INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

**ISO
9362**

Banking — Banking telecommunication messages — Bank identifier codes

Banque — 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. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

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.

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

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 9362:1987), of which it constitutes a technical revision.

Annexes A and B of this International Standard are for information only.

Introduction

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

This International Standard specifies a universal method of identifying institutions in 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 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.

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Banking — Banking telecommunication messages — Bank identifier codes

1 Scope

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

2 Normative reference

The following standard contains provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provision of this International Standard. At the time of publication, the edition indicated was valid. All standards are subject to revision, and parties to agreements based on this International Standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent edition of the standard indicated below. Members of IEC and ISO maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

ISO 3166:1993, *Codes for the representation of names of countries.*

3 Conventions

Conventions for data element representation:

Character representations

> n: digits (numeric characters 0 to 9 only)
> a: letters (alphabetical characters A to Z only)
> an: letters and digits (alpha/numeric without "special" characters such as blanks, separators, punctuation etc.)

Length indications

> n: fixed 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 (see 4.4).

The format for BIC is:

$$\underline{4}an \quad \underline{2}a \quad \underline{2}an \quad \underline{3}an$$

BBBB CC LL AAA

4.1 Bank code

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

Format: $\underline{4}$an

4.2 Country code

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

Format: $\underline{2}$a

4.3 Location code

For entities connected to S.W.I.F.T., the location code shall be assigned by the Registration Authority and shall identify the location of the institution within the specified country.

Format: 2an (The digit 0 (zero) is not permitted. The digit 1 (one) is not permitted in the second position.)

For entities not connected to S.W.I.F.T., the location code shall be assigned by the Registration Authority. The first position of the code shall identify a location which will be assigned by the Registration Authority and the second position of the code will consist of the digit 1 (one) to designate that the entity is not connected to S.W.I.F.T.

Format: 1an1 (The digit 0 (zero) is not permitted.)

4.4 Branch code

The branch code is optional and may be used to identify a specific branch, legal entity, or department of the institution in the financial services industry.

Format: 3an (The alpha character "x" is not permitted.)

4.5 Examples

The following are examples of Bank identifier codes:

for S.W.I.F.T.
user not using
a branch code   CAMIFRPP

for S.W.I.F.T.   BKBKUS335AB
user using a
branch code

for an institution in the   ABNKGB21
financial services industry
not connected to S.W.I.F.T.
and not using a branch code

for an institution in the   BNKAITM1ALE
financial services industry
not connected to S.W.I.F.T.
using a branch code

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
Society for Worldwide Interbank
Financial Telecommunication S.C.
Avenue Adèle, 1
B-1310 LA HULPE
Belgium

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

Annex A
(informative)
Registration Authority responsibilities

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 assigned by the Registration Authority. The country code is taken from ISO 3166. The location code is allocated by the Registration Authority.

The Registration Authority uses the bank code and by combining it with the appropriate country code(s), location code(s) and branch code(s), creates one or more Bank Identifier Codes which unambiguously identify the institution or branches, legal entities, or departments 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 Society for Worldwide Interbank
> Financial Telecommunication s.c.
> Avenue Adèle, 1
> B-1310 LA HULPE
> Belgium

A.2 Bank identifier code allocation

Institutions in the financial services industry, known to be active in international banking and in commerce, will be contacted by the Registration Authority regarding the allocation of Bank Identifier Codes or can apply to the Registration Authority for a Bank Identifier Code.

A.3 Directory of bank identifier codes

A.3.1 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 entity name with city, each in alphabetical order.

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

A.3.2 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.

Annex B
(informative)
Bibliography

ISO 6523:1984, *Data interchange – Structures for identification of organizations.*

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

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(standards.iteh.ai)

ISO 9362:1994
https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/b4c17f34-e5f3-4727-a4d7-
2378ce00ebe3/iso-9362-1994

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