The National Standard Classification of Occupations (NASCO)

(Based on ISCO – 08)

1. INTRODUCTION

The National Standard Classification of Occupations (NASCO) is an adapted version to the national context of the International Classification of Occupations (ISCO) developed by the International Labour Organisation (ILO). NASCO is meant for use in the compilation, publication and analysis of occupation statistics in Mauritius.

NASCO Rev. 1 replaces the first edition of NASCO which was published in 1999.

2. BACKGROUND TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF ISCO AND NASCO

2.1 ISCO

ISCO is a tool for organizing jobs in a clearly defined set of groups and according to tasks and duties undertaken in the job. Its main aims are to provide:

- A basis for the international reporting, comparison and exchange of statistical and administrative data about occupations;
- A model for the development of national and regional classifications of occupations; and
- A system that can be used directly in countries that have not developed their own national classifications.

The first version of ISCO was published by ILO in 1958 and is known as ISCO-58. It has, since then, been revised thrice to ISCO-68, ISCO-88 and ISCO-08.

ISCO-08 is the latest version; it takes into account developments in the world of work since 1988 and makes improvements in the light of experience gained in using ISCO-88.

2.2 NASCO

The first version of NASCO was published by Statistics Mauritius, then known as Central Statistics Office, in 1999. It was an adapted version of ISCO-88.

NASCO Rev. 1 replaces the first version of NASCO and has been revised to be in line with ISCO-08.

3. UNDERSTANDING ISCO-08 and NASCO Rev.1

ISCO-08 consists of a 4-digit hierarchical coding system comprising major groups broken into sub-major groups then into minor groups and ultimately into unit groups.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification level</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Major group</td>
<td>First digit</td>
<td>Major group 2 : Professionals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-major group</td>
<td>First 2 digits</td>
<td>Sub-major group 22 : Health Professionals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor group</td>
<td>First 3 digits</td>
<td>Minor group 221 : Medical doctors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit group</td>
<td>First 4 digits</td>
<td>Unit group 2212 : Specialist medical practitioners</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NASCO Rev. 1 has been extended from ISCO-08 to a 5-digit code to enable a more detailed classification of occupations at national level. For instance, the NASCO Rev. 1 code 22122 relates to Ophthalmologists. In order to maintain data comparability, no change has been made to the classification levels in ISCO-08 except for the Unit groups 3122 and 8160 which have been replaced by Units 3125-3129 and 8161-8169 respectively. This has been done to enable detailed classification of some common occupations.