
**Banking — Banking telecommunication
messages — Business identifier code
(BIC)**

*Banque — Messages bancaires télétransmis — Code d'identification
des entreprises (BIC)*

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO 9362 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 68, *Financial services*, Subcommittee SC 7, *Core banking*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 9362:1994), which has been technically revised.

Introduction

This International Standard specifies a universal method of identifying institutions within the financial services industry, in order to facilitate automated processing of telecommunication messages in banking and related financial transaction environments. The coding system specified in this International Standard is in full conformity with ISO/IEC 6523-1 and has been proposed for registration in accordance with ISO/IEC 6523-2.

The original scope of this International Standard was limited to the identification of banks; consequently, the acronym “BIC” was used as an abbreviation for “bank identifier code”. The scope of this International Standard has since been extended, in the first place to cover all types of financial institutions, and now, in this third edition of this International Standard, to cover non-financial institutions as well. In order to avoid unnecessary costs that would have resulted from abandoning a well-known and widely-used acronym, the acronym “BIC” has been retained for the purposes of this International Standard, but is now used as an abbreviation for “business identifier code”.

Annex A outlines the operation and responsibilities of the Registration Authority, and describes the procedures for the registration of BICs and publication of these codes in directory form.

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Banking — Banking telecommunication messages — Business identifier code (BIC)

1 Scope

This International Standard specifies the elements and structure of a universal identifier code, the business identifier code (BIC), for financial and non-financial institutions and related entities, for which such an international identifier is required to facilitate automated processing of telecommunication messages in banking and related financial transaction environments.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 3166-1, *Codes for the representation of names of countries and their subdivisions — Part 1: Country codes*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1

financial institution

organization established primarily to provide financial services

NOTE Adapted from ISO 20022 Repository.

3.2

non-financial institution

organization primarily established to offer and perform services other than financial services

NOTE Adapted from ISO 20022 Repository.

4 Conventions

The following conventions are used in this International Standard:

— character representations:

- n: digits (numeric characters 0 to 9 only)
- a: letters (alphabetical characters A to Z only)
- an: letters and digits (alphanumeric without “special” characters, such as blanks, separators, punctuation)

- length indications:
 - n: fixed length

5 Structure

5.1 General

The BIC shall consist of eight (8) or eleven (11) contiguous characters, comprising the first three or all four of the following four components:

- INSTITUTION CODE (IIII)
- COUNTRY CODE (CC)
- LOCATION CODE (LL)
- BRANCH CODE (BBB)

The institution code, country code and location code shall be mandatory. The branch code shall be optional (see 5.5).

The format for the BIC is as follows:

<u>4</u> an	<u>2</u> a	<u>2</u> an	<u>3</u> an
IIII	CC	LL	BBB

5.2 Institution code

The institution code shall be assigned by the Registration Authority of this International Standard. The mandate and other responsibilities of this Registration Authority are outlined in Annex A.

The institution code shall unambiguously identify the institution within the financial services industry. Any branch of that institution shall also be represented by the same institution code independent of the geographic location.

The format for the institution code is as follows: 4an

5.3 Country code

The appropriate two-letter country code specified in ISO 3166-1 shall be used to identify the country in which the institution is located.

The format for the country code is as follows: 2a

5.4 Location code

5.4.1 For entities connected to the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT), the location code shall be assigned by the Registration Authority of this International Standard (see Annex A).

The location code shall identify the location of the institution within the specified country.

The format for the location code for entities connected to SWIFT is as follows: 2an

NOTE The digit 0 (zero) is not permitted. The digit 1 (one) is not permitted in the second position.

5.4.2 For entities not connected to SWIFT, the location code shall be assigned by the Registration Authority. The first position of the code shall identify a location assigned by the Registration Authority, and the second position of the code shall consist of the digit 1 (one) to designate that the entity is not connected to SWIFT.

The format for the location code for entities not connected to SWIFT is as follows: 1an1

The digit 0 (zero) is not permitted.

5.5 Branch code

The branch code is optional and may be used to identify a specific branch or department of the institution that needs to be identified in the financial services industry.

The format for the branch code is as follows:

3an

The alpha character "X" is not permitted.

5.6 Examples

Examples of BICs are given below.

EXAMPLE 1	For SWIFT user not using a branch code:	CAMIFRPP
EXAMPLE 2	For SWIFT user using a branch code:	BKKBKUS335AB
EXAMPLE 3	For an institution not connected to SWIFT and not using a branch code:	ABNKGB21
EXAMPLE 4	For an institution not connected to SWIFT using a branch code:	BNKAITM1ALE

6 International directory of BICs

Copies of the international directory of BICs are available from the Registration Authority (see Annex A).

Annex A (normative)

Operation and responsibilities of the Registration Authority

A.1 Mandate

The ISO Council has designated the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication SCRL (SWIFT)¹⁾ as the Registration Authority for this International Standard.

A.2 General responsibilities

The BIC consists of an institution code, a country code, a location code and an optional branch code. The four (4) character institution code is assigned by the Registration Authority. The country code is taken from ISO 3166-1. The location code is allocated by the Registration Authority.

The Registration Authority uses the institution code and, by combining it with the appropriate country code(s), location code(s) and branch code(s), creates one or more BICs which unambiguously identify the institution, or branches or departments of the institution.

Requests for additional information on BICs, applications, or nominations for BICs should be sent to the Registration Authority.

A.3 BIC allocation

Institutions in the financial services industry and non-financial institutions known to be active in international banking and commerce can apply to the Registration Authority for a BIC if such an international identifier is required to facilitate automated processing of telecommunication messages in banking and related financial transaction environments. The Registration Authority may refer to ISO/TC 68/SC 7 to establish whether an application should, for any reason, be considered frivolous or unreasonable.

1) At the time of publication of this International Standard, the Registration Authority is held by:

BIC Registration Authority
SWIFT SCRL
Avenue Adele, 1
B-1310 LA HULPE
Belgium
Telephone: + 32 2 655 3111
Website: <http://www.swift.com/>
Email: <mailto:BIC@swift.com>

ISO maintains an online listing of Maintenance Agencies and Registration Authorities at <http://www.iso.org/rama>. Users are encouraged to consult this listing for the most up-to-date information concerning Maintenance Agencies and Registration Authorities.

A.4 International directory of BICs

A.4.1 Description

The international directory of BICs, if provided in paper form, consists of at least two sections:

- a) a geographic section containing a listing of BICs by country, city within country, and entity name within city, each in alphabetical order;
- b) an address section containing a listing of the BICs in alphabetic order, and the entity to which it is assigned.

The international directory of BICs identifies whether the institution is financial or non-financial, based on information supplied by the applicant.

A.4.2 Publication

The international directory of BICs is published and updated periodically, but at least once per month. At its discretion, the Registration Authority may provide the directory under various paper-based or electronic formats, as a component of its existing SWIFT directory or as a separately published directory, provided that the directory is available to all interested parties at reasonable cost.

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