



**CCPC internal  
guidelines for  
determining  
economic and  
sub-sector  
codes**



## Guidelines for determining economic and sub-sector codes

The economic codes of CCPC mergers and acquisitions consist of two levels: an economic sector code (level 1) and a related sub-sector code (level 2). These codes are largely aligned with the first two levels of the four level EU NACE classification system, namely the section and the division levels. While the NACE system itself was not applied in full, the alignment of CCPC classifications to this system ensures consistency with accepted EU sector definitions, which should be of particular benefit to the legal practitioner using the mergers website for research.

The CCPC economic code identifies the principal industry and is represented by a letter, e.g. Manufacturing – C. The economic sub-sector code identifies the specific division within the economic sector selected and is represented by a two-digit numerical code, e.g. Manufacture of foods – C.10.

For the user of the mergers website, these codes will appear as a filter option available at both the economic sector and sub-sector level. On the landing page of a specific merger, the level 2 economic sub-sector code will appear i.e. Manufacture of foods – C.10.

To assign the codes, a top-down approach is employed. First, identify the principal industry of the target company – this is the economic sector code. Second, identify the specific product or service of the target company within that industry – this is the sub-sector code.

Below are a number of hypothetical examples of coding in practice:

Target company produces alcoholic beverages.

1. Industry - manufacturing = Manufacturing – C.
2. Product – beverages = Manufacturing of beverages – C.11
3. Assign Manufacturing – C to the economic sector, and Manufacturing of beverages – C.11 to the economic sub-sector.

Target company provides residential care services

1. Industry – healthcare = Human health & social work – R.
2. Service – residential care = Residential care activities – R.87
3. Assign Human health & social work – R to the economic sector, and Residential care activities – R.87 to the economic sub-sector.

Target company provides software programming

1. Industry – IT = Telecom & IT service activities – K.
2. Service - computer programming = Programming & IT consulting - K.62
3. Assign Telecom & IT service activities – K to the economic sector, and Programming & IT consulting - K.62 to the economic sub-sector.

**Using NACE Rev.2.1 as a guide**

In instances where the economic sub-sector is not immediately clear, or in instances where it could be seen to fall across a number of economic sectors entirely, the NACE Rev.2.1 can be a helpful guide. As the CCPC coding system is not as granular as the four digit NACE, identifying mergers via this resource often helps to elucidate the correct answer.

Below is one hypothetical example of when the NACE system might be helpful in clarifying the correct sector codes.

Target company manufactures medical devices from polymers (plastics).

1. Principal industry – Manufacturing – C.
2. Product/service – plastic products that are medical devices. At first consideration it might appear that the code Manufacture of rubber & plastic - C.22 applies, however, as the products are medical devices, it is possible that a different code is more appropriate, and so at this juncture an examination of the more detailed NACE code system is warranted to provide more nuanced guidance.
3. Upon examination of NACE Rev.2.1, under the same section – C- Manufacturing, we can examine whether the ultimate class for this merger is accounted for under C-22. Under C-22.6 manufacture of plastic products, there is just one code that could apply to this merger, that is C-22.26 – Manufacture of other plastic products.
4. However, if we explore the NACE code further under the same section C – Manufacturing, we find the division C.32 – Other Manufacturing, which ultimately leads to the most precise definition at C.32.50 - Manufacture of

medical and dental instruments and supplies. This is therefore the most appropriate code to capture the merger of a medical device manufacturer.

- From this guide we can then determine that the most appropriate CCPC code to assign to this merger is Manufacturing – C to the economic sector, and Other manufacturing – C.32 to the economic sub-sector.

The table below includes some examples of mergers that were guided by referring to NACE Rev 2.1 to learn more detail about a given sector. The table displays the original economic sector applied to a merger, and the new economic sector and economic sub-sector that were assigned, after having examined Level 3 and Level 4 of the relevant NACE code.

<b>Merger reference</b>	<b>Economic sector originally applied</b>	<b>Level 1 CCPC: Economic sector</b>	<b>Level 2 CCPC Economic sub-sector</b>	<b>Level 3 NACE</b>	<b>Level 4 NACE</b>
M/16/050 – Freshgrass/Freshmills. Merger involved manufacture of animal feed.	Agri-business	Manufacturing – C	Manufacture of food products – C.10	C.10.9 Manufacture of prepared animal feeds	C.10.91 Manufacture of prepared feeds for farm animals
M/16/051 – SAICA/Ridgmont/Americk. Merger involved packaging services.	Paper and packaging	Administration & support services – O	Office admin & business support – O.82	O.82.9 Business support service activities n.e.c.	O.82.92 – Packaging activities
M/25/037 - FIS/AIB Merchant services. Merger involving payment merchant services.	Other services	Financial & insurance activities – L	Financial & insurance support – L.66	L.66.1 Activities auxiliary to financial services, except insurance and pension funding	L.66.19 Other activities auxiliary to financial services, except insurance and pension funding
M/26/001 – Apleona/Tim Kelly Group. Merger involved electrical and mechanical installation of fire safety systems.	Professional services	Construction – F	Specialised construction – F.43	F.43.2 Electrical, plumbing and other construction installation activities	F.43.21 Electrical installation

A helpful resource in determining economic sector definitions can be found on the Europa website, [www.europa.eu](http://www.europa.eu), in a document entitled NACE Rev. 2.1 – Statistical classification of economic activities in the European Union – 2025 edition. While applicable to the NACE coding system, it can be a helpful guidance in determining relevant sectors generally, and, as stated previously, can ensure a consistent approach to these definitions between Ireland and the EU.



Coimisiún um  
Iomaíocht agus  
Cosaint Tomhaltóirí

Competition and  
Consumer Protection  
Commission

