

## Welcome to the first issue of the ProClass Newsletter!

We hope you will find the articles included both interesting and informative as we attempt to keep you updated on the recent changes and additions to the ProClass Website, classification, training seminars and other related events. The newsletter is intended to be a 5 minute read with many of the articles offering links to further information. To ensure we continue to capture the most important issues from across the public services arena, we are keen for our readers to send us newsworthy articles for future editions. We are already looking ahead to our next issue and would welcome any articles you may wish to include. These, as well you may have on this issue, can be sent to [info@proclass.nationaliep.gov.uk](mailto:info@proclass.nationaliep.gov.uk)

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## Training Seminar Dates

**East Midlands Region -**

**17th September 2008**

**London Region -**

**26th September 2008**

**Eastern Region -**

**2nd November 2008**

**South West Region -**

**18th November 2008**

**Edinburgh -**

**25th November 2008**

**West Midlands Region -**

**19th Dec 2008**

Please see the ProClass website for more details plus new dates.

### Background

It was realised in 2004 that all local authorities across England were using different ways to record procurement spend, with varying degrees of effectiveness. This was proving to be a barrier to collaboration and savings. Following a review involving 4 LAs it was apparent that a basic simple classification structure was needed to enable councils to easily aggregate purchases in a simple but effective way that would support collaborative working through the use of Expenditure Analysis, which would lead to savings. ProClass has been created specifically for local government use to achieve this goal and is now adopted by 8 out of the 9 RIEPS.

### Management Board & User Group

The management Board was set up in 2007 and comprises 1 representative per RIEP plus one from Scotland. The User Group has yet to be created, so volunteers are being sought from LAs using ProClass. If interested please forward your name to

[info@proclass.nationaliep.gov.uk](mailto:info@proclass.nationaliep.gov.uk)

### Version Control & Release

The first quality assured and standardized version of ProClass is C8.2. The next version to be released soon will be version C8.3. The numbered version will be C8.3N. ProClass is intended to be used in a written format, so is therefore mainly in alphabetical order. The numbered version for computer use only will therefore need to be reissued, with some numbers being changed or reused with a different heading. To help with this problem a mapping will be provided with the new version showing the changes.

### Latest UNSPSC & CPV

Both these two classifications have recently issued new versions. The latest version of UNSPSC is 11.051, available from the UNSPSC website. The latest CPV is 2007, which has been in use since 17th September 2008. This is available for download from the SIMAP website

### Cross-references

ProClass cross-referenced to NSV, UNSPSC and Thomson, is available on the ProClass website. These mappings are from ProClass to the best fit of Thomson and UNSPSC. If a complete list is required this is available at a small extra charge. It is planned that a mapping to CPV will be available in the near future

### Website & forum

The website is starting to prove very popular with 180 visitors during September. Please register to use the forum to stay up to date with version releases discussions on changes and additions

### Changes & Additions

Please use the forum to make and discuss changes or send them to: [info@proclass.nationaliep.gov.uk](mailto:info@proclass.nationaliep.gov.uk)

### Help & Advice

Please contact Terry Ashmore at CIL (see below) or the Capital Ambition Efficiency Advisor Ken Cole at SPS Consultancy 02086698262

## ProClass Training Seminars.

Three very successful seminars have already been held for East and West Midlands, London and Eastern RIEPS. All these seminars were well attended and received. There are 3 more planned at present, details on right. To organise a seminar for your RIEP

or area, please contact either Terry Ashmore at CIL or Ken Cole at SPS.

### Toolkits

Every attendee of the seminars is provided with a Toolkit. This includes FAQs, Case studies,

Guides to both Real Time and Retrospective implementation and a CD with the ProClass Classification. The Toolkit information is also available from the ProClass website:

<http://proclass.nationaliep.gov.uk>