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

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



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ISO copyright office
Case postale 56 • CH-1211 Geneva 20
Tel. + 41 22 749 01 11
Fax + 41 22 749 09 47
E-mail copyright@iso.org
Web www.iso.org

Published in Switzerland

Contents

Page

Foreword	iv
Introduction	v
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Terms and definitions	1
4 Conventions	2
5 BIC structure	2
5.1 Format of the BIC.....	2
5.2 Element description.....	3
5.3 BIC examples.....	3
6 BIC data record	3
7 Responsibilities	4
8 International directory of BICs	4

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.

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