



## Hofinsoft – Noun Modifier Catalogue Solution



Nomcat ver 1.2.0

Hofinsoft's NOMCAT – Noun Modifier Catalogue – can help you generate a complete and comprehensive noun-modifier catalogue of your MRO items in a very user friendly environment

### **Why Nomcat**

- Uniformity in description.
- Standardization of values and presentation of units.
- Easy identification of similar items
- Easy navigation into item details
- Easy to develop logical number

Organizations having diverse support inventories of raw materials, operating supplies and spare parts for equipment require a disciplined approach to collecting and recording inventory information in order to obtain optimum control over the inventory.

Without effective control over the inventory there is tendency for it to grow beyond the organizations true needs through duplication and lack of standardization. This gives rise to significant increase in capital expenditure and associated operating overheads such as warehousing, purchasing and inventory control

### **Need for Materials Coding and Cataloguing**

Materials management is a many – faceted issue and embraces several functions including materials planning, purchasing, receiving, storing, issues, control and surplus disposal. Materials Catalogue provides a logical identification of materials for all these functions. Hence the backbone of an effective materials management system is a state of the art materials catalogue

Hofinsoft NOMCAT helps you to generate a complete and comprehensive noun-modifier catalogue of your materials in a very user-friendly environment. Along with its ready-to-use knowledge-ware database of noun-modifiers and templates, NOMCAT is a world-class, fast track deployment software tool for materials catalogue development and its maintenance. NOMCAT can be used while cataloguing items for a new facility or an existing facility.

Effective management of materials would contribute significantly to the success of most modern organisations. As the asset of a company invariably depends on managing materials, a state of the art material catalogue plays a vital role in achieving this.

The Cataloguing system, being an often-referenced information source for various departments of a concern, should be adequate enough to accommodate the company's present in-flowing materials and future requirements as well.

Further, the methodology of materials classification shall enable easy identification of the information sought.

### **Objective of Coding System**

- To provide a logical and positive identification of materials and equipment so that the overall picture can be seen and relationship between different items highlighted.
- To optimise transmittal of information and provide an easy means of communication between say, technical and non-technical staff.
- To accommodate extensive item combinations.

- To facilitate a practical and logical method of arranging materials in stores.
- To avoid duplication of items with the use of cross-reference inter-link facility.
- To be a universal information source that uniquely and completely identifies every article in it.
- To be an effective purchasing tool that provides the buying description needed to obtain the exact article required.
- To be a standardisation tool for future projects. It can help prevent the swelling of inventory by standardising, wherever possible, on equipment and materials that are already being used.
- To reflect the relationship of interchangeable parts to the equipment they are being used in.

To meet these requirements a Line Based Text Catalogue System was evolved by organisations. Over a period of time some limitations in such a system were observed which hindered the system to be fully effective. Some of the limitations observed were:

- The technical attributes could be maintained only as text file. This meant there was a need for skilled people to maintain it.

- The variety of items are limited by the Group – Sub Group – Sub Sub Group format. Though theoretically there was no limitation, this was very complex and also the Code length became unwieldy.
- Since description was based on the text format search capability was restricted considerably.
- No facility for having mandatory and non-mandatory fields.
- Cumbersome to deduce the fullness and correctness of data.

Such limitations led organisations to evolve a System to overcome them. The Noun Modifier Based Cataloguing evolved in the early Nineties to ensure a consistent approach to recording the information by creating series of standards and disciplines. These include:

- Commodity classification system.
- Dictionary of standard formats / Templates
- Descriptive patterns using cataloguing tool.
- Standard descriptive abbreviations using cataloguing.
- Serving as a catalogue for effective buying description

- Providing a very flexible approach in classifying materials
- Facilitating an intuitive search
- Providing a flexible and expandable database
- Featuring pictorial representation of the item

## Goals

- To achieve automated codification, which will reduce the work of all Department people.
- To eliminate the voluminous data recording in papers and replace it with centralized data store.
- To reduce the time taken to back track the event logs.

## Commodity classification system

These standard nomenclatures form part of the standard inventory description. Their purpose is to establish a basic concept for a **Noun or noun phrase** in much the same manner as a standard dictionary. They are augmented with adjectives called as **Modifiers** to form a more precise standard name.

Bearing in mind that the primary objective of the classification is to improve communication, within an inventory system this can be readily



translated into a search or reporting mode to facilitate the identification of materials and the like.

Recognizing that conventional sorting is performed by reading text strings left to right, it follows that the common factor in a series of similar names should be placed on the left. This is referred to as Inverted Nomenclature and an example is as follows:

BOLT, MACHINE,  
HEXAGONAL HEAD  
BOLT, MACHINE, PAN HEAD  
BOLT, MACHINE, SQUARE  
HEAD  
BOLT, MACHINE, TRIANGLE  
HEAD

If the inverted nomenclature method is not used then the result would be as follows.

HEXAGONAL HEAD BOLT  
MACHINE  
PAN HEAD BOLT MACHINE  
SQUARE HEAD BOLT  
MACHINE  
TRIANGLE HEAD BOLT  
MACHINE

From an inventory inquiry browse or off-line catalogue report perspective, the conventional nomenclature format is undesirable as it separates similar items from one another.

There are two types of name formats and they are referred to as:

NOUN FIRST - 90 %  
approximately

Ex. BOLT, MACHINE,  
HEXAGONAL HEAD

NOUN PHRASE - 10 %  
approximately

Ex. BOLT ASSEMBLY,  
MACHINE, HEXAGONAL  
HEAD

Whichever format is chosen, a maximum two modifiers or modifying phrases may be added to a noun or noun phrase to establish finite name.

## **NOMCAT Advantages**

- Ready-made database with filled in sample values for all templates
- Technical attributes with international standards
- Synchronized with user defined coding system
- Establishes relation between Spare and Parent equipment
- Enhances the linking scheme of cross-reference
- Prevents swelling of inventory by eliminating duplicate item entry



- Easy navigation and effective search engine
- Single source of information
- Improved decision making
- Better resource utilization
- Reduction of unwanted paper work

## **Dictionary of standard Templates / Formats**

A template is a consistent layout or pattern to all descriptions, where data is stored in specific fields for entry.

The layout of descriptions is defined by unique set of Noun and Modifiers supported by a comprehensively defined set of characteristics with the sample values.

Dictionary of templates serves following purposes.

- It specifies the critical information needed for identifying the correct items via parametric search.
- Used to generate and format a standard item description, which provides consistency through out the inventory database.
- Benefit of labelling and storing data parametrically, which segregates key data in to discrete elements,

and helps to identify and eliminate inventory duplicates.

- Also it sets the standard for a corporate database, ensuring that each facility's inventory Items are catalogued using the same format, terminology and methodology.

## **Descriptive patterns**

Main classification of commodities is by Noun or Noun phrase.

Each Noun or noun phrase can be further specified by a maximum of 2 modifiers to establish an exact inventory item.

Each Noun, Modifier 1 and Modifier 2 combinations contains standardized template / format with Sample values for coding and cataloguing.

The item description is structured by Noun, Modifier 1, Modifier 2 followed by the characteristic values in sequential order as per the template.



Descriptive pattern structure

NOUN

MODIFIER 1

MODIFIER 2

ITEM LONG DESCRIPTION

## **Standard                      Descriptive**

### **Abbreviations**

The main function of this is to provide unique, searchable 40- character short descriptions, which are integral to the success and user acceptance of any material management system.

This can be achieved by abbreviating the Noun, Modifier1, and Modifier2 using the international standards.

Ex: BEARING    : BRG

Ex : MOTOR     : MTR

### **Advantages of Noun Modifier nomenclature standardization**

#### **REDUCING COSTS**

##### *Inventory reductions*

Using the noun modifier cataloguing systems you readily spot duplicate items which can range from 8 -20 % of

your inventory or more. Reducing the line items preserves working capital, lower finance costs and increases inventory turns, which are more relevant to manufacturing and process industries.

##### *Standardized Purchasing*

Purchase only the materials you need in more economical units and standardize on functionally equivalent items. Eliminate unnecessary OEM buys, maverick purchasing and overnight delivery fees for parts that might be already available elsewhere .

##### *Elimination of obsolete materials*

Get rid of old, outmoded parts and supplies, lowering the warehouse costs.

##### *Avoidance of false stock - outs*

Find unknown materials hidden in your inventory, further reducing procurement activities and improving inventory utilization.

#### **IMPROVING PRODUCTIVITY**

##### *Simplified searches*

Easy identification of inventory items



using Noun Modifier Characteristics and Values.

### *Inventory accuracy*

Readily identify interchangeable items even without visual inspection and utilize spare parts more efficiently.

### *Reduced plant down time*

Search quickly and efficiently. Being able to immediately locate maintenance and repair items for critical equipment can dramatically reduce plant down time.

### **Diversified Areas of Reflection**

NOMCAT is very much used for coding and cataloguing techniques at many diversified areas like a simple provisional stores material management, library books cataloguing, codifying Chemicals in a lab, Grouping of medicines in a medical shop, stationary item coding and many other areas

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