



**ITDS Product Information Committee
MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, December 3, 2008

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Location: USDA, Room 3074

A meeting of the ITDS Product Information Committee (PIC) was called to order by the Chairman on December 3, 2008, at approximately 10:10 AM ET in Washington, DC, and by teleconference. The following members were present in the meeting room or on the phone:

Member	Agency
Douglas Bailey	USDA/AMS, Chair
Steven Beningo	DOT
David Giamporcaro	EPA
Teresa Martinez	USDA/APHIS
Michiko Shaw	USDA/AMS
Dean Kastner	USDA/AMS
Max Castillo, Jr.	FDA/ITDS*
Wesley Chen	EPA*
Jan Kadela	DHS*
Mike Kelley	USDA/FSIS*
Margaret Irwin	American Trucking Association*
Bob Ehinger	CPB*
Marie Cosme-Rittenberg	CPB*
Laurie Bryant	Meat Importers Council of America*
Ruby Sevcik	Pier 1 Imports*
Marianne Rowden	American Assoc. of Exporters and Importers*
Peter Franke	eCI@ss/IHS*
Thomas Einsporn	eCI@ss*
Robert Wick	Deutsche Bahn (German Rail)*
Felix Hätig	eCI@ss*

* Participated by phone

The issues below were presented and discussed, but not necessarily in the following order.

OPENING REMARKS ----- BAILEY

Mr. Bailey opened the meeting by introducing Mr. Peter Franke, the representative who was coordinating the call on behalf of eCI@ss. Mr. Franke then introduced Mr. Thomas Einsporn, Mr. Wick, and Mr. Hätig. Mr. Einsporn serves as a lead technical expert for eCI@ss, and Mr. Franke assisted throughout the call to ensure that all questions and responses were accurately translated and understood. Mr. Einsporn then began a general review of eCI@ss and its capabilities. Members were provided a copy of the eCI@ss PowerPoint presentation, and had available a copy of the Capabilities Profile Statement completed by eCI@ss in advance of the meeting.

PRESENTATION OF ECL@SS CAPABILITIES -----FRANKE/EINSPORN

Mr. Einsporn reviewed selected presentation slides, which are attached to these minutes along with a copy of the completed Capabilities Profile Statement.

Mr. Einsporn began by summarizing the general value of product classification in standardizing product views for purchasing, product development, after-sales support, and financial analysis (Slide 5). He then reviewed the four hierarchy levels of the eCI@ss system – Segments, Main Groups, Groups, and Commodity Classes. He demonstrated how the eCI@ss classification system could be used to distinguish and find different products (Slides 9 – 11).

After Mr. Einsporn highlighted these key points, the floor was opened to questions.

QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD-----ALL MEMBERS

Questions were raised by members in the room and on the phone. These questions included the following:

What is the frequency of updates to the Dictionary? Major releases are made every 3 years. These major releases involve changes to the hierarchy structure. Minor updates generally occur about every 6 months and allow for updates to values, properties, and definitions.

What collaboration takes place between eCI@ss and the World Customs Organization? Is there any relationship between the eCI@ss codes and the Harmonized Tariff Codes? eCI@ss does collaborate with a variety of organizations, but it is not currently collaborating with the WCO. Mr. Einsporn referred to Slide 33 of the presentation, where current collaborations with ISO, CEN (the European Standards organization), UNSPSC, GS1 GPC, ECCMA eOTD, and other national standards organizations were listed.

A question was asked about chemicals and how the CAS number is used in eCI@ss. Mr. Einsporn guided the committee through a live web site session where the hierarchy of eCI@ss for chemicals was traversed. The committee saw how the chemicals were divided into general groups and at the commodity level the CAS number was available as a property for each commodity group. This seemed to be a very useful and logical relationship between the CAS number, essentially a product identification attribute, and the product classification structure that grouped these chemicals into similar groups. Chemical product classification is seen as one of the strengths of eCI@ss.

The question was asked about how open eCI@ss was to collaboration? Mr. Einsporn noted that eCI@ss only provides the structure for product classification. It is the industries and the users themselves that collaborate to define the product groupings and properties that are used for each product set. There was no reason that governments could not collaborate directly through the change request process.

A question about the level of international use was asked. Here eCI@ss representatives noted that they are aware of companies that use the eCI@ss product classification system with its international partners through commercial master data and transaction IT systems like those from SAP. They are

also aware of active downloads from countries around the globe as seen on Slide 20. However, in these download cases, eCI@ss cannot determine how the companies are using eCI@ss, only that they did download the classification system.

The question was asked about how companies distributed eCI@ss product classification code information about their actual products. Were there any existing electronic catalogs that contained this information? The answer was that companies shared eCI@ss product information through the buyer-seller relationship, and that there was no one electronic source of published eCI@ss product characterizations. The German Rail company currently has over 1 million items that it purchases described using the eCI@ss system. Mr. Bailey noted that the GS1 Global Data Synchronization Network had the capability to publish eCI@ss hierarchy codes for actual products today. Additionally, GS1 may consider adding support in the future for eCI@ss product classification properties in addition to the GS1 GPC properties, but this possibility was only in the early discussion stage within the GS1.

What product sets does eCI@ss consider to be its strengths? Using the list of eCI@ss product segments on Page 7 of the Capabilities Profile Statement, the strongest product sets were Machine elements (Segment 23), Electric Engineering, automation, and process control (Segment 27), Medicine, medical technology, and Life Science (Segment 34), and Machine Apparatus (Segment 36). The Automotive technology segment 28, was maturing quickly and would be strong within about 3 to 5 years, but was not yet as strong as the other segments mentioned. ECI@ss also rated its strengths for each of the HTS sections on Page 6 of the profile statement, and here they noted their strengths to be in chemical and pharmaceutical products; plastic and rubber products; wood pulp, paper, and paperboard products; stone, plaster, and glass products; base metals; and machinery, appliances, and electrical equipment.

After all questions had been answered, Mr. Bailey thanked the eCI@ss representatives for the information provided through the capabilities statement and their presentation. Mr. Einsporn and Mr. Franke thanked the committee for their interest and offered to respond to any future questions that the committee may have by email.

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS ----- BAILEY

Mr. Bailey then reminded members that the PGA Property Definitions were due to him and that any PGAs who had not yet sent their definitions forward should do so by December 5. Best efforts would be accepted and refined in collaboration with the PGA.

Mr. Bailey noted that today's meeting marked the close of interviews with dictionary maintenance organizations, and that the next meeting would be with a catalog provider. This next meeting will take place on January 7, 2009, at 10:00 AM ET with the GS1 Global Data Synchronization Network representatives.

Mr. Bailey called for final questions or comments, and hearing none, adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:40 AM.

Attachments

Presentation Slides
Capabilities profile



Key to optimize internal and external business processes



2008 December 3rd, Cologne

www.eclass.de

Key to optimize internal and external business processes



- ▶ **Why do we need a global standard for the classification and description of products and services ?**
- ▶ **General basics of the eCl@ss standard**
- ▶ **eCl@ss - project for small and medium-sized enterprises supported by the Ministry of Economics and Technology**

Thomas Einsporn, eCl@ss association, Cologne

www.eclass.eu

Why do we need eCl@ss?



The diagram shows a globe with arrows indicating global trade. A red arrow labeled 'customer' points from the left towards the globe, and a blue arrow labeled 'supplier' points from the right towards the globe. The globe is surrounded by a world map. On either side of the globe are vertical columns of national flags representing various countries.

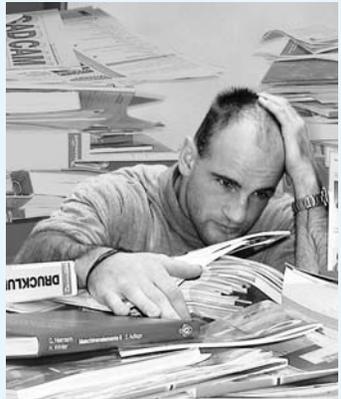
Electronic information flows between companies...

... only the use of a common language make it possible **to understand each other in global marketplaces**

Thomas Einsporn, eCl@ss association, Cologne www.eclass.eu

Why do we need eCl@ss?

Problem: An engineer needs a screw for his construction but does not know a manufacturer of screws



The image shows a man in a grey shirt sitting at a desk, looking frustrated with his hand on his forehead. He is surrounded by stacks of papers and documents, some of which have the word 'DRUCK' visible.

I need a screw for my construction!

Who manufactures screws?

How can I find the screws needed?

Thomas Einsporn, eCl@ss association, Cologne www.eclass.eu

Why do we need a standardized classification system?



The verbal description of a product is often different. The reasons are different areas in which employees are active.

Engineers often have different descriptions for the same product such as buyers or distributors.



Thomas Einsporn, eCl@ss association, Colognewww.eclass.eu

Concept of leading classification



Using eCl@ss as leading classification, also historical grown specifications could be added

- 27 Electric engineering, automation, process control
- 27-29 Pneumatics
- 27-29-30 Filter (pneumatic)
- BSF 27-29-30-02 Mist separator (pneumatic)

Purchasing

- material groups (0108)

SE-Teams

- assembling structure (verbal)



Development

- middle/end-numbers (814 306)

Finance

- index of cost groups (verbal)

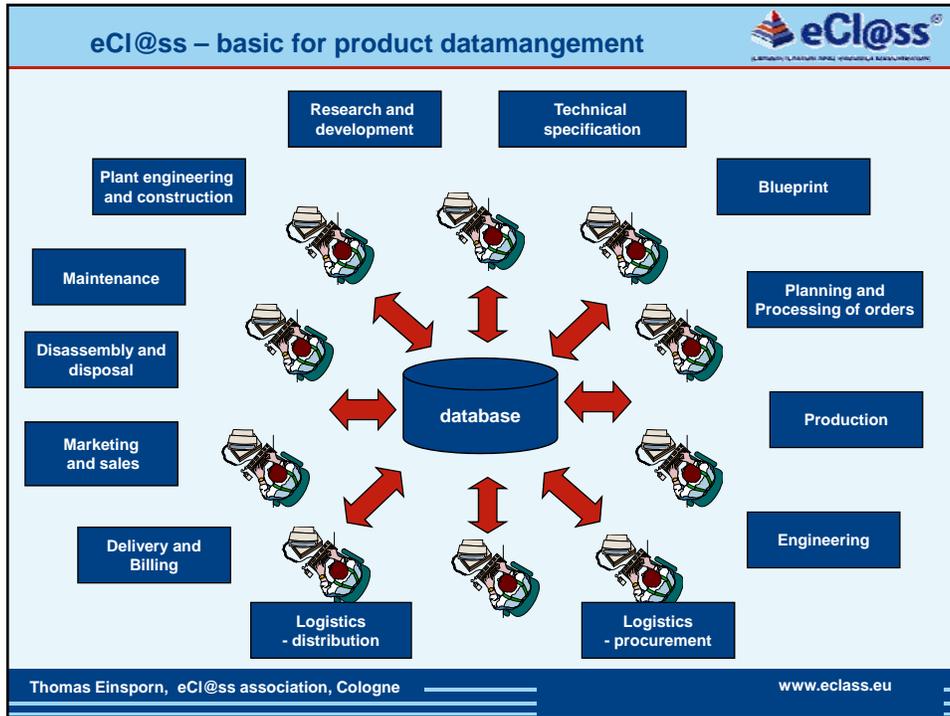
Supplier-Platform

- product groups (020-015-107-203)

Suppliers

- own descriptions (verbal)

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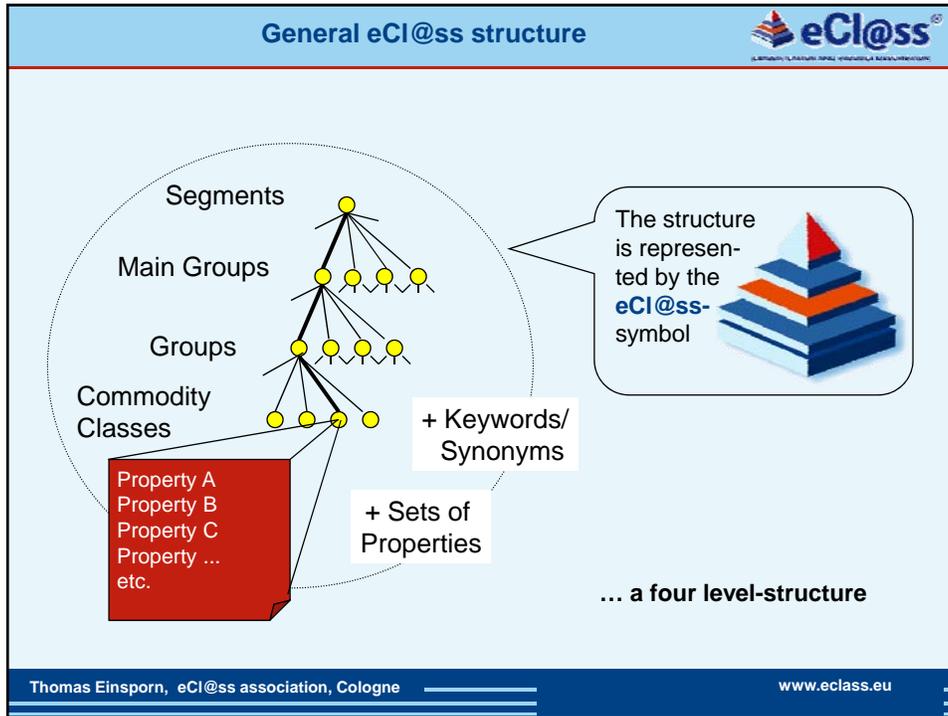


Key to optimize internal and external business processes



- ▶ Why do we need a global standard for the classification and description of products and services ?
- ▶ **General basics of the eCl@ss standard**
- ▶ eCl@ss - project for small and medium-sized enterprises supported by the Ministry of Economics and Technology

Thomas Einsporn, eCl@ss association, Cologne www.eclass.eu



Search example for 'battery' in eCl@ss: →27-05-01-01

eCl@ss 5.1


27 Electric engineering, automation, process control engineering S

27-05 Accumulator, battery

27-05-01 Station. batt., accum. S

S [SSA] 27-05-01-01 Single cell, comp. battery

S [SSA] 27-05-01-02 Frame, shelf (accum.)

S [SSA] 27-05-01-03 Acid bath (accum., battery)

BSA 27-05-01-90 Station. batt., accum. (unclassif)



Classification: 27-05-01-01 [AAB64300201]

Definition: Single cell, comp. battery

Keywords: Accumulator(station.), Compound battery

Attribute-Set:

- [BAA059001](#) - Article number
- [BAA564001](#) - Battery capacity
- [BAA017001](#) - Construction form
- [BAG963001](#) - Construction type
- [BAB240001](#) - Diameter
- [BAA271001](#) - EAN code
- [BAA020001](#) - Height
- [BAA018001](#) - Length
- [BAA001001](#) - Manufacturer's name
- [BAB576001](#) - Mass
- [BAA160001](#) - Max. operating temperature
- [BAA159001](#) - Min. operating temperature
- [BAA221001](#) - Nominal value voltage
- [BAA316001](#) - Product name
- [BAA002001](#) - Product type description
- [BAA270001](#) - Short circuit current
- [BAA019001](#) - Width

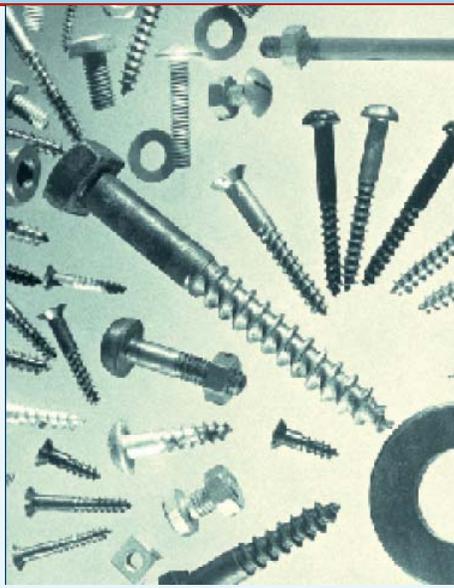
Thomas Einsporn, eCl@ss association, Cologne www.eclass.eu

eClass
MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS FOR THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY

eCl@ss-example: 23-11-01 screw (with head)

eCl@ss 6.0 DE FR

- 23 Machine element, fixing, mounting S
 - 23-11 Screw, nut S
 - 23-11-01 Screw (with head) S
 - SSP 23-11-01-01 Hexagon head cap screw
 - SSP 23-11-01-02 Fillister head screw
 - SSP 23-11-01-03 Countersunk screw
 - SSP 23-11-01-04 Hammer head bolt
 - SSP 23-11-01-06 Saucer-head screw
 - SSP 23-11-01-10 Special screw
 - SSP 23-11-01-11 Wood screw
 - SSP 23-11-01-12 Sheet metal screw
 - SSP 23-11-01-13 Screw, not flatly surface-mounted, outer driv
 - SSP 23-11-01-14 Dowel screw (with head)
 - SSP 23-11-01-15 Reduced-shaft bolt (with head)
 - SSP 23-11-01-16 Knurled thumb screw
 - SSP 23-11-01-17 Screw (self-tapping)
 - SSP 23-11-01-18 Drilling screw
 - SSP 23-11-01-19 Cap screw (no wrenching configuration speci



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eClass
MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS FOR THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY

eCl@ss-example: 23-11-01-01 screw

eCl@ss 6.0

- 23 Machine element, fixing, mounting S
 - 23-11 Screw, nut S
 - 23-11-01 Screw (with head) S
 - SSP 23-11-01-01 Hexagon head cap screw



Classification:	23-11-01-01 [AA988003]
Definition:	Hexagon head cap screw
Keywords:	Hexagon screw, Machine screw
Property-Set:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BAA98001 - Drive quantity BAA271002 - EAN code BAA916001 - Head diameter of screw BAA917001 - Head form BAB090001 - Head form pursuant to standard BAB162001 - Height of head BAA932001 - Key width BAA922001 - Length of thread coating BAA001002 - Manufacturer name BAD847002 - Manufacturer product number BAB664003 - Material BAB112001 - Material in accordance with norm BAA900001 - Order supplement according to standard BAA999001 - Order supplement code BAA918001 - Position of thread coating BAB637001 - Product class BAA929001 - Product class in accordance with norm BAA316002 - Product name BAA002002 - Product type description BAB010001 - Publication date (year-month) BAE162001 - Requirement in accordance with BAA919001 - Screw length BAB165002 - standard letter to the standard number BAA059002 - Supplier product number BAB101001 - Surface protection BAB150001 - Surface protection in accordance with norm BAB618001 - Thread design according to standard letter

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General requirements for international classification- and description-standards



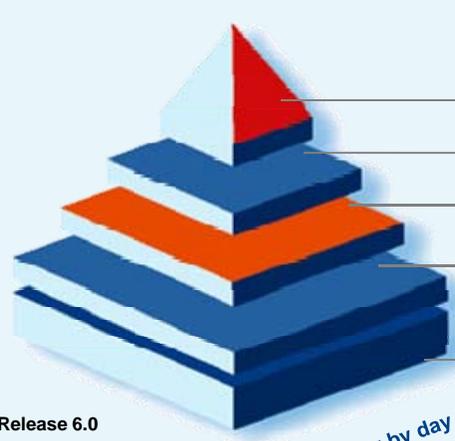
- ▶ **Standard data model** based on ISO 13584 / IEC 61360, which ensures the automatic update of data
- ▶ Consideration of **national and international standards** – for classes, properties and values –
- ▶ World-wide **availability** of the standard for all participants in the market
- ▶ Consequent representation of the market by **neutral description** of products and services
- ▶ Transparent **release management** and stability of standard
- ▶ Suitable for an integral management of **process data** – from the development to the disposal of a product –
- ▶ Possibility of **collaboration** for all interested parties who want to and can contribute

eCl@ss fulfils all requirements

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The current eCl@ss – structure: release 6.0



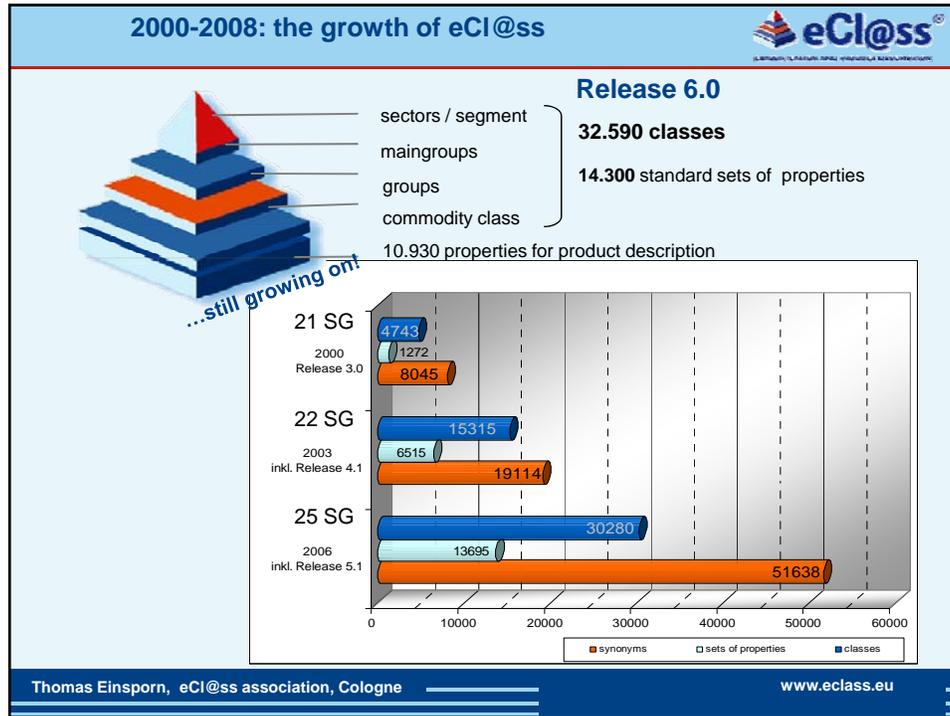


sectors / segment	26	}	Σ classes
main groups	524		
groups	4.813		
commodity classes	27.227		
attributes for product description	14.300 standard sets of properties 10.930 attributes		
	and 51.200 key words		

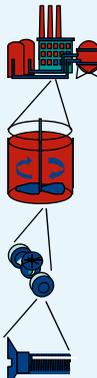
Release 6.0

...still growing day by day !

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eCl@ss top-level of Rel. 6.0 comprises 26 segments



16 Food, beverages, tobacco	29 Home economics, home technology
17 Machine, device (for special applications)	30 Auxiliary supply, additive, formulation
18 Equipment for mining, metallurgical plant, rolling mill and foundry	31 Polymers
19 Information, communication and media technology	32 Laboratory material, laboratory technology
20 Packing material	33 Installation (complete)
21 Tool	34 Medicine, medical technology, life science
22 Construction technology	35 Semifinished products, materials
23 Machine element, fixing, mounting	36 Machine, apparatus
24 Office products, equipment and technology, stationery	37 Industrial piping
25 Service	38 Inorganic chemicals
26 Energy, extraction product, secondary raw materials and residues	39 Organic chemicals
27 Electric engineering, automation, process control engineering	40 Occupational safety, accident prevention
28 Automotive technology	41 Marketing

▶ eCl@ss offers complete coverage of materials and services according to the requirements from industry and trade

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Food, beverages, tobacco

eCl@ss 6.0

- 16 Food, beverage, tobacco
 - 16-04 Fruit
 - 16-04-04 Nut
 - [BSP](#) 16-04-04-01 Cashew nut
 - [BSP](#) 16-04-04-02 Peanut
 - [BSP](#) 16-04-04-03 Sweet chestnut
 - [BSP](#) 16-04-04-04 Hazelnut
 - [BSP](#) 16-04-04-05 Almond
 - [BSP](#) 16-04-04-06 Brazil nut
 - [BSP](#) 16-04-04-07 Pistachio
 - [BSP](#) 16-04-04-08 Wal nut
 - [BSP](#) 16-04-04-90 Nut (unclassified)

Classification:	16-04-04-01 [ACE672001]
Definition:	Cashew nut
Keywords:	
Property-Set:	BAA271002 - EAN code BAA001002 - Manufacturer name BA0847002 - Manufacturer product number BAA316002 - Product name BAA002002 - Product type description BAA059002 - Supplier product number

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Example: product search

Home » Search in eCl@ss

Search for classes, properties and values

eCl@ss 5.1

- 27 Electric engineering, automation, process control engineering
 - 27-14 Electrical installation, appliance
 - 27-14-40 Installation switch set
 - [BSP](#) 27-14-40-39 Transmitter for cordless switch system

Classification: 27-14-40-39 [AF2857004]

Definition: Transmitter for cordless switch system

Keywords: Hand transmitter, Hand-held transmitter, Installation wireless transmission module, IR hand-held transmitter, IR wall transmitter, Radio line wireless transmitter, Remote control, Transmission module, Transmitter, Wall transmitter, Wireless alarm transmitter, Wireless bus, Wireless hand-held transmitter, Wireless key, Wireless transmission module, Wireless universal transmitter, Wireless wall transmitter

Property-Set:

- [BAA271001](#) - EAN code
- [BA0847001](#) - Manufacturer's article number
- [BA0021001](#) - Manufacturer's name
- [BAC682001](#) - Max. reach
- [BAA611001](#) - Number of channels
- [BAA316001](#) - Product name
- [BAA002001](#) - Product type description
- [BA0362001](#) - Suitable as hand transmitter (Y/N)
- [BAA275001](#) - Type of signal transmission
- [BA0465001](#) - Wall transmitter (Y/N)

Hits: 1

- the current version 6.0 offers about 96.000 search items
- properties are ISO/IEC conform

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General requirements for eCI@ss


- ▶ **Standard data model** based on ISO 13584 / IEC 61360, which ensures the automatic update of data
- ▶ Consideration of **national and international standards** – for classes, properties and values -
- ▶ World-wide **availability** of the standard for all participants in the market
- ▶ Consequent representation of the market by **neutral description** of products and services
- ▶ Transparent **release management** and stability of standard
- ▶ Suitable for an integral management of **process data** - from the development to the disposal of a product -
- ▶ Possibility of **collaboration** for all interested parties which want and can contribute

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eCI@ss supports many languages


▶ Available language versions of the eCI@ss structure since January 2008

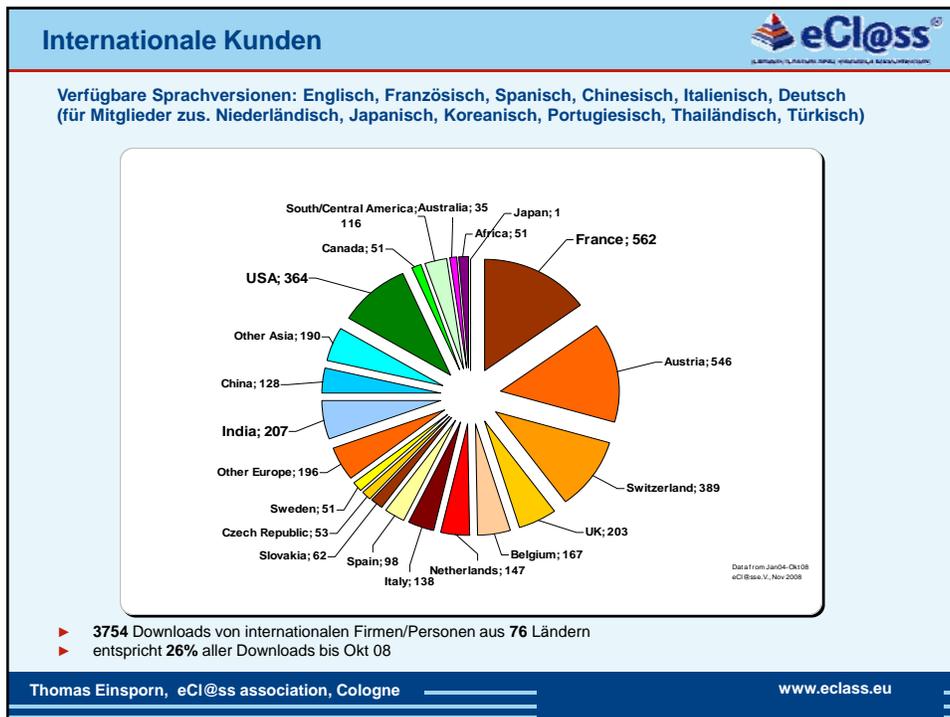
Language product	German	English	French	Italian	Spanish	Chinese (simple)	Chinese (trad.)	Dutch	Japanese	Korean	Portuguese	Thai	Czech	Turc
eCI@ss														
Rel.-version														
5.0	complete	complete	complete											
5.1	complete	complete	complete	complete	complete	complete								
5.1.1	complete	complete	complete	complete	complete	complete	classes*	classes*	classes*	classes*	classes	classes	classes	classes
5.1.2	complete	complete												
5.1.3	complete	complete												
5.1.4	complete	complete												
6.0	complete	complete												

Directly available via eCI@ss-DownloadPortal

Download available on request (contact eCI@ss head-office)

classes* = classes and key words

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Key to optimize internal and external business processes

- Why do we need a global standard for the classification and description of products and services ?
- General basics of the eCI@ss standard
- **eCI@ss - project for small and medium-sized enterprises supported by the Ministry of Economics and Technology**

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"eCl@ss for small and medium-sized enterprises" 



eCl@ss[®]
FÜR DEN MITTELSTAND

Supported by
 Federal Ministry
of Economics
and Technology

Acceleration of the introduction of eCl@ss in small and medium-sized enterprises by establishment of the continuous eCl@ss - extension with requirements of the medium-sized industry.

Target group > 90 percent of all companies in Germany / Europe

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Advantages for SME by using eCl@ss 

To sell more by reducing costs (examples)

- ▶ developing efficient value chains between suppliers and customers
- ▶ better orientation to electronic customer processes
- ▶ close collaboration between customers and suppliers in marketing and sales processes
- ▶ development and optimization of current or new groups of customers by eBusiness
- ▶ securing/maximizing of realized sales volume with current customers
- ▶ only one-time costs to create electronic product data for all customers and partners world wide

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Project targets 

- ▶ **prime target 1: Acceleration of the use of eCl@ss in small and medium sized enterprises**
- ▶ **prime target 2: Acceleration of the permanent development of eCl@ss with additional, individual requirements of SMEs as well as by harmonization / integration of branch standards**
- ▶ **prime target 3: Transfer of the results in the target group SMEs / public relations**

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Measures 

prime target 1: Acceleration of the use of eCl@ss in small and medium sized enterprises

- > **Tools to support SME`s for the use of eCl@ss**
- > **eCl@ss practical workshops**
to proceed / solve concrete implementation scenarios in the enterprises.
- > **Transfer of eCl@ss experiences by online information events**
With the introduction of eCl@ss relevant online information events an additional transfer channel is made available.
- > **Startup-user-advice for SMEs / master data management**

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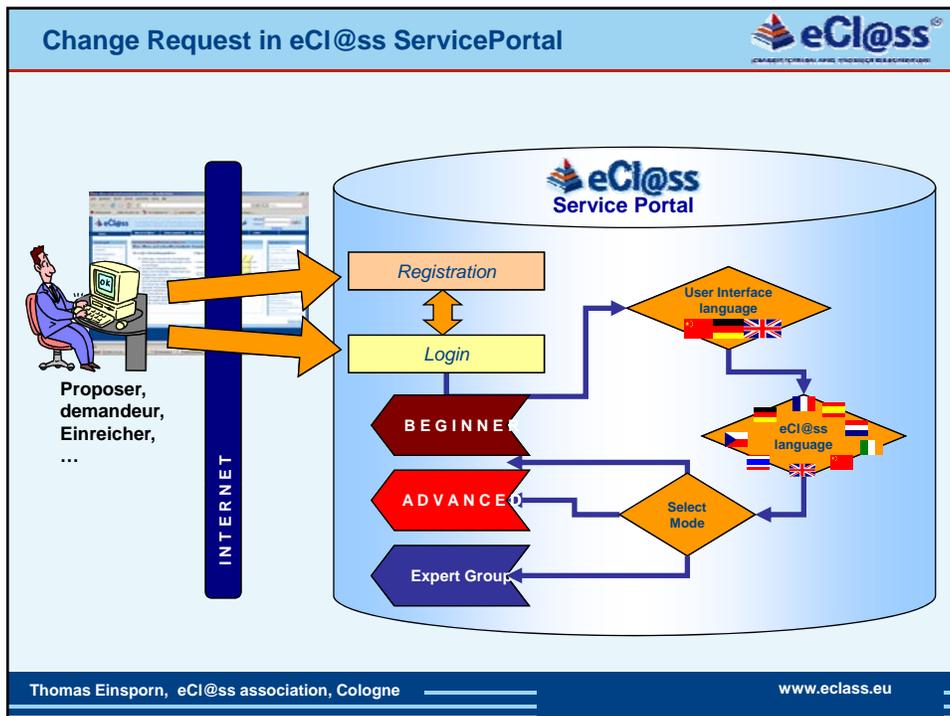
Measures



prime target 2: Acceleration of the permanent development of eCI@ss by SMEs as well as by harmonization / integration of existing branch standards

- > Direct integration of SMEs in the eCI@ss development by use of the eCI@ss ServicePortal
- > Harmonization / integration of branch standards currently ETIM, proficl@ss, PROLIST
- > offline tool for applications
- > Application support for KMU by the integration of automated check routines into the eCI@ss ServicePortal

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Measures 

- ▶ **prime target 3: Transfer of the results in the target group SMEs / public relations**
 - > Trade fair participation e.g. eprocure&supply
 - > Materials (Project Flyer, ServicePortal Flyer, newsletter)
 - > Brochure „eCl@ss Projekt Services“
 - > Best-Practice-Examples about the operational application of eCl@ss
 - > SMEs specific information on project web site (www.eclass.de)
 - > Subject events

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What is the eCl@ss association ? 

The eCl@ss association ...

- ▶ **is an open, international community**
- ▶ **was founded in 2000 by major industry companies in Germany**
- ▶ **is a non-profit organization, which defines, develops and distributes the eCl@ss classification standard**
- ▶ **is supported by its members which are companies, associations and institutions**
- ▶ **cooperates with well-known strategic partners in the fields of standardization and information technologies**
- ▶ **is represented in national and international standardization organizations**

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eCl@ss members: an international community

A grid of logos for various member companies including: fdata, MINI, cece, TOTAL, Schneider Electric, PBS network, e-on, GelbeSeiten Business, cognis, IHS, afi, REYHER, sana, ETIM, BME, ALTANA, BASF IT Services, cc-hubwoo, ifcc, AmpereSoft, DB, Stämpfli, cynatics consulting, mpXML, POET, Audi, VGKL, PHOENIX CONTACT, BASF, INGRAM MICRO, RAG, Corporate Express, RKC, DAIMLERCHRYSLER, ODETTE, DSM, proficl@ss, RWE, GEA Group, Termilat, HAHN+KOLB GRUPPE, DIN, bühmann, RS, SIEMENS, VDMA, GHX, cerlikon, WACKER, itb, PARADINE, 555 DAHLHAUSEN, ENRAD DE, SAP, Weidmüller.

April 2008

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eCl@ss member steering committee

A grid of logos for steering committee members including: afi, EVONIK INDUSTRIES, RWE, cognis, SIEMENS, HUBWOO, DB, IHS, Schneider Electric, Audi, Unlimited, DSM, SAP, WACKER, TOTAL, BASF, e-on.

Thomas Einsporn, eCl@ss association, Cologne www.eclass.eu

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International cooperation's for standardization

Collaboration and liaisons with ISO/ IEC

- ISO TC 37 "Terminology and other language and content resources"
- ISO TC 184 SC 4: „Industrial data“ (PLIB/ ISO 13584)
- IEC SC 3D „Data Sets for libraries“(Klassifikation elektrischer Komponenten und Definition von Data-Element-Types/ IEC 61360)
- IEC TC 65 „Industrial process management and control

Contribution by CEN

- ePDC, ISSS,...

Collaboration with competitors

- UNDP UN/SPSC (USDA gov.)
- GS-1 GPC (automotive parts, white ware,...)
- ECCMA eOTD (ISO 8000, ISO 22745)

National collaboration with DIN

Harmonization of national standards

- Prolist, ETIM, Proficlass, Bauclass,...








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**PRODUCT INFORMATION COMMITTEE
DICTIONARY CAPABILITIES PROFILE**

NAME OF DICTIONARY: eCI@ss
NAME OF DMO: eCI@ss e.V.
CONTACT PERSON(S): Thomas Einsporn, eCI@ss Head Office, Cologne, Germany
<p>I. SCOPE OF PRODUCT COVERAGE:</p> <p>How long has the dictionary been in use? since 1998</p> <p>What industry sectors use this dictionary as their first choice for defining essential product characteristics? all industries (see pages 7 and 8)</p> <p>Describe the strength of the dictionary in characterizing products using the separate page titled "Coverage by Product Set." <i>Enter "S" for Strong, "M" for Moderate, and two dashes (-) for incomplete or no coverage. see below</i></p>
<p>II. DEPTH OF PRODUCT CHARACTERIZATION:</p> <p>What hierarchy is used to organize and locate product classes? a 4-level hierarchy</p> <p>Can each product class be represented by a short numeric product code? Yes</p> <p>Does the dictionary support the use of attribute or property value pairs to further describe product classes? Yes</p> <p>Is there a limit on the number of product classes in a hierarchy? The number of attributes supported? The number of values supported for a single attribute? 99 subclasses to each class, otherwise no limits</p>
<p>III. LEVEL OF DICTIONARY ADOPTION:</p> <p>For what use does the industry typically use the dictionary – spend analysis, category management, product sourcing, etc.? all eBusiness processes incl. catalogue, PDM, Enterprise Resource Planning, etc.</p> <p>What languages/tongues does the dictionary support? English, German, French, Spanish, Italian, Chinese (Simple and Traditional), Turkish, Portuguese, Dutch, Czech, Russian, Korean, Thai, Japanese</p> <p>What indications of active industry adoption and use are there? What level of use is seen</p>

ITDS PIC DICTIONARY CAPABILITIES PROFILE

for each region of the world? **eCI@ss is already used in numerous countries. Downloads have been registered from over 75 countries worldwide. E.g. USA, Canada, France, Austria, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Belgium, Netherlands, Italy, Spain, Sweden, India, China and many more.**

Provide examples of how the dictionary is being used in international trade and what companies are using it. **In the international catalogue and product specifications exchange.**

IV. LEVEL OF INDUSTRY SUPPORT:

How many supporting and/or voting members does the DMO have? **68 members**

Typically what companies and industry sectors are the DMO's leaders and subject matter experts drawn from? **International concerns such as afim, Evonik Industries, RWE, cognis, Siemens, hubwoo, Deutsche Bahn, IHS, Schneider Electric, Audi, Total, BASF, DSM, SAP, Wacker, eon**

What improvements or expansions are planned? **Development in further segments, internationalisation and standardisation of all eCI@ss contents**

What is the business plan to sustain the organization's goals?

V. CHANGE REQUEST PROCESS:

Describe the Change Request (CR) Process? **Any registered user can submit CRs on a web interface platform**

How many CRs were submitted and processed in the past 12 months? **about 10,000**

How many times in a year do you update the dictionary? **twice a year**

What are the eligibility requirements to submit a CR? May government entities submit CRs? **Anybody can submit CRs**

What are the eligibility requirements to vote on CRs? How many vote on a typical CR? **You need to be member of an expert group. Voting depends on how many members the expert group consists of, usually 5-10 persons.**

What is the average time to: Revise the definition for a commodity or attribute value; Add a new commodity attribute (if applicable); and Add a new commodity? **6 months each**

ITDS PIC DICTIONARY CAPABILITIES PROFILE

VI. LEGAL RESTRICTIONS ON USE:

Is all dictionary content in the public domain? **yes**

What agreements must an organization sign to use the dictionary? **the eCI@ss agreements, see webpage**

What limitations exist on the use of the content? **None**

Is the DMO a not-for-profit organization? **Yes**

Does the DMO meet the definition of a voluntary consensus standards body as defined by OMB Circular A-119? A voluntary consensus standards body is defined by the following attributes: (i) Openness. (ii) Balance of interest. (iii) Due process. (iv) An appeals process. (v) Consensus, which is defined as general agreement, but not necessarily unanimity, and includes a process for attempting to resolve objections by interested parties, as long as all comments have been fairly considered, each objector is advised of the disposition of his or her objection(s) and the reasons why, and the consensus body members are given an opportunity to change their votes after reviewing the comments.

Yes

VII. BARRIERS TO INDUSTRY PARTICIPATION:

What barriers might limit mid- or small-size companies from using the dictionary content?

Missing information about eBusiness and tools for the implementation of eCI@ss, missing of the general decision for electronic business operations

VIII. ELECTRONIC ACCESS:

What electronic methods exist for accessing dictionary content (e.g., transfer of data files, web service real-time inquiries, etc.)? **24h access via online web search, a download portal to achieve the standard**

What data format can the dictionary content be provided in (e.g., XML, Excel spreadsheet, delimited file)? **.csv-files, XML is planned for the future**

How frequently could data files be obtained? **downloadable 24 hrs a day**

What security controls are used to safeguard data integrity and to protect against unauthorized electronic access? **Change management rules in the online platform, quality checks in the head office and expert groups**

What ISO standards for formatting and transferring data (e.g., ISO 8000 and 22745) do you currently comply with or plan to comply with?

ISO 13584, IEC 61360, ISO 8000

ITDS PIC DICTIONARY CAPABILITIES PROFILE

IX. COST OF RECURRING ACCESS AND DATA TRANSFER:

What fees are charged to industry members to use the dictionary content? Please describe these fully and especially in terms of:

- Start up or "initializing" fees; **do not exist**
- Connectivity, system interface, or testing fees; **do not exist**
- Fees that are assessed by file size or have volume boundaries; **do not exist**
- Fees assessed by number of requests or access frequency; **do not exist**
- Monthly overhead or minimum usage fees; and **do not exist**
- Any other fee or charge categories and their basis of operation.

Company fees for downloading the standard, depending on company size

X. DATA QUALITY:

What web site support tools, training, or other assistance is available to industry users who wish to define their products using the dictionary? **eCl@ss initiative consulting and eCl@ss cooperation partners in the industry who act as consultants**

How can industry users be certain they are properly applying dictionary terms when defining their products?

ITDS PIC DICTIONARY CAPABILITIES PROFILE

SUMMARY:

What are the strengths of this dictionary?

- ▶ **Standard data model based on ISO 13584 / IEC 61360, which ensures the automatic update of data, 14 language versions**
- ▶ **Free development by everyone who is interested via the eCI@ss ServicePortal**
- ▶ **Consideration of national and international standards – for classes, properties and values –**
- ▶ **World-wide availability of the standard for all participants in the market**
- ▶ **Consequent representation of the market by neutral description of products and services**
- ▶ **Transparent release management and stability of standard**
- ▶ **Suitable for an integral management of process data from the development to the disposal of a product,**
- ▶ **Possibility of collaboration for all interested parties who want to and can contribute**
- ▶ **Fast distribution in the economy**

What are the weaknesses?

None, because the ISO compliant data model fulfils all requirements

ITDS PIC DICTIONARY CAPABILITIES PROFILE

COVERAGE BY PRODUCT SET

(See Section I)

HTS SECTION	PRODUCT SET	COVERAGE <i>("S"=Strong; "M"=Moderate; "--" = No Coverage)</i>
Section 1	Live Animals; Animal Products	M
Section 2	Vegetable Products	M
Section 3	Animal or Vegetable Fats, Oils, and Waxes	M
Section 4	Prepared Foodstuffs; Beverages, Spirits, Vinegar, And Tobacco	M
Section 5	Mineral Products	M
Section 6	Chemical or Pharmaceutical Products	S
Section 7	Plastic and Rubber Products	S
Section 8	Leather, Fur, Travel Goods, and Handbag Products	M
Section 9	Wood, Cork, and Straw Products	M
Section 10	Wood Pulp, Paper, and Paperboard Products	S
Section 11	Textile Products	M
Section 12	Footwear, Headgear, and Umbrella Products	M
Section 13	Stone, Plaster, Cement, Asbestos, Mica Ceramic, and Glass Products	S
Section 14	Pearl, Precious or Semiprecious Stones, Precious metals, Imitation Jewelry, and Coin	--
Section 15	Base Metals and Base Metal Products	S
Section 16	Machinery, Mechanical Appliances, Electrical Equipment, Sound Recorder and Television Products	S
Section 17	Vehicles, Aircraft, Vessels and Transport Equipment	M
Section 18	Optical, Photographic, Cinematographic, Measuring, Checking, Precision, Medical Or Surgical Instruments; Clocks And Watches; and Musical Instruments	S
Section 19	Arms and Ammunition	--
Section 20A	Furniture, Bedding, and Lamps	--
Section 20B	Toys, Games, and Sports Products	--
Section 21	Works of Art, Antiques, and Collector's Pieces	--

ITDS PIC DICTIONARY CAPABILITIES PROFILE

ECL@SS PRODUCT SEGMENTS

(See Section I)

Segment	Contents
16	Food , beverages, tobacco
17	Machine, device (for special applications)
18	Equipment f. mining, metallurgical plant, rolling mill a. foundry
19	Information, communication and media technology
20	Packing material
21	Manufacturing facilities, workshop equipment, tool
22	Construction technology
23	Machine element, fixing, mounting
24	Office products, facilities and technics, papeterie
25	Service
26	Energy, extraction product, secondary raw materials and residues
27	Electric engineering, automation, process control engineering
28	Automotive technology
29	Home economics, Home technology
30	Auxiliary supply, additive, cleaning agent
31	Polymers
32	Laboratory material, Labatory technology
33	Installation (complete)
34	Medicine, medical technology, life science
35	Semifinished products, materials
36	Machine, apparatus
37	Industrial piping
38	Inorganic chemicals
39	Organic chemicals
40	Occupational safety, accident prevention
41	Marketing