INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

**ISO
9362**

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION
ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DE NORMALISATION
МЕЖДУНАРОДНАЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ ПО СТАНДАРТИЗАЦИИ

Banking — Banking telecommunication messages — Bank identifier codes

Banques — Messages bancaires télétransmis — Code d'identification des banques

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.

Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for approval before their acceptance as International Standards by the ISO Council. They are approved in accordance with ISO procedures requiring at least 75 % approval by the member bodies voting.

International Standard ISO 9362 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 68, *Banking and related financial services.*

Users should note that all International Standards undergo revision from time to time and that any reference made herein to any other International Standard implies its latest edition, unless otherwise stated.

Banking — Banking telecommunication messages — Bank identifier codes

0 Introduction

In the banking environment, a number of telecommunication services have defined coding methods for identifying financial institutions to facilitate automated processing. It is recognized that there is a need for harmonization in this area, particularly as many financial institutions have more than one code assigned while others have no codes assigned.

This International Standard specifies a universal method of identifying financial institutions 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 fully in conformity with ISO 6523 and has been proposed for registration in accordance with ISO 6523.

The annex to this International Standard describes the procedures for the registration of Bank Identifier Codes (BICs) and publication of these codes in directory form. The annex does not form part of this International Standard.

1 Scope and field of application

This International Standard specifies the elements and structure of a universal Bank Identifier Code (BIC) for use in automated processing in the banking and ralated financial environments.

2 References

ISO 3166, *Code for the representation of countries.*

ISO 6523, *Data interchange — Structure for identification of organizations.*

S.W.I.F.T. *User Handbook.*

3 Conventions

Conventions for data element representation:

Character representations

   n: digits

   a: letters

   a̸: letters and digits

Length indications

   <u>n</u>: fixed length

   n: maximum length

4 Structure

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

   BANK CODE

   COUNTRY CODE

   LOCATION CODE

   BRANCH CODE

The bank code, country code and location code shall be mandatory. The branch code shall be optional for S.W.I.F.T. members/submembers but shall be mandatory for non S.W.I.F.T. members/submembers (see 4.4).

The format for BIC is:

<u>4a</u>	<u>2a</u>	<u>2a̸</u>	<u>3a̸</u>
BBBB	CC	LL	AAA

4.1 Bank code

The bank code shall be assigned by the Registration Authority and shall unambiguously identify the financial institution. Any branch of that financial institution shall also be represented by the same bank code independent of the geographic location.

Format: 4a

4.2 Country code

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

Format: 2a

4.3 Location code

The location code shall be assigned by the Registration Authority and shall identify the location of the financial institution within the specified country.

Format: 2a (The digits 0 and 1 are not permitted.)

4.4 Branch code

This International Standard recognizes two types of branch codes:

a) an optional three character code identifying a specific branch, legal entity or department of a S.W.I.F.T. member/submember may be allocated to a financial institution which is a S.W.I.F.T. member/submember.

Format: 3a

Content: see S.W.I.F.T. User Handbook.

b) in all other cases representing exceptions to a) a constant three (3) letter code "BIC" shall be allocated.

Format: 3a

Content: BIC (mandatory)

4.5 Examples

The following are examples of Bank Identifier codes:

for S.W.I.F.T. member/submember not using a branch code	CAMIFRPP
for S.W.I.F.T. member/submember using a branch code	BKBKUS335AB
for all other cases	BANKJPJTBIC

5 Registration Authority

The ISO Council has, in accordance with the provisions of annex 1F of the Directives for the technical work of ISO, designated the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication S.C. (S.W.I.F.T.) as the Registration Authority for this International Standard.

6 International directory

Copies of the International directory of bank identifiers codes are available from the Secretariat of the Registration Authority, the ISO Central Secretariat at the addresses below and from ISO member bodies and S.W.I.F.T. outlets, addresses of which may be obtained either from the ISO Central Secretariat or S.W.I.F.T.

Registration Authority for ISO 9362
c/o Society for Worldwide Interbank
  Financial Telecommunication S.C.
81, avenue Ernest Solvay
B-1310 LA HULPE
Belgium

ISO Central Secretariat
1, rue de Varembé
CH-1211 GENEVA 20
Switzerland

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Annex

Registration Authority Responsibilities

(This annex does not form part of the standard.)

A.1 General

The Bank Identifier Code consists of a bank code, a country code, location code and an optional branch code. The four (4) character bank code is chosen by the financial institution. The country code is taken from ISO 3166. The location code is chosen by the Registration Authority. The alpha characters "BIC" shall constitute the branch code except when the institution or branch being identified is a S.W.I.F.T. member or submember.

The Registration Authority uses the bank code chosen by the financial institution and by combining it with the appropriate country codes, location codes and branch codes, creates one or more Bank Identifier Codes which unambiguously identify the financial institution or branches of the institution.

The Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (S.W.I.F.T.) has been designated by the ISO Council to serve as Registration Authority for the Bank Identifier Codes.

Requests for additional information on Bank Identifier Codes, applications, or nominations for Bank Identifier Codes should be sent to

> Bank Identifier Code Registrar
> c/o S.W.I.F.T.
> 81, avenue Ernest Solvay
> B-1310 La Hulpe
> Belgium

A.2 Allocation process

A.2.1 Initial creation of Bank Identifier Code file

Financial institutions known to be active in international banking and commerce will be contacted by the Registration Authority regarding the allocation of Bank Identifier Codes.

A.2.1.1 S.W.I.F.T. members

A letter will be sent to S.W.I.F.T. member institutions asking them to identify their branches or offices, not connected to S.W.I.F.T., to which Bank Identifier Codes (using the letters "BIC" as the branch code) should be assigned. Based on the responses, appropriate Bank Identifier Codes will be assigned by the Registration Authority, using the existing head office bank code, the applicable country code and location code and "BIC" as the branch code.

A.2.1.2 Allocation to other financial institutions

The selection of other financial institutions which are potential candidates for identification by Bank Identifier Codes will be made from the files of major financial telecommunication services. A letter will be sent to the head office of each selected institution explaining the purpose of the Bank Identifier Code and providing three possible bank codes which could serve to unambiguously identify that financial institution.

The financial institution may then select one of the three bank codes by returning a letter to the Registration Authority. A financial institution may choose not to be allocated a BIC in which case no reference to that financial institution will occur in the directory.

If a financial institution has not selected a bank code after two months, during which time a reminder will be sent, one of the three bank codes originally generated will be chosen by the Registration Authority and the financial institution will be informed of the bank code that has been allocated.

A.2.3 Allocation to other (S.W.I.F.T. non-member) financial institution branches

Head offices of non-S.W.I.F.T. member financial institutions will also be asked to list those branches they have selected for allocation of BICs. Based on this, the Registration Authority will assign the appropriate codes using the head office bank code and applicable country and location codes.

They will be requested to select only those branches which are active in international banking and commerce.

The relationship between a financial institution and its branches will be accepted from the head office declaration.

A.3 Application or nominations

The Registration Authority will accept and process applications from financial institutions seeking assignment of a bank identifier code to the applicant institution and its branches or to another financial institution and its branches.

In this case, the Registration Authority will follow the procedure described above for the selection of a bank code, listing of branches to which Bank Identifier Codes should be assigned and the actual assignment of Bank Identifier Codes. A financial institution which has been nominated for assignment of a Bank Identifier Code may chose not to have a Bank Identifier Code allocated to it. In which case no codes will be assigned, and no references to that institution will appear in the directory.

A.4 Designated national entities

A Designated National Entity (DNE) will be identified in each country by the Registration Authority. This DNE will be advised of the bank codes chosen by or assigned to the financial institutions in that country.

A.5 Directory of Bank Identifier Codes

A.5.1 Description

The Bank Identifier Code directory will consist of two sections:

a) a geographic section containing a listing of bank identifier codes by country, city within country, and bank name with city, each in alphabetic order.

b) an address section containing a listing of the Bank Identifier Codes in alphabetic order and the financial institution or branch to which it is assigned.

A.5.2 Publication

This directory will be published and updated periodically, but at least once per year. At its option, the Registration Authority may provide the directory as a component of its existing S.W.I.F.T. Directory or as a separately published directory provided that the directory is available to all interested parties at reasonable cost.

ISO 9362:1987
https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/768acbca-0ee9-403d-ae84-
6ffc51d0c272/iso-9362-1987

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