

Other Bundles or Sets of Services

Many sets of services, sets of commodities, or sets or commodities and services, are customarily purchased and sold as packages or bundles in a single transaction, so all classification systems must take them into account. An example of a service bundle that is sometimes found is given in the general description of Section 6, Transportation Services, on page 30, i.e., passenger transportation bundles that may include meals, berth, local transport and other services, along with a ruling that such a bundle, if sold for a single price, should be included in the appropriate group of Section 6 i.e., in 611, 621, or 631. Alternatively, separate groups are provided for bundles of services that customarily go together, an example being group 115, Hospital care, which includes provision of accommodation, meals and a bundle of health services such as nursing care and convalescent care along with laboratory and other diagnostic tests such as X-ray, cardiorespiratory procedures, etc. Other examples of this kind will be found throughout the classification. To indicate that this is not peculiar to services, it is necessary only to mention some common sets or bundles of commodities that are often sold as a unit, such as luggage sets including fitted cases, manicure sets, sewing sets, etc.

Principles of Classification

This brief look at the tendency for commodities and services to be associated in sets or bundles illustrates the basic procedure of classifying, i.e. relating units that have characteristics in common. To achieve a classification system of maximum usefulness, however, requires the application of two elementary rules or principles and observance of the need for a system that will be generally applicable. The two elementary principles are that the classes must be mutually exclusive and jointly exhaustive. The first of these means simply that the classes constituting the classification (or the classes constituting each stage in a hierarchy) should be defined on a consistent basis so that each of the units being classified can be fitted into one and only one of the classes established. The second principle is intended to ensure that any unit encountered that is of the kind intended to be classified can, in fact, be accommodated. These principles apply to each stage in a hierarchical classification system, i.e. each stage in the hierarchy must be complete in itself, provide full coverage of the universe being classified and be composed of mutually exclusive classes. This is one of the reasons why the present classification has been developed as a complete system suitable for the classification of any type of service whether or not the service is likely to be found in international trade. See, for example, groups 150, 915, 925, 931.