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Terminology for classifications revisions

Australian Bureau of Statistics / Statistics New Zealand

Scopes of Review Types

This document outlines the three types of review that can be undertaken for any classification. These are:

- Classification Update
- Classification Minor Review
- Classification Major Review

The types of review reflect Statistics New Zealand historical and current practice, but also reflects an agreed approach with the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) for developing and maintaining Australian and New Zealand Standard Classifications.

An update is deemed to be an immediate change, a minor review is scheduled maintenance usually on a 4-5 year cycle, and major review is scheduled maintenance/development on a ten yearly cycle.

Classification Update

A classification update occurs for operational reasons ie an immediate response to reflect needs in administrative collections or because of legislative change.

A classification update **does not** alter the conceptual base of a classification and should only have very minimal impact on the classification structure (particularly if a hierarchical classification).

A classification update only applies to two New Zealand Standard Classifications. These are:

- New Zealand Standard Classification of Countries (NZSCC) - to reflect immediate need for Customs/Immigration purposes;
- New Zealand Harmonised System Classification (NZHSC) - to reflect immediate need for Customs tariff changes as promulgated by the New Zealand Government

Classification Minor Review

A classification minor review occurs on a regular schedule as agreed with stakeholders and/or ABS, and as work programme and resource allow. The scope of a classification minor review may include some or all of the following:

- clarification of category definitions including the addition or deletion within categories at the lowest level of a classification of primary activities, alternative titles or specialisations;
- inclusion of emerging and/or new categories at the lowest level of a classification to reflect real world change or, for example to split categories such as not elsewhere classified

A classification minor review will usually occur on a 4-5 yearly cycle after a major review unless a shorter time-frame is required, and usually will occur between population censuses. A classification minor review **does not** alter the conceptual base of a classification, may change the classification structure at the lowest level (of an hierarchical classification) but does not change higher levels of a classification.

Classification Major Review

A classification major review occurs on a regular schedule as agreed with stakeholders and/or ABS, and as work programme and resource allow, or if there is a significant change in an international classification which impacts on an existing statistical classification used in New Zealand.

A classification major review may include some or all of the following:

- conceptual changes
- structural changes
- definitional changes including clarification of category scope and revision of any inclusions or exclusions

A classification major review will occur on a ten yearly cycle subject to stakeholder requirement/need, international classification change, agreed review cycle/strategy with the ABS.