

NATO STOCK NUMBERS

The NATO Stock Number (NSN) is a 13 digit number divided into four parts.

6240 99 995 1273

6240-99-995-1273

The first four digits are the *NATO Supply Classification* (NSC)ⁱ and relate to the group and class of similar items of supply. In the example above 62 refers to “Lighting Fixtures and Lamps”, with the subdivision of 40 specifically denoting “electrical lamps”.

6240-99-995-1273

The next nine digits are the *National Item Identification Number* (NIIN) which uniquely identifies the item. It made up of two elements.

1) 6240-99-995-1273

The *National Codification Bureau* (NCB) is a two digit code that is used to identify which country was the first to codify the item. Generally this is the country of origin or country of final manufacture. Each country is allocated a different code, for example, the US is 00 and 01, Japan 30, Saudi Arabia is 70, the UK is 99 and Australia is 66 (note whist the generic number is referred to a NATO Stock Number, the countries that feature in this filed do not necessarily have to be part of NATO).

2) 6240-99-995-1273

The final seven digits are assigned sequentially by computer and have no inherent significance other than to uniquely identify the item of supply to which they are allocated.

ⁱ Sometimes referred to the National Supply Classification or Federal Supply Class (FSC).