NWISP Survey – Adding New Codes – Technical Capabilities

Background

NWISP has not added new codes for many years despite changing environments and changing entitlements (e.g. violence, mental health, etc). We sent out a survey to gather information on the ability of individual WCB organizations to incorporate potential new NWISP codes.

Survey Questions

The following questions were sent to Boards and Commissions:

Question 1:	Are there any barriers for your organization to incorporate additional NWISP codes into your internal systems? If yes, what are those barriers and are they barriers your organization would be able to overcome?
Question 2:	Are there any barriers for your organization to be able to submit potential new NWISP codes in your NWISP submission? If yes, what are those barriers and are they barriers your organization would be able to overcome?
Question 3:	If your organization did incorporate additional NWISP codes, what would be the timeframe and resources involved?
Question 4:	What version of NWISP are you currently using and/or submitting to AWCBC? NWISP 2012? NWISP 2009? NWISP 2004? Are there any barriers for your organization to upgrade to future NWISP formats (for instance if we upgrade to NWISP 2017) into your internal systems? If yes, what are those barriers and are they barriers your organization would be able to overcome?
Question 5:	Please provide any other additional information you think would be relevant. We're trying to gather as much information as possible to discuss the ability to add new NWISP codes.

Overview of Responses

The majority of responses received indicated that adding new codes to the NWISP standard is feasible. The ease of changing to a new NWISP standard is dependent on the complexity of the new standard (i.e. whether conversions are necessary or whether it would be simple additions of a small amount of codes).

Responses by Question

Question 1:	Are there any barriers for your organization to incorporate additional NWISP codes into your internal systems? If yes, what are those barriers and are they barriers your organization would be able to overcome?
NL	*U/A*
PE	*U/A*
NS	No
NB	Implementing some additional codes into the existing system can be accommodated quite easily. However, it should be noted that our NWISP data has not be converted to the NWISP 2012 version (we have added new NWISP codes upon request of our internal staff but have not undertaken a complete conversion of all codes to the latest NWISP 2012 version).
QC	*U/A*
ON	No
MB	We have no barriers. As long as we have a conversion table we can make any additions.
SK	No significant barriers to adding new codes beyond the training issues for the staff doing the encoding.
AB	On a piecemeal basis, no significant barriers
BC	No
YT	*U/A*
NT/NU	No.

Question 2:	Are there any barriers for your organization to be able to submit potential new NWISP codes in your NWISP submission? If yes, what are those barriers and are they barriers your organization would be able to overcome?
NL	*U/A*
PE	*U/A*
NS	No
NB	There are no barriers that we are aware of to submit new NWISP codes.
QC	*U/A*
ON	No
MB	No barriers.
SK	Our acquired software and data storage were not built to record a versioned encoding scheme. Several potential solutions could be envisioned. One would be to get our vendor to modify the data structure and software to incorporate the version recorded with the historic data, the functionality to lookup end record versioned values on all future entries and then develop additional user documentation and training. This would be more difficult and costly as it would require third party involvement and costs as well as scheduling the changes. A second would be to establish a new encoding set and a data conversion of the existing encoding to equivalent new values. This would require a large data correction effort with some additional user training but no significant code changes. There are also a number of hybrid solutions that could be possible influenced by the uniqueness of the new encoding set and possible inclusion of the version standard type along with the code values.
AB	No significant barriers
BC	No
YT	*U/A*
NT/NU	No.

Question 3:	If your organization did incorporate additional NWISP codes, what would be the timeframe and resources involved?
NL	*U/A*
PE	*U/A*
NS	Should be doable within a month or so if relatively small set of codes.
NB	We receive requests for adding new NWISP codes on an ad hoc basis from internal staff responsible for maintaining the claim accident statistics. These requests have been small in scale and require a database resource to complete the request. It has been a minor effort due to the fact that we are only adding new codes and not reconciling or converting on a whole scale basis.
QC	*U/A*
ON	Our coding group has the capability of adding codes to our look-up tables. No IT support required.
MB	Depending on the availability of our IT department we should be able to make these additions within a couple weeks. Minimum resources are required.
SK	This is highly dependent on the type of changes being requested.
AB	Perhaps a few weeks, depending on the number of codes.
BC	Both IT and coding resources will be involved. The timeframe will depend on the complexity of the change, and how it fits in the overall schedule, given there are other changes with different levels of priorities.
YT	*U/A*
NT/NU	Depending on the volume of new codes, minutes to hours. Performed by the Data Analyst in charge of reporting NWISP.

Question 4:	What version of NWISP are you currently using and/or submitting to AWCBC? NWISP 2012? NWISP 2009? NWISP 2004? Are there any barriers for your organization to upgrade to future NWISP formats (for instance if we upgrade to NWISP 2017) into your internal systems? If yes, what are those barriers and are they barriers your organization would be able to overcome?
NL	*U/A*
PE	*U/A*
NS	NWISP 2012 I believe.

NB	We are submitting our data under NWISP version 2012 (i.e. NWISP Standard Type 'F' from the NWISP Data Submission Record Layout guide). However, in our data sources, we have a combination of NWISP versions
	
	Industry Standard is NAICS 2002
	
	Occupation Classification is NOC 1991
	
	NWISP – version 2012 and other prior versions
	
	     Part of Body
	
	     Source of Injury
	
	     Injury Event Exposure
	
	     Nature of Injury
	
	If there is a need to convert all of the NWISP codes to a single version, this could require a substantial effort if we had to manually reconcile the codes from previous versions to the new version. The effort would depend on whether there is a one-to-one correlation between the versions or if there is one-to-many or many-to-many (e.g. Code 0001 under NWISP 2004 is still Code 0001 under NWISP 2012; Code 0001 under NWISP 2004 is now two new codes under NWISP 2012; etc).

QC	*U/A*
ON	NWISP 2012
MB	NWISP 2012 - currently using and submitting. No barriers
SK	We are using NWISP 2012.
AB	NWISP 2012

Question 4:	What version of NWISP are you currently using and/or submitting to AWCBC? NWISP 2012? NWISP 2009? NWISP 2004? Are there any barriers for your organization to upgrade to future NWISP formats (for instance if we upgrade to NWISP 2017) into your internal systems? If yes, what are those barriers and are they barriers your organization would be able to overcome?
BC	NWISP 2012 No barriers
YT	*U/A*
NT/NU	Updated to 2012 recently, made it easier for future updates in the process.

Question 5:	Please provide any other additional information you think would be relevant. We're trying to gather as much information as possible to discuss the ability to add new NWISP codes.
NL	*U/A*
PE	*U/A*
NS	Response from our IT folks: WCBNS currently does not have an automated process to sync our internal NWISP codes with that of the AWCBC. Today, it would be a data log request from the Business or BI and then added manually by the Data Analysts.
	Technically, I can't see any Technical barriers if given the appropriate organizational priority, resources, technology and time.
NB	It would be beneficial to have a better understanding of the changes that have been made when a new version of the NWISP codes have been released. Identifying the additions and deletions of codes and any changes to the code descriptions would be a great benefit to us.
QC	*U/A*
ON	N/A
MB	My concern is around adding new codes in general. I would like to be a part of the conversation before any new codes are considered.
SK	N/A
AB	None
BC	N/A
YT	*U/A*
NT/NU	We add them to database tables manually. Takes no time at all.