WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION

SPECIAL UNION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATIONS OF GOODS AND SERVICES FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE REGISTRATION OF MARKS

(NICE UNION)

Specification of NCL Hierarchy Groups Structure File

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| February 23, 2015 | Olivier Collioud | 3.10 | Revised | Removal of Edition-Version element.  Addition of “edition” and “version” mandatory attributes to the root element.  Removal of “deleted” attribute. |
| October 12, 2016 | Olivier Collioud | 3.20 | PF Approved | Separation of optional Groups from mandatory Classes. Addition of unique id. |
| February 9, 2017 | Grégoire Isoz | 3.21 | Revised | Update link to the xsd with the new version number |

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# Introduction

This document is part of the NCL master files specification. It describes the detailed structure and content of this file. The Hierarchy Groups file is primarily used as an exchange format aiming at easy data transfer between heterogeneous IT systems. The Hierarchy Groups file describes the structure of groups (also known as “EUIPO taxonomy”) .

# Brief Description

## Content Overview

The NCL Hierarchy Groups file describes the hierarchy of groups associated with a specific edition and version of the NCL Classification.

## File Name

The NCL Hierarchy Groups file for a specific edition and version is named ncl-YYYYMMDD-hierarchy\_groups\_structure-YYYYMMDD.xml where the first YYYYMMDD refers to the date the publication goes into force and the second is the date the file was generated, as described in the master files document. The date in force must match the date inside the file, as well as all other master files that define the classification.

# File Structure

The root element is named <HierarchyGroupsStructure>. It has the required “edition”, “version”, "dateInForce" and "dateOfGeneration" attributes described in the master files specification, but no language attribute. It contains a list of one or more <HierarchyGroup> subelements.

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## Groups Hierarchy

Each <HierarchyGroup> has an optional list of <HierarchyGroup> subelements, which may, in turn, have other <HierarchyGroup> subelements, forming a tree structure. Each HierarchyGroup has three mandatory attributes:

* "groupNumber" specifying the numerical identifier of the group
* "id" (See description in “Master Files Specification” document)
* "classIdRef" which value is the id of the class the HierarchyGroup belongs to.

The <HierarchyGroup> element has zero or more <GoodOrServiceRef> child elements and can also have optional <RelatedParent> subelements.

### Group Numbering

Each hierarchy group has a number identifying its location in the taxonomy. When a group is moved, removed, or added, numbers are not reused, or reordered.

Hierarchy group numbers are a series of digits separated by periods, as in 3.1.2. Reading from left to right, each period denotes one step further down the hierarchy group. The leftmost number is always **the number of the class** in which the group exists. The second number represents the ordering of the first level groups in the class, while the third number represents children of those groups.

Each number (between periods) is thought of as a decimal number. Thus, a new group number can be created by appending a new decimal place. This numbering scheme means that a valid number can always be inserted at any place in the tree structure without reusing numbers or renaming groups.

For example, a group inserted between 7.1 and 7.2 would be numbered 7.11. Inserting another between 7.11 and 7.2 could be numbered 7.1.12. Inserting another group before 7.11 could be numbered 7.101 (note that it could not be labeled 7.10 or 7.100 because in decimal notation, 7.1 and 7.100 represent the same number).

The hierarchy level of a group can be determined by counting the number of periods in its group number.

### Related Parents

Some groups can have relations to more than one parent group. To enforce a tree structure, each group can have only one true parent. However, it can be associated with other related groups using the <RelatedParent> element. The idRef attribute value of this element is the unique ID of some other related group. If necessary, more than one <RelatedParent> element is included.

Note that the element name is a reminder that the related group is a parent, that is, the group with the element can be thought of as an (adopted) child of the related group, not that a (step) sibling relationship exists.

## Specific Goods Or Services

References to individual goods or services are leaf nodes in the class hierarchy represented by the element name <GoodOrServiceRef>. This element is always the child of a <HierarchyGroup> element. Note that goods classes can only contain goods and similarly for services, but the same element name, <GoodOrServiceRef> is used in both cases. Each <GoodOrServiceRef> element has a mandatory attribute named "idRef". The value is an ID (See description in “Master Files Specification” document) referencing the good or service in question. Goods and services references have no content. All that is defined in the taxonomy file is that a good (referenced by its unique ID) belongs in a particular hierarchy group.

# Examples

## Groups

Each Group contains a hierarchy of sub-Groups, with goods or services at the bottom of the tree::

<HierarchyGroup groupNumber="1.1" id="U1957265">

<GoodOrServiceRef idRef="U1957271"/>

<HierarchyGroupgroupNumber="1.1.1" id="U1957266">

<GoodOrServiceRef idRef="U1957267"/>

<GoodOrServiceRef idRef="U1957268"/>

<GoodOrServiceRef idRef="U1957269"/>

<GoodOrServiceRef idRef="U1957270"/>

<RelatedParent idRef="U201557"/>

</HierarchyGroup>

</HierarchyGroup>

<HierarchyGroupGroup groupNumber="1.2" id="U1957272">

<!--other goods or services or groups -->

</HierarchyGroup>

# Schema

The XML file must validate against the attached corresponding schema file see NCL\_hierarchy\_groups\_V3-21.xsd.

End of document