Economic Classification Policy Committee (ECPC) Recommendation for Classification of Logistics Services Providers in North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Revisions for 2012

Logistics services can include storage, shipping, breaking bulk, pick-and-pack or other order fulfillment services, and numerous other activities. Logistics services therefore represent a bundle of activities. In general, logistics services can be provided by anyone transporting or handling goods. This could include manufacturers operating on a just-in-time basis, wholesalers, transportation companies, storage companies, and logistics providers who arrange freight and undertake freight forwarding.

The ECPC recognizes that providers of logistics services are classified in numerous existing industries in NAICS including warehousing industries, trucking industries, courier industries, wholesale trade industries, retail trade industries, and other industries that handle goods or advise or arrange for the transportation of goods. The ECPC therefore recommends against creation of an industry for logistics service providers. The North American Product Classification System (NAPCS) products for logistics services should be reviewed to ensure adequate coverage of the activities that are offered by the various types of units.

The ECPC recommends classification of establishments providing logistics services based on primary activity or predominant infrastructure operated (e.g., factory, warehouse, trucking fleet, office for freight arrangement) of the establishment in manufacturing, storage, wholesale trade, transportation, transportation support services, or elsewhere in the classification based on the production function of the establishment to be classified.