



***17TH VOORBURG MEETING: SESSION ON
INFORMATION SOCIETY STATISTICS***

**A PROPOSED DEFINITION OF ICT
MANUFACTURING GOODS**

OECD/WPIIS

OECD work on ICT classifications:

- Agreement in 1998 on ICT sector classification.
- More difficulties in establishing ICT commodity classification.
- Agreement in 2000 on broad principles:
 - Products must be intended to fulfil function of information processing and communication by electronic means, incl. transmission and display;
 - Or, use electronic processing to detect, measure and/or record physical phenomena, or to control a physical process.

Broad general structure was agreed in 2000

- Telecommunication equipment;
- Consumer electronics;
- Computers;
- Office machinery;
- Electronic components;
- Instruments and equipment for detecting, measuring, checking and controlling physical phenomena or processes.

Why look at ICT product classification?

- To provide a framework for the collection of commodity statistics, e.g. To analyse individual firms or trade data.
- To help refine the activity-based classification of the ICT sector.
- This paper uses the Harmonised System (HS), not the CPC, as data is available for more countries.

The classification

- Mix of 4 and 6–digit levels of the HS classification: not all commodities meet the basic principles for ICT manufactured goods.
- The classification is at a relatively high level of aggregation to avoid problems with confidentiality.
- Link can be made between the HS classification and the CPC.
- Problems noted in some areas, e.g. medical equipment (scanners, etc.)