-46 in NAICS), it is recommended to use the underscore ("\_") to indicate the aggregation. Example: NAICS code 44-45 could thus be represented as N44\_45.

For possible coding issues not addressed here (e.g. addition of generic codes), implementers are referred to the "[Guidelines for the Creation and Maintenance of SDMX Cross-domain Code Lists](http://sdmx.org/)".