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

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

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Published in Switzerland

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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.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: [Foreword - Supplementary information](#)

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 68, *Financial Services*, Subcommittee SC 7, *Core Banking*.

This fourth edition cancels and replaces the third edition (ISO 9362:2009), 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 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 in the 2009 edition of this International Standard, to cover non-financial institutions as well.

This new edition will take into account recent market evolution and address the need to ensure the standard is neutral and agnostic from any network.

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”.

The implementation of this International Standard will be completed by the Registration Authority (RA) by the end of January 2015. To mitigate for the operational impacts on the users of this International Standard, the RA will exceptionally continue to respect the BIC1 convention (as defined in ISO 9362:2009) for SWIFTNet FIN connectivity as part of this International Standard Registration Procedures during a transition period that will end in November 2018.

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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, for which such an international identifier is required to facilitate automated processing of information for financial services.

The BIC is used for addressing messages, routing business transactions and identifying business parties.

This International Standard applies to organizations and excludes individual persons.

2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. 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 that is principally engaged in financial intermediation and/or in auxiliary financial activities

Note 1 to entry: Typically, the activity of a financial institution is the acquisition of financial assets while incurring liabilities on its own account by engaging in financial transactions in a market; for the purposes of providing payment, securities, banking, financial, insurance, or investment services or activities. A financial organization shall either be the following:

- a) (i) licensed by or (ii) authorized by or (iii) registered with a Financial Market Regulator;
- b) is subject to supervision by a Financial Market Regulator;
- c) an international, supranational, intergovernmental, or national governmental body, or institution that as a main activity engages in payment, securities, banking, financial, insurance, or investment services or activities (including central banks).

3.2

non-financial institution

organization that does not meet the criteria defined in [3.1](#), primarily established to offer goods or perform services other than financial services

Note 1 to entry: Some non-financial institutions may have secondary financial activities such as providing consumer credit to their customers, or treasury functions. However, such corporations will be classified on the basis of their main activity in the non-financial sector.

3.3

business party

financial or non-financial institution in a specific country

**3.4
branch**

organizational unit of the business party, such as a specific location, department, or service of the business party in the country where it is located

Note 1 to entry: The business party may have several locations, departments, services, or other organizational units that it wants to identify more specifically.

**3.5
full legal name**

official name of the organization as recorded in the registry where the organization is located (e.g. corporate name approved under the law of any jurisdiction)

**3.6
registered address**
address related to the full legal name

**3.7
operational address**

main address of the organization, or its organizational unit, where it is generally known to be conducting business or where its executive management is located (also known as business address)

4 Conventions

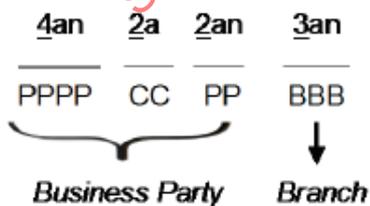
The following conventions are used in this International Standard:

- 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 BIC structure

5.1 Format of the BIC

The format of the BIC is given below:



5.2 Element description

No.	Element	Description	Format	Rule
1	BIC	Business identifier code		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — 8 characters are used for a BIC when only the element business party is applied — 11 characters are used for a BIC when both elements business party and branch are applied
1.1	Business party identifier	First element of the BIC used to identify a business party in a country		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Mandatory element of the BIC — Consists of eight (8) contiguous characters — The element is assigned by the Registration Authority of this International Standard
1.1.1	Party prefix	Element of the business party identifier used together with the party suffix to identify a business party	4an	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Consists of four (4) contiguous characters
1.1.2	Country code	Element of the Business Party identifier which is used to identify the country where the Business Party is located.	2a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The appropriate two-letter country code specified in ISO 3166-1 is used to identify the country
1.1.3	Party suffix	Element of the Business Party identifier used together with the party prefix to identify a Business Party	2an	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Consists of two (2) contiguous characters
1.2	Branch identifier	Second element of the BIC used for identifying an organizational unit of a business party such as a specific location, department, service, or unit of the business party within the same country	3an	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Optional element of the BIC — Consists of three (3) contiguous characters — A business party can have several assigned branch elements which are used to identify several locations, departments, services, or units of the same business party — The element is assigned by the Registration Authority of this International Standard at the request of the business party

5.3 BIC examples

Examples of BICs are given below.

EXAMPLE 1 For a BIC without a branch identifier: ABCDFRPP

EXAMPLE 2 For a BIC with a branch identifier: WG11US335AB

6 BIC data record

The BIC data record defines the BIC registry entry with its minimal attributes.