

Customs. Managed.

Preparing to Automate: Classification

Are you convinced that automating classification is a logical step for your company but you're not sure where to start? Do you feel like it would be too much of an undertaking just to prepare your internal processes? Portorium's true end-to-end customs management solution includes getting you prepared for automation.

The automation journey

To facilitate product classification automation, Portorium takes a threefold approach: discovery, onboarding, and supporting day-to-day operations. In our standard discovery phase, we define the relevant attributes that apply to your scope of products, analyse your item master data, and streamline your processes to prepare you for automation.

However, if this information isn't readily available or it is spread out between various systems in your organisation, we take a step back to what we call pre-discovery, deep diving into your current processes so we can design a standard operating procedure (SOP) to centralise item master data and product information into a single source of truth.

The following 4 steps outline Portorium's pre-discovery phase.



The 4 steps of pre-discovery

1. Understand your system setup

First, we familiarise ourselves with your ERP/TMS/WMS system, relevant ancillary systems, and how they communicate. We look closely at item master data- where it is housed, when it is created, how it is updated, and how it flows between systems.

2. Outline the teams involved

Next, we determine who in the organisation is responsible for the creation, validation, maintenance, and distribution of item master data. During this stage, we may recommend process optimisations to improve uniformity and control.

3. Learn about your product portfolio

In this next phase, we learn about your product portfolio, looking into item master data and previously classified parts to define product groups. Combined with our knowledge of the system setup, we can now define the required data elements to establish an accurate and compliant classification methodology. We will review a sample set of previously classified items from each product group, reclassifying if necessary, to position you for automation.

4. Design the to-be situation

Design process setup | Decision tree per product group | SOP

In the last step, we combine our insights into your current setup and system design to come to a steady process that is ready for automation. An SOP will lay out the communication lines and data streams, and serve as your blueprint for automating product classification.

If not now, when? **Reach out today to get started!**