

Update to CPV codes

On 17 September 2008, the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities (OPOCE) implemented a modified version of the CPV codes (CPV Code Version 2007) to replace Version 2003. The CPV code search facility in all BiP Solutions services has been upgraded accordingly to reflect these changes.

What is a CPV code?

CPV (Common Procurement Vocabulary) codes have been developed by the European Union specifically for public procurement. The main vocabulary is based on a tree structure with high-level codes providing a broad description and sub-categories defining particular products or services. Their main purpose is to help procurement personnel to classify their contract notices consistently and correctly and to help suppliers find those notices which are of interest to them by using a standardised vocabulary.

Using CPV codes

Awarding authorities use CPV codes to accurately describe a particular product or service opportunity. CPV codes may be used in a notice to broadly describe the relevant industry sector or to more narrowly define a particular product or service. It is mandatory for awarding authorities to publish at least one CPV code in an OJEU notice.

What changes have been made?

Certain codes have been reassigned with new descriptions, others have been deleted, and many entirely new codes have been added.

CPV code hierarchy

The CPV code hierarchy is based on a tree structure. By selecting a higher-level code, you will **automatically** receive contract opportunities containing CPV codes that sit below the higher-level code. This means that you may be returned an opportunity that does not contain an exact

match CPV code, but one that sits in the hierarchy.

Higher-level CPV codes can be easily recognised by having more zeros than the lower-level ones. You can discern if one code is contained within the hierarchy of another code by examining the structure.

New CPV-2007 code example:

+72000000: IT services: consulting, software development, Internet and support

-72500000: Computer-related services

-72510000: Computer-related management services

How will I search for legacy contracts once the new CPV-2007 codes are in use?

BiP has mapped every CPV-2003 code to its corresponding CPV-2007 code. Therefore, when searching using new CPV-2007 codes for contracts that were created prior to 17 September 2008, you will still find your matching legacy contracts.

When you view a legacy contract, you will see both the original CPV-2003 code(s) and the corresponding CPV-2007 code(s). Your ability to search by CPV codes is therefore unaffected.

From 17 September it is anticipated that all notices will display only the new CPV-2007 codes.

CPV code online mapping tool

We have created an **online tool** for browsing the new CPV-2007 code hierarchy and also provide a **spreadsheet** that maps all CPV-2003 codes to their corresponding CPV-2007 codes in order that you may establish if there are any new codes that apply to your business sector.

Assistance

The BiP Helpdesk is on hand to assist you and can be contacted on **0845 270 7096** or via email at **support@bipsolutions.com**