
**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.

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 of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 68, *Financial Services*, Subcommittee SC 8, *Reference data for financial services*.

This fifth edition cancels and replaces the fourth edition (ISO 9362:2014), of which it constitutes a minor revision. The changes are as follows:

- Foreword: SC 7 has been replaced with SC 8;
- Introduction: the reference to the 2015/2018 implementation phase has been adjusted;
- [3.2](#) and [3.5](#): definitions revised;
- the style of the BIC structure in [Clauses 4](#) and [5](#) has been aligned with the style used in the ISO 17442 series;
- minor editorial changes have been made.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Introduction

This document 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 implementation of this document was completed by the Registration Authority (RA), while taking into account the market evolution and the need to ensure the document was neutral and agnostic from any network.

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

1 Scope

This document 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 document applies to organizations and excludes individual persons.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements 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 code*

3 Terms and definitions

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

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>

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 be:

- a) licensed by, authorized by or registered with a financial market regulator;
- b) 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 is primarily established to offer goods or perform services other than financial services and that does not meet the criteria of a *financial institution* (3.1)

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* (3.2) in a specific country

**3.4
branch**
organizational unit of the *business party* (3.3), 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

**3.6
registered address**
address related to the *full legal name* (3.5)

**3.7
operational address**
business 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

4 Conventions

The following conventions are used in this document:

- a) character representations:
 - a: upper-case letters (alphabetical characters A to Z only);
 - n: digits (numeric characters 0 to 9 only);
 - c: upper-case alphanumeric characters (A to Z and 0 to 9 only).
- b) length indications:
 - nn!: fixed length;
 - nn: maximum length.

5 BIC structure

5.1 Format and length of the BIC

The format of the BIC is:

- 4!c2!a2!c

or

— 4!c2!a2!c3!c

The BIC consists of 8 alphanumeric characters when only the element business party is applied.

or

The BIC consists of 11 alphanumeric characters when both elements business party and branch are applied.

5.2 Element description

Element	Description	Format	Rule
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 document
Party prefix	Element of the business party identifier used together with the party suffix to identify a business party	4!c	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Consists of four (4) contiguous characters
Country code	Element of the business party identifier which is used to identify the country where the business party is located	2!a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The appropriate two-letter country code specified in ISO 3166-1 is used to identify the country
Party suffix	Element of the business party identifier used together with the party prefix to identify a business party	2!c	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Consists of two (2) contiguous characters
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	3!c	<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 document at the request of the business party

5.3 BIC examples

Examples of BICs:

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.

The business party element shall include at least the following data attributes:

— The full legal name of the business party – **mandatory attribute**;