



To: APOs and CUPOs

AUD #24-46

CC: Jim Barnaby, Deputy Commissioner, State Purchasing Division
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From: Audits, State Purchasing Division

Date: January 10, 2024

Re: Audit of three-digit NIGP category code use—purchase orders (POs) issued in October 2023

Audit Summary

National Institute of Governmental Purchasing (NIGP) codes are a universal taxonomy for identifying commodities and services in procurement systems. The State of Georgia uses the NIGP five-digit item code as a commodity code to classify products and services on POs.

There were no PO lines for Team Georgia Marketplace™ (TGM) entities where a three-digit NIGP category code was used. For University System of Georgia (USG) entities, there were \$1.2 million in PO lines, where a three-digit NIGP category code was used.

Audit Objectives

1. Determine how many PO lines contained a three-digit NIGP category code.
2. Determine which state entities issued PO lines with three-digit NIGP category codes.

The audit scope and methodology used in this audit are summarized in **Appendix A**.

Audit Objective: Three-digit NIGP category code

For TGM entities, we found no instances where a three-digit NIGP category code was used. The three-digit NIGP categories end in “00” and only provide a general description of what was purchased. Section 6.3.1 of the Georgia Procurement Manual (GPM) requires a PO must contain a commodity code. The commodity codes used by the State of Georgia are five-digit NIGP codes.

For USG entities, we found 3,004 PO lines on 1,480 POs where a three-digit NIGP category code was used. These PO lines totaled \$1.3 million. USG entities used 97 three-digit NIGP category codes. The top six three-digit NIGP category codes by PO amount are summarized in **Table 1**. These six three-digit NIGP category codes accounted for 60% of the \$1.3 million in PO lines with three-digit NIGP category codes.

Table 1

**Three-digit NIGP Category Codes Used
(USG) October 2023**

NIGP Code	NIGP Code Description	PO Amount	Number of PO Lines
20400	Computer Hardware and Peripherals for Microcomputers	\$301,825	280
49000	Laboratory Equipment, Accessories and Supplies: General Analytical and Research for Nuclear, Optical, and Physical	\$153,915	17
96900	Professional Services, Higher Education	\$106,304	2
17500	Chemical Laboratory Equipment and Supplies	\$73,374	301
18000	Chemical Raw Materials	\$67,094	325
11500	Biochemicals, Research	\$57,800	197

Source: 1) BOR_OPO019D_PO_LIST_BY_BU_DTL; 2) PO queries for Georgia Institute of Technology, Georgia State University, and Augusta University; and 3) PO data provided by the University of Georgia.

Recommendations

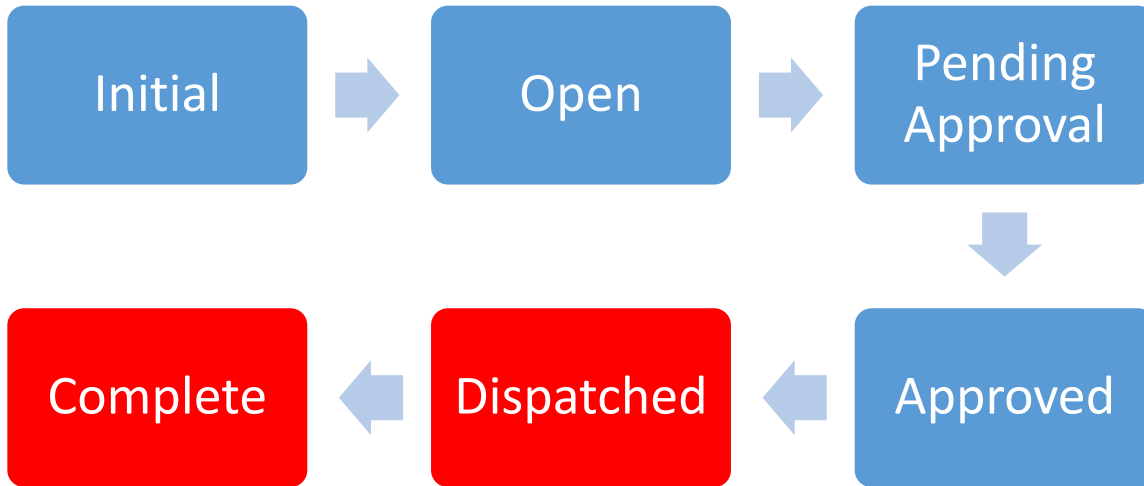
1. SPD Audits will work with the appropriate IT support staff from the Department of Administrative Services (DOAS) and the USG to review and, where necessary, correct the crosswalks used in catalogs to translate United Nations Standard Products and Services Codes® (UNSPSC) to NIGP codes. This will help to eliminate most of the system-generated 3-digit coding errors on PO lines.
2. SPD should provide a crosswalk from the most often used three-digit NIGP category codes to the five-digit codes that should be used.
3. APOs/CUPOs should review PO data from this audit at the buyer level to ensure that staff is adequately trained and, where necessary, re-trained in using NIGP codes on POs. SPD should also consider offering a stand-alone course on NIGP code use for buyers, requestors, approvers, and APOs/CUPOs.

Appendix A

Audit Scope and Methodology

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This audit is of purchase orders (POs) issued in October 2023 - POs with PO dates between October 1, 2023, through October 31, 2023. The PO dates were when the PO queries were run in November 2023. The PO queries come from different financial systems. Except for the Georgia Institute of Technology, which uses Workday, all other audited state entities use PeopleSoft for their financial system. It is not the same instance of PeopleSoft since each instance is configured differently. The objective of the audit was to audit POs issued or dispatched. Since the PO queries are run from different financial systems, the terminology used to indicate the PO status or the life cycle for POs varies. For TGM entities, the PO life cycle consists of the following steps:



Only those POs in the stage of dispatched or complete were included in this audit. Phases, before dispatched, represent the internal approval process a state entity uses before the PO is sent to the supplier. For TGM entities, this is known as dispatched. Complete is the status used when the PO is closed and can no longer be modified or used.