

**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**

**I. SCOPE OF PRODUCT COVERAGE:**

How long has the dictionary been in use? **since 1998**

What industry sectors use this dictionary as their first choice for defining essential product characteristics? **all industries ( see pages 7 and 8)**

Describe the strength of the dictionary in characterizing products using the separate page titled "Coverage by Product Set." Enter "S" for Strong, "M" for Moderate, and two dashes (--) for incomplete or no coverage. **see below**

**II. DEPTH OF PRODUCT CHARACTERIZATION:**

What hierarchy is used to organize and locate product classes? **a 4-level hierarchy**

Can each product class be represented by a short numeric product code? **Yes**

Does the dictionary support the use of attribute or property value pairs to further describe product classes? **Yes**

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**

**III. LEVEL OF DICTIONARY ADOPTION:**

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.**

What languages/tongues does the dictionary support? **English, German, French, Spanish, Italian, Chinese (Simple and Traditional), Turkish, Portuguese, Dutch, Czech, Russian, Korean, Thai, Japanese**

What indications of active industry adoption and use are there? What level of use is seen

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for each region of the world? **eCl@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 eCl@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**

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### 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 eCl@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.

### 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 eCl@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**

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### **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?

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### **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**

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**COVERAGE BY PRODUCT SET**

*(See Section I)*

<b>HTS SECTION</b>	<b>PRODUCT SET</b>	<b>COVERAGE</b> <i>(“S”=Strong; ”M”=Moderate; “-“ = No Coverage)</i>
Section 1	<b>Live Animals; Animal Products</b>	M
Section 2	<b>Vegetable Products</b>	M
Section 3	<b>Animal or Vegetable Fats, Oils, and Waxes</b>	M
Section 4	<b>Prepared Foodstuffs; Beverages, Spirits, Vinegar, And Tobacco</b>	M
Section 5	<b>Mineral Products</b>	M
Section 6	<b>Chemical or Pharmaceutical Products</b>	S
Section 7	<b>Plastic and Rubber Products</b>	S
Section 8	<b>Leather, Fur, Travel Goods, and Handbag Products</b>	M
Section 9	<b>Wood, Cork, and Straw Products</b>	M
Section 10	<b>Wood Pulp, Paper, and Paperboard Products</b>	S
Section 11	<b>Textile Products</b>	M
Section 12	<b>Footwear, Headgear, and Umbrella Products</b>	M
Section 13	<b>Stone, Plaster, Cement, Asbestos, Mica Ceramic, and Glass Products</b>	S
Section 14	<b>Pearl, Precious or Semiprecious Stones, Precious metals, Imitation Jewelry, and Coin</b>	--
Section 15	<b>Base Metals and Base Metal Products</b>	S
Section 16	<b>Machinery, Mechanical Appliances, Electrical Equipment, Sound Recorder and Television Products</b>	S
Section 17	<b>Vehicles, Aircraft, Vessels and Transport Equipment</b>	M
Section 18	<b>Optical, Photographic, Cinematographic,</b>	S

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	Measuring, Checking, Precision, Medical Or Surgical Instruments; Clocks And Watches; and Musical Instruments	
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	--

### 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

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28	Automotive technology
29	Home economics, Home technology
30	Auxiliary supply, additive, cleaning agent
31	Polymers
32	Laboratory material, Laboratory 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