



Messaging

BICPlusIBAN Directory

# Technical Specifications

These technical specifications provide detailed information about the BICPlusIBAN Directory. They include descriptions of records, fields, and flags in the downloadable files.

26 February 2009

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# Preface

## Introduction

The BICPlusIBAN is a SWIFTDirectory that lists institution identifiers recognised by the financial industry, for example, Bank Identifier Codes, CHIPS UIDs, national clearing codes, and IBAN-related information. It also provides the names and addresses of the corresponding entities.

The BICPlusIBAN is used to identify correspondents and counterparties accurately, and to allocate the correct code when sending messages, thus improving straight-through processing (STP). Initiators of cross-border payments within Europe are required to submit the BIC and IBAN codes to the receiver to benefit from reduced payment transactions charges.

The file is produced by merging and integrating information coming from different data files of national and international (clearing) codes, and complemented by data directly collected from the Financial Institutions.

## Purpose

Worldwide related:

1. Translate beneficiary bank's BIC into national (clearing, sort) code
2. Show banks' participation in RTGS systems
3. Show banks'details (name, address and so on)

SEPA related:

1. Derive the BIC from the IBAN, if missing
2. Validate IBANs and BICs
3. Validate IBAN-BIC combinations in payments

## Usage

The BICPlusIBAN Directory can be integrated with your applications, or it can be used as a desktop directory for end-users using the SWIFT software BIC Enquiry Tool (BET).

The BET is freely available to all subscribers to the new SEPA directories.

## Significant changes in this release

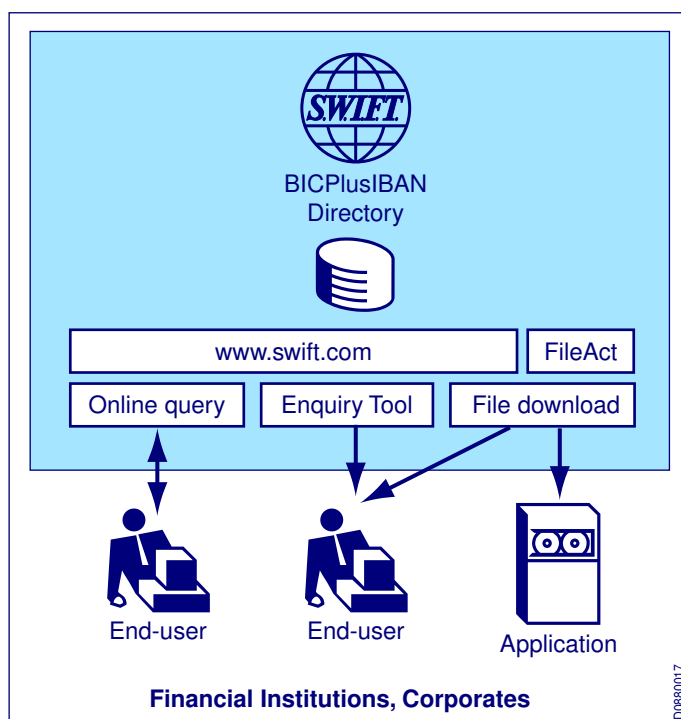
The following table lists all significant changes to the content of the BICPlus IBAN Directory since the July 2008 release. This table does not include editorial changes that SWIFT may have made to improve the usability and comprehension of the document.

<b>New information</b>	<b>Location</b>
Examples of Record Changes between Publications	"Examples of Record Changes between Publications" on page 47
Frequently Asked Questions about Modification flags	"Frequently Asked Questions about Modification Flags" on page 52
<b>Updated information</b>	<b>Location</b>
FR	"IBAN Country Codes and BBANs" on page 23

# 1 File Download

The BICPlusIBAN files are available as download packages. You can download BICPlusIBAN:

- from [www.swift.com](http://www.swift.com), over the Internet: browse to the **Directory downloads** section in **Solutions > Messaging > Directories**.
- From the SWIFTNet Portal, over SWIFTNet (using Browse, and Alliance WebStation or Starter Set): for more information about SWIFTNet Portal, see the SWIFTNet Portal User Guide, available on [www.swift.com](http://www.swift.com) > **Support > Documentation**.



## Download automation

SWIFT now supports the automated download of BICPlusIBAN files from [www.swift.com](http://www.swift.com).

From 2009, BICPlusIBAN files will also be distributed over FileAct.

## 2 Data Sources

### Introduction

Data is collected monthly or real time from three different sources:

- International directory providers
- National directory providers
- Financial Institutions

### 2.1 International Directories

Source country	Provider	Directory code
BE	SWIFT scrI (BIC Directory)	BIC
US	New York Clearing House (Clearing House Interbank Payment Systems)	CHIPS

### 2.2 National Directories

National data providers, such as central banks, banking associations and automated clearing houses, provide SWIFT with lists of National IDs of financial institutions, and in some cases combined with the corresponding account servicing BIC.

BICPlusIBAN Directory contains the National IDs of the following countries:

Source country	Provider (Directory)	Directory code
AL	Bank of Albania	AL
AT	Oesterreichische Nationalbank (Bankenstammdaten)	BSD
AU	Australian Payments Clearing Association	BSB
BA	Central Bank of Bosnia and Herzegovina	BA
BE	Belgian Banker's Association - Febelfin	BE
BG	Bulgarian National Bank	BG
CA	Canadian Payments Association (Financial Institution File)	FIF
CH <sup>(1)</sup>	Telekurs Payserv AG	BC
CL	SBIF	CL
CY	Central Bank of Cyprus	CY
CZ	Czech National Bank	CNB
DE	Deutsche Bundesbank (Bankleitzahl)	BLZ
DK	PBS	DK
ES	CTI - Calculo y Tratamiento de la Informacion S.A (Oficinas Entidades Financieras from Spain)	OEF

Source country	Provider (Directory)	Directory code
EE	Estonian Banking Association	EE
FI	Federation of Finnish Financial Services	FI
FR <sup>(2)</sup>	Banque de France	FGD
GB <sup>(3)</sup>	BACS Limited	ISCD
GR	Hellenic Bank Association	HEBIC
HK	Hong Kong Interbank Clearing Ltd	HKBK
HR	Croatian National Bank	HR
HU	Hungarian National Bank	HUBC
IE	IPSO - Irish Payment Services Organisation Ltd	NSC
IL	BANK LEUMI LE ISRAEL B.M. (Israel Bankers Association)	ILBA
IS	Reiknistofa bankanna	IS
IT	SIA - Societa Interbancaria Per L'Automazione (Codice Aviamiento Bancario)	CAB
LT	Bank of Lithuania	LT
LU	ABBL - Association des Banques et Banquiers du Luxembourg	LU
LV	Bank of Latvia	LV
ME	SWIFT NUG/NMG for Montenegro	ME
MK	National Bank of Macedonia	MK
MT	Central Bank of Malta	MT
MU	Bank of Mauritius	MU
NO	FNH (Bankplasseregisteret)	NO
NZ	New Zealand Bankers Association	NZBA
PL	Krajowa Izba Rozliczeniowa S.A. (Numer Rozliczeniowy)	NR
PT	Banco De Portugal (Numero de Identificacao Bancaria)	NIB
RS	SWIFT NMG/NUG Chairperson for Serbia	RS
RU	Russian Central Bank	RCBIC
SA	Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA)	SA
SE	Swedish Bankers' Association	SE
SI	Banka Slovenije / Bank of Slovenia	SI
SK	National Bank of Slovakia	SK
SM	Central Bank of San Marino	CAB
TN	Tunisia's Professional Associations for Banks and Financial Institutions (APTBEF)	TN
TR	Central Bank of Turkey	TR
US	Accuity (ABA codes)	ABA

Source country	Provider (Directory)	Directory code
ZA	BANKSERV	ZACC

(1) Includes Liechtenstein.

(2) Includes French Guyana, French Polynesia, French Southern Territories, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte, Monaco, New Caledonia, Réunion, Saint Pierre et Miquelon, Wallis and Futuna Islands.

(3) Includes Gibraltar, Guernsey, Isle of Man, and Jersey.

## 2.3 Data Collected from Financial Institutions

SWIFT has opened the SWIFT Directories Update service, a secure and confidential website where financial institutions can maintain their SEPA-related data. Access to this website is open to any appointed employee of a financial institution. Users can register online and update payments-related data belonging to their financial institution. The details of the registration process are explained on [swift.com](http://swift.com) (select **Solutions > Messaging > Directories**).

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**Note** The same online interface is also available to non-SWIFT Users for registering their SEPA-related data.

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Registered users provide SWIFT with the BICs issued or used together with IBANs that are different from the account servicing BICs, such as routing BICs and processing BICs.

Registered users of the Directories Update service can also update their institution's adherence to the SEPA credit transfer and (at a later stage) direct debit schemes, their operational readiness, their participation in ACHs and CSMs. SWIFT distributes this information through the SEPA Routing Directory.

## 3 File Types in the Download Packages

### Introduction

On swift.com, in the **Solutions > Messaging > Directories**, click **BICPlusIBAN Directory**. The different files are assembled in packages. This section provides a brief explanation.

### 3.1 Folders

Folder	Files contained in the folder
Core data (BICPlusIBAN)	<p>The BICPlusIBAN directory contains the following files:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BI file (BICPlusIBAN information)</li> <li>• CU file (ISO Currency code information)</li> <li>• CT file (ISO Country information)</li> <li>• IS file (IBAN Structure information)</li> </ul> <p>These 4 files have the following file naming convention:            &lt;TAG&gt;_&lt;activation date as yyyyymmdd&gt;.TXT            Example: BI_20070804.TXT            Note that in the zipped folder it appears as Bi_20070804.txt, but when extracted it is BI_20070804.TXT.            The BI file has a delta version with the following naming convention            &lt;TAG&gt;&lt;DELTA&gt;_&lt;activation date as yyyyymmdd&gt;.TXT.            Example: BIDELTA_20070804.TXT.            In addition, a 5th file (md5 checksum) provides information to check file integrity.</p>
Other data (MOREBIC, holidays, timezones...)	Files copied from the BIC Directory product containing, for example, holidays, time zones and so on.

### 3.2 Content

#### Types of file packages

There are two types of file packages:

- **Full files**  
these files contain all data, even unchanged data relative to the previous release.
- **Delta files**  
these files contain only the changes relative to the previous release (additions, deletions, and modifications).

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**Note** SWIFT recommends applying a FULL file upload for the first new update to ensure effective database synchronisation. Subsequent updates can then be done indifferently through the FULL or DELTA files (where available).

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## 3.3 Activation

There are two dates significant to each download package:

- **Publication date**  
a package is available on the last Friday of the month before it is activated.
- **Activation date**  
the data in the package is activated on the first Saturday of the month.

Only the activation date is represented on the BIC Downloads web page.

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**Note** In the last week of each month, only the new (published, but not yet activated) package is available.

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## 3.4 Download File Format

BICPlusIBAN is offered as:

- Set of zipped text files
- Line separator: CR/LF
- Field separator: Tab character
- Character set: SWIFT II characters
- File extension: .TXT

## 3.5 Readme Folder

In the **Readme** folder you will find the following files

- **BUSINESS\_CODE.pdf**  
BIC Directory Business codes
- **GEN\_COUNTRY\_INFO.pdf**  
Geographical information
- **TECH\_SPEC\_BI.pdf**  
:BICPlusIBAN Technical Specification (this is the static information part of the product release)
- **REL\_NOTE\_BI.pdf**  
:Release Note (this is the dynamic information part of the product release)

## 4 Files

### Introduction

This section describes the record structure (fields) that can be found in the four various files:

- BI file (BICPlusIBAN information)
- IS file (IBAN structure information)
- CU file (ISO currency code information)
- CT file (ISO country information)

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**Important** The directory serves two distinct purposes:

1. **Correspondent banking that needs references to financial institutions**

The BICPlusIBAN Directory lets you looking-up national bank/branch codes of the beneficiary institutions in over 60 countries, including the ABA codes, and their BICs from over 200 countries. In addition, it contains banks' participation in RTGS systems and many other bank details such as names and addresses

2. **SEPA and cross-border payments that needs references to IBANs and BICs**

The BICPlusIBAN Directory allows you to find the BIC of the beneficiary bank for any IBAN specified in a payment within SEPA or to a bank which country has registered an ISO IBAN structure. You can also validate the BICs and the IBANs in the payments.

In the description of the BI and IS files in the following sections, it is indicated which purpose(s) can be served by each field listed in the file (Purpose 1 = C, Purpose 2 = S).

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### 4.1 BI (BICPlusIBAN) File

This file gives information about financial institutions and their IBAN-related data.

Field	Field name	Data type	Always present	Maximum length (in char)	Description	Purpose
1	TAG	alphabetic	yes	2	Record Identifier: BI	C & S
2	MODIFICATION FLAG	alphabetic	yes	1	Modification flag: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A (addition)</li> <li>• M (modification)</li> <li>• D (deletion)</li> <li>• U (unchanged)</li> <li>• E (expired): reserved for future use</li> </ul>	C & S

Field	Field name	Data type	Always present	Maximum length (in char)	Description	Purpose
3	RECORD KEY	alpha-numeric	yes	8	The unique key of the record in the file: the key is made up of the ISO country code and a sequential number of 6 digits.	C & S
4	INSTITUTION NAME	any type	yes	105	Institution name	C & S
5	CITY HEADING	any type	yes	35	City name	C & S
6	BRANCH INFORMATION	any type	no	70	Branch information	C & S
7	BIC CODE	alpha-numeric	no	8	BIC (bank, country, and location code): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• bank code (4 char)</li> <li>• country code (2 char)</li> <li>• location code (2 char)</li> </ul> BIC CODE is the BIC related to the National ID (the account servicing institution) if matched with a national code.	C
8	BRANCH CODE	alpha-numeric	no	3	BIC (branch code) Branch code (XXX for main office) associated to BIC CODE	C
9	UNIQUE BIC CODE	alpha-numeric	no	8	BIC (bank, country, and location code): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• bank code (4 char)</li> <li>• country code (2 char)</li> <li>• location code (2 char)</li> </ul> UNIQUE BIC CODE is the BIC CODE. For search purposes, the value is unique within the active records (that is, only records with a modification flag of U, A, or M).	C
10	UNIQUE BRANCH CODE	alpha-numeric	no	3	BIC (branch code) Branch code (XXX for main office) associated to UNIQUE BIC CODE	C
11	IBAN BIC CODE	alpha-numeric	no	8	BIC (bank, country, and location code): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• bank code (4 char)</li> <li>• country code (2 char)</li> <li>• location code (2 char)</li> </ul> IBAN BIC CODE is the BIC issued together with the IBANs to the bank's clients.	S

Field	Field name	Data type	Always present	Maximum length (in char)	Description	Purpose
12	IBAN BRANCH CODE	alpha-numeric	no	3	BIC (branch code) Branch code (XXX for main office) associated to IBAN BIC CODE	S
13	ROUTING BIC CODE	alpha-numeric	no	8	BIC (bank, country, and location code): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• bank code (4 char)</li> <li>• country code (2 char)</li> <li>• location code (2 char)</li> </ul> ROUTING BIC CODE is meant for SWIFT messaging purposes. When the IBAN BIC CODE is a non-connected BIC (BIC1), the ROUTING BIC CODE is filled to provide an addressable code on the SWIFT network.	C
14	ROUTING BRANCH CODE	alpha-numeric	no	3	BIC (branch code) Branch code (XXX for main office) associated to ROUTING BIC CODE	C
15	PARENT BANK CODE	alpha-numeric	no	4	Bank code of the parent BIC <sup>(1)</sup>	S
16	COUNTRY CODE	alpha-numeric	yes	2	ISO country code of the Financial Institution	C
17	NATIONAL ID	alpha-numeric	no	15	National identifier of the bank	C
18	UNIQUE NATIONAL ID	alpha-numeric	no	15	National ID. Value is unique in the data file per COUNTRY CODE (for search purposes). The value is unique within the active records (that is, only records with a modification flag of U, A, or M).	C
19	IBAN COUNTRY CODE	alpha-numeric	no	2	ISO country code prefix of the IBAN that the bank issues	S
20	IBAN NATIONAL ID	alpha-numeric	no	15	The National ID as included in the IBAN <sup>(2)</sup>	S
21	UNIQUE IBAN NATIONAL ID	alpha-numeric	no	15	IBAN National ID. For search purposes, value is unique in the data file per IBAN COUNTRY CODE The value is unique within the active records (that is, only records with a modification flag of U, A, or M). Please see the table in "IBAN Country Codes and BBANs" for the differences.	S

Field	Field name	Data type	Always present	Maximum length (in char)	Description	Purpose
22	OTHER NATIONAL ID 1	alpha-numeric	no	17	<p>For some countries (for example: Slovakia), 2 types of national ID co-exist; the "Other National ID" fields can take care of these special cases.</p> <p>Furthermore, banks can obtain foreign national IDs, even when they are not physically located in that foreign country. Therefore, provision is made in the BICPlusIBAN to include National IDs for countries other than the country of residence. For example, Lloyds Bank London can have a BLZ number. In this case, for the corresponding record in the BICPlusIBAN, a field National ID is filled with the appropriate BSC code.</p> <p>An "Other National ID" field will contain DE for Germany, and the appropriate BLZ number. If available for the corresponding National ID, the Special Code is appended after National ID.</p>	C
23	OTHER NATIONAL ID 2	alpha-numeric	no	17		C
24	CHIPS UID	numeric	no	6	CHIPS Universal ID for the financial institution	C
25	SUBTYPE INDICATOR	any type	no	4	<p>Type of financial institution. For example: a bank or a broker.</p> <p>See the <i>BIC Directory Business Codes</i> for a complete list of subtype indicators and their definitions.</p>	C
26	SERVICE CODES	any type	no	60	<p>Service codes: value added services that the financial institution has subscribed to. For example: RTGSplus in Germany, BIREL in Italy.</p> <p>A plus sign (+) as the third character indicates another participant of this service.</p> <p>See the <i>BIC Directory Business Codes</i> for a complete list of service codes.</p> <p>Positions (20 x 3 char, there are no spaces between the codes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1-48: can contain up to 16 three-character service codes in alphabetical order</li> <li>• 49-51: can contain the preferred service code. If not used, they are left blank</li> </ul>	C

Field	Field name	Data type	Always present	Maximum length (in char)	Description	Purpose
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>52-60: are reserved for future use</li> </ul>	
27	BRANCH QUALIFIER	any type	no	35	<p>BIC branch qualifiers (see the <i>BIC Directory Business Codes</i> for a complete list of the branch qualifiers and their definitions). For example: ADM = Administration, BKO = Back office.</p> <p>Positions (There are no spaces between the codes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1-18: can contain up to 6 three-character branch qualifiers in alphabetic order</li> <li>19-35: are unused and left empty.</li> </ul>	C
28	SPECIAL CODE	alpha-numeric	no	6	Specific information (Special Code) from the National record for the financial institution (for a list, see "Special Code Field").	C
29	PHYSICAL ADDRESS 1	any type	no	35	Physical address (part 1 to 4)	C & S
30	PHYSICAL ADDRESS 2	any type	no	35	<p>Where possible, physical address fields are formatted to show the following logical groups of information, in the following sequence (each logical group is delimited by a ":"):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contact Person:</li> <li>Building, Floor, Apartment:</li> <li>Street Number, Street Name, Street Cardinal Point:</li> <li>Second Street Number, Second Street Number, Second Street Cardinal Point</li> </ul> <p>See also "Text Fields".</p>	C & S
31	PHYSICAL ADDRESS 3	any type	no	35		C & S
32	PHYSICAL ADDRESS 4	any type	no	35		C & S
33	ZIP CODE	any type	no	15		Zip code
34	LOCATION	any type	no	90	<p>Location</p> <p>Where possible, the location field is formatted to show the following logical groups of information, in this sequence: "Suburb, City, Region, State".</p>	C & S
35	COUNTRY NAME	any type	yes	70	Country name	C & S
36	POB NUMBER	any type	no	35	POB number	C & S

Field	Field name	Data type	Always present	Maximum length (in char)	Description	Purpose
37	POB ZIP CODE	any type	no	15	POB zip code	C & S
38	POB LOCATION	any type	no	90	POB location	C & S
39	POB COUNTRY NAME	any type	no	70	POB country name	C & S
40	NATIONAL ID EXPIRY DATE	date	no	8	Expiry Date: the date on which the national ID has been removed by the national authority. This field is reserved for future use.	S
41	UPDATE DATE <sup>(3)</sup>	date	no	8	The date on which a BI record was last updated	C & S

(1) This field contains the first 4 characters of the BIC CODE of the parent institution (or if not available, of the IBAN BIC CODE).

(2) IBAN National ID can slightly differ from the Bank and Branch identifiers as defined in the ISO13616 IBAN structure. Please see the table in "IBAN Country Codes and BBANs" for the differences.

(3) When a record is marked for deletion (Modification flag "D"), the UPDATE DATE is not updated. The record keeps the UPDATE DATE on which the BI record was last updated.

The table in "Cross-references between EPC and SWIFT Field Names" contains the cross-reference between field names assigned by the EPC (According to EPC148/06: "Statement of Principles and functional requirements for an IBAN / BIC database"), and the field names used in the BICPlusIBAN BI data file.

## 4.2 IS (IBAN Structure) File

This file gives information about the IBAN structure applicable in the countries.

The IS file must be used together with the BI file to derive a BIC from an IBAN or validate an IBAN/ BIC combination. See "Data Dictionary" for information about how to use it.

Field	Field name	Data type	Always present	Maximum length (in char)	Description	Purpose	Example for Bulgaria
1	TAG	alphabetic	yes	2	Record Identifier: IS	S	IS
2	MODIFICATION FLAG	alphabetic	yes	1	Modification flag: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A (addition)</li> <li>M (modification)</li> <li>D (deletion)</li> <li>U (unchanged)</li> </ul>	S	U
3	IBAN COUNTRY CODE	alpha-numeric	yes	2	ISO country code prefix in the IBAN	S	BG
4	IBAN COUNTRY CODE POSITION	numeric	yes	2	Start position of the country code in IBAN	S	1

Field	Field name	Data type	Always present	Maximum length (in char)	Description	Purpose	Example for Bulgaria
5	IBAN COUNTRY CODE LENGTH	numeric	no	1	Number of characters of the country code in the IBAN	S	2
6	IBAN CHECK DIGITS POSITION	numeric	yes	2	Start position of check digits in the IBAN	S	3
7	IBAN CHECK DIGITS LENGTH	numeric	yes	2	Number of check digits in the IBAN	S	2
8	BANK IDENTIFIER POSITION	numeric	yes	2	Start position of bank identifier in the IBAN	S	5
9	BANK IDENTIFIER LENGTH	numeric	yes	2	Number of characters of bank identifier in the IBAN	S	4
10	BRANCH IDENTIFIER POSITION	numeric	no	2	Start position of the branch identifier in the IBAN (value is empty if the branch identifier is not applied in the country's IBAN format)	S	9
11	BRANCH IDENTIFIER LENGTH	numeric	yes	2	Number of characters of the branch identifier in the IBAN (value is 0 if the branch identifier is not applied in the country's IBAN format)	S	4
12	IBAN NATIONAL ID LENGTH	numeric	yes	2	Number of significant characters of the National ID value that are used by SWIFT to populate the IBAN NATIONAL ID, and that are sufficient to derive the IBAN BIC correctly.  This number can be different from (that is, smaller than) the length of the national bank/branch identifier defined in the IBAN Registry.  Note that as SWIFT refines its IBAN to BIC translation algorithms, this number may change from release to release.	S	8
13	ACCOUNT NUMBER POSITION	numeric	yes	2	Start position of the account number in IBAN	S	13
14	ACCOUNT NUMBER LENGTH	numeric	yes	2	Number of characters of account number in IBAN	S	10
15	IBAN TOTAL LENGTH	numeric	yes	2	The total number of characters of the IBAN.	S	22

## 4.3 CU (Currencies) File

This file gives information about ISO currencies. They are copied from the BIC Directory and follow the same specifications.

Field	Field name	Data type	Always present	Maximum length (in char)	Description
1	TAG	alphabetic	yes	2	Record Identifier: CU
2	MODIFICATION FLAG	alphabetic	yes	1	Modification flag: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A (addition)</li> <li>• M (modification)</li> <li>• D (deletion)</li> <li>• U (unchanged)</li> </ul>
3	CURRENCY CODE	alphabetic	yes	3	ISO currency code
4	CURRENCY NAME	any type	yes	35	ISO currency name (part 1)
5		any type	no	35	ISO currency name (part 2)
6	FRACTIONAL DIGIT	numeric	yes	1	Fractional digit for the currency (the number of decimals to be used)
7	COUNTRY CODE	alphabetic	no	2	ISO country code
8	COUNTRY NAME	any type	no	35	Country name (part 1)
9		any type	no	35	Country name (part 2)

## 4.4 CT (Countries) File

This file gives information about ISO countries. They are copied from the BIC Directory and follow the same specifications.

Field	Field name	Data type	Always present	Maximum length (in char)	Description
1	TAG	alphabetic	yes	2	Record Identifier: CT
2	MODIFICATION FLAG	alphabetic	yes	1	Modification flag: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A (addition)</li> <li>• M (modification)</li> <li>• D (deletion)</li> <li>• U (unchanged)</li> </ul>
3	COUNTRY CODE	alphabetic	yes	2	ISO country code
4	COUNTRY NAME	any type	yes	35	Country name (part 1)

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<b>Field</b>	<b>Field name</b>	<b>Data type</b>	<b>Always present</b>	<b>Maximum length (in char)</b>	<b>Description</b>
5		any type	no	35	Country name (part 2)

## 5 General Information about Fields and Flags

### 5.1 Date Fields

Date fields have a length of 8 characters, structured in this format YYYYMMDD, where:

- YYYY = year
- MM = month
- DD = day

### 5.2 Other National ID Fields

These fields are split into sub-fields described in the following table:

Sub-field	Position	Description	Data type	Sub-field always present (when field not empty)	Max length + data
1	1	ISO Country Code	alphabetical	yes	2 char
2	3	Other National ID	alphanumeric	yes	(see National ID field)
3	(see National ID field)	Special Code	alphanumeric	no	6 char

#### Additional information

More information about the sub-fields:

- ISO Country Code: contains the ISO country code of the country in which the institution has another National ID.
- Other National ID: contains the other National ID for the financial institution, if any.
- Special Code: contains the specific information (Special Code) from the National record for the financial institution. See the corresponding field definition in the "Special Code Field".

### 5.3 Key Fields

#### About key fields

A key field contains the value of a unique identifier for a particular record type (for example, RECORD KEY for BI records, country code for CT records, and currency code for CU records).

#### Key field change

If a key field changes, the record in the next BICPlusIBAN directory file will not have a modification flag M. The record appears twice: once with the old information (modification flag = D), and once with the new information (modification flag = A).

---

**Note** If other information in a record has changed, and not a key field, then the record appears only once with modification flag M.

---

#### Key fields list

Record	Field Description	Field number
CT	country code	3
CU	currency code	3
BI	RECORD KEY	3

---

**Note** The RECORD KEY is a key field, but a deleted RECORD KEY cannot be reused in subsequent issues of BICPlusIBAN.

---

## 5.4 Modification Flag

#### About the modification flag

This field reflects the update status for that specific record compared to the previous issue.

#### Possible flag values

Modification flag value	Description
A	Added since last issue The record was not present in the previous issue, and is therefore new in the current issue.
D	Deleted since last issue The record has been removed since the previous issue. It still appears in this particular issue to provide the deletion information, but will not appear in future issues.
U	Unchanged since last issue The record has not been changed since the previous issue. In the current issue it is still present and unchanged.
M	Modified since last issue The record still exists in the current issue, but does not contain the same information as the previous issue. For example, when the name of the institution has changed since the last issue, that BIC has M as its modification flag.
E	Expired since last issue This modification flag is currently not used and is reserved for future use.

## 5.5 National ID Fields

### 5.5.1 National ID and Unique National ID

These IDs are the country-specific identifiers of financial institutions, used in domestic payments processing.

The following table gives the length and the description of the IDs as included in the BI file:

Country code	Country name	National ID length	National ID description
AL	Albania	8	Bank identifier
AU	Australia	6	Bank identifier (BSB number)
AT	Austria	5	Bank identifier (Bankleitzahl)
BA	Bosnia-Herzegovina	3	Bank identifier
BE	Belgium	3	Bank identifier
BG	Bulgaria	8 = 4 + 4	Bank identifier (BIC4) +branch identifier
CA	Canada	9 = 5 + 4	Bank identifier +branch identifier
		10 = 5 + 4 + 1	Bank identifier +branch identifier + check digit
CH	Switzerland <sup>(1)</sup>	5	Bank identifier
CL	Chile	3	Bank identifier
CY	Cyprus	8	Bank identifier
CZ	Czech Republic	4	Bank identifier
DE	Germany	8	Bank identifier (Bankleitzahl)
DK	Denmark	4	Bank identifier
EE	Estonia	2	Bank identifier
ES	Spain	9 = 4 + 4 + 1	Bank identifier +branch identifier + check digit
FI	Finland	2	1st two characters of bank identifier
FR	France <sup>(2)</sup>	5	Bank identifier (Code Interbancaire)
GB	United Kingdom <sup>(3)</sup>	6	Bank identifier
GR	Greece	7 = 3 + 4	Bank identifier +branch identifier
HK	Hong Kong	6 = 3 + 3	Bank identifier +branch identifier
HR	Croatia	7	Bank identifier
HU	Hungary	8 = 3 + 4 + 1	Bank identifier +branch identifier + check digit
IE	Ireland	6	Bank identifier
IL	Israel	8	Bank identifier
IS	Iceland	4	Bank identifier
IT	Italy	10 = 5 + 5	Bank identifier [ABI code] + branch identifier [CAB code]
LT	Lithuania	5	Bank identifier
LU	Luxembourg	3	Bank identifier
LV	Latvia	4	Bank identifier (BIC4)
MC	Monaco	5	Bank identifier (Code Interbancaire)
ME	Montenegro	3	Bank identifier
MK	Macedonia	3	Bank identifier

Country code	Country name	National ID length	National ID description
MT	Malta	5	Bank identifier
MU	Mauritius	4 = 2 + 2	Bank identifier + branch identifier
NO	Norway	4	Bank identifier
NZ	New Zealand	6	Bank identifier
PL	Poland	8	Bank identifier
PT	Portugal	8 = 4 + 4	Bank identifier + branch identifier
RS	Serbia	3	Bank identifier
RU	Russian Federation	8 <sup>(4)</sup>	Bank identifier
SA	Saudi Arabia	2	Bank identifier
SE	Sweden	4	Bank identifier
SI	Slovenia	2	Bank identifier
SK	Slovakia	4	Bank identifier In Slovakia the bank code consists of either only numeric characters or only alphabetic characters. Both forms of the Bank code are used in internal accounting bank systems. The alphabetic national codes are represented in the fields OTHER NATIONAL ID. Only the numeric bank code is used in the IBAN.
SM	San Marino	10 = 5 + 5	Bank identifier [ABI code] + branch identifier [CAB code]
TR	Turkey	4	Bank identifier (BKOD)
TN	Tunisia	2	Bank identifier
US	United States	9	Bank identifier
ZA	South Africa	6	Bank identifier

(1) Includes Liechtenstein.

(2) Includes French Guyana, French Polynesia, French Southern Territories, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte, Monaco, New Caledonia, Réunion, Saint Pierre et Miquelon, Wallis and Futuna Islands.

(3) Includes Gibraltar, Guernsey, Isle of Man, and Jersey.

(4) The official length of the Russian national code is 9 characters. In the BICPlusIBAN Directory, the length is 8 characters only because it does not provide the leading zero present in every Russian national code.

## 5.5.2 IBAN Country Codes and BBANs

These fields are the country-specific identifiers of financial institutions, used in the IBANs.

ISO 13616-compliant IBANs consist in general of the country code, the check digits, the BBAN bank identifier and account number. BBAN stands for Basic Bank Account Number.

The BBAN bank identifier itself can consist of the Bank identifier and the Branch identifier. The following table specifies the length (column 3) and the structure (column 4) of the BBAN bank identifiers as used in IBANs.

The field IBAN NATIONAL ID in the BICPlusIBAN directory (BI file) contains the BBAN bank identifier. However, for some few countries the length of the IBAN NATIONAL ID is shorter than

the length of the BBAN bank identifier. This length is specified in the IS table (see "IS (IBAN Structure) File").

SWIFT only uses those characters from the NATIONAL ID field to populate the IBAN NATIONAL ID field that are significant and sufficient to derive the IBAN BIC correctly. This number can be different from (that is, smaller) than the length of the national bank/branch identifier defined in the IBAN Registry. This number (LENGTH IBAN NATIONAL ID) is specified in the IS table (see "IS (IBAN Structure) File"). Note that as SWIFT refines its IBAN to BIC translation algorithms, this number may change from release to release.

The table also shows the relationships between the country codes in BICs (column 5) of account holding institutions (field BIC CODE in the BI file) and the IBAN country code (column 1) of IBANs that they can issue. For example, banks in France, Martinique, and Guadeloupe can issue IBANs with country code FR.

(1) Country code in IBAN	(2) Country name	(3) BBAN bank identifier length	(4) BBAN bank identifier structure	(5) Country codes in BICs
AD	Andorra	8 = 4 + 4	Bank identifier + Branch identifier	AD
AT	Austria	5	Bank identifier	AT
BA	Bosnia-Herzegovina	6 = 3 + 3	Bank identifier + Branch identifier	BA
BE	Belgium	3	Bank identifier	BE
BG	Bulgaria	8 = 4 + 4	Bank identifier (BIC4) + Branch identifier	BG
CH	Switzerland	5	Bank identifier	CH
CY	Cyprus	8 = 3 + 5	Bank identifier	CY
CZ	Czech Republic	4	Bank identifier	CZ
DE	Germany	8	Bank identifier	DE
DK	Denmark	4	Bank identifier	DK, GL
EE	Estonia	2	Bank identifier	EE
ES	Spain	8 = 4 + 4	Bank identifier + Branch identifier	ES
FI	Finland	6	Bank identifier	FI
FR	France	5	Bank identifier	FR, MQ, GP, NC, RE, GF, PF, JE, YT, PM, TF, WF
GB	United Kingdom	10 = 4 + 6	Bank identifier (BIC4) + Branch identifier	GB, JE, IM
GI	Gibraltar	4	Bank identifier (BIC4)	GI
GR	Greece	7 = 3 + 4	Bank identifier + Branch identifier	GR
HR	Croatia	7	Bank identifier	HR
HU	Hungary	7 = 3 + 4	Bank identifier	HU
IE	Republic of Ireland	10 = 4 + 6	Bank identifier (BIC4) + Branch identifier	IE, GB
IL	Israel	6 = 3 + 3	Bank identifier + Branch identifier	IL

(1) Country code in IBAN	(2) Country name	(3) BBAN bank identifier length	(4) BBAN bank identifier structure	(5) Country codes in BICs
IS	Iceland	4	Bank identifier	IS
IT	Italy	10 = 5 + 5	Bank identifier + Branch identifier	IT
LI	Liechtenstein	5	Bank identifier	LI
LT	Lithuania	5	Bank identifier	LT
LU	Luxembourg	3	Bank identifier	LU
LV	Latvia	4	Bank identifier (BIC4)	LV
MC	Monaco	10 = 5 + 5	Bank identifier + Branch identifier	MC
ME	Montenegro	3	Bank identifier	ME, CS
MK	Macedonia	3	Bank identifier	MK,
MT	Malta	9 = 4 + 5	Bank identifier (BIC4) + Branch identifier	MT
MU	Mauritius	8 = 4 + 2 + 2	BIC4 + Bank identifier + branch identifier	MU
NL	Netherlands	4	Bank identifier (BIC4)	NL
NO	Norway	4	Bank identifier	NO
PL	Poland	8	Bank identifier	PL
PT	Portugal	8 = 4 + 4	Bank identifier + Branch identifier	PT
RO	Romania	4	Bank identifier (BIC4)	RO
RS	Serbia	3	Bank identifier	RS, CS
SA	Saudi Arabia	2	Bank identifier	SA
SE	Sweden	3	1st 3 chars of the Bank identifier	SE
SI	Slovenia	5	Bank identifier	SI
SK	Slovakia	4	Bank identifier	SK
SM	San Marino	10 = 5 + 5	Bank identifier + Branch identifier	SM
TN	Tunisia	2	Bank identifier	TN
TR	Turkey	5	Bank identifier (4 chars) with a leading zero.	TR

"Bank identifier (BIC4)" consists of the 1st 4 characters of the BIC of the institution.

## 5.6 Special Code Field

### Introduction

This field is empty, with exception of the two following cases.

Positions 1-4 give the status of four clearing groups.

## 5.6.1 National input file: BSC (UK)

Position	Name	Code	Status
1	BACS	M	Office of a BACS Member that accepts BACS payments
		A	Office of an agency bank that accepts BACS payments
		N	Does not accept BACS payments
2	CHAPS Sterling	D	Direct Office [that is, CUG member] of a CHAPS GBP Member that accepts CHAPS GBP payments
		I	Indirect Office of a member or agency bank that accepts CHAPS GBP payments
		N	Does not accept CHAPS GBP payments
3	CHAPS Euro	D	Direct Office (that is, a CUG member) of a CHAPS E Member that accepts CHAPS E payments
		I	Indirect Office of a member or agency bank that accepts CHAPS E payments
		N	Does not accept CHAPS E payments
4	C&CCCC Clearing	M	Office of a C&CCCC Member
		F	Full agency bank office
		D	Debit agency office only
		N	Not part of the C&CCCC clearing
5	empty		
6	empty		

## 5.6.2 National Input File: HKBK (HK)

Position	Name	Code	Status
1	HKD clearing system	M	Participant of HKD clearing system in Hong Kong
		N	Not a Participant of HKD clearing system in Hong Kong
2	USD clearing system	D	Direct Participant of USD clearing system in Hong Kong
		I	Indirect Participant of USD clearing system in Hong Kong
		C	Indirect CHATS User of USD clearing system in Hong Kong
		N	Not a Participant of USD clearing system in Hong Kong
3	EUR clearing system	D	Direct Participant of Euro clearing system in Hong Kong
		C	Indirect CHATS User of Euro clearing system in Hong Kong
		N	Not a Participant of Euro clearing system in Hong Kong
4	RMB clearing system	M	Participant of RMB clearing system in Hong Kong
		N	Not a participant of RMB clearing system in Hong Kong
5	empty		

Position	Name	Code	Status
6	empty		

## 5.7 Text Fields

There are 2 types of text fields:

Type	Description
General text fields	General text fields contain narrative information such as financial institution names or branch information.
Physical address text fields	The physical address field is a special type of text field. The data are spread over several sub-fields instead of using just one large field. Sub-fields can be used to print labels or letter headings, without worrying about where to split the field before going to the next line. With this approach, you can put sub-fields beneath each other.

### Sub-fields in a physical address text field

Several sub-fields link together if the information has to fit on only a few lines. Sub-fields are formatted in the following way:

- **First sub-field**

The information starts at position 1 of the field.

- **Next sub-fields (if not empty)**

Is the first position of the sub-field a blank, followed by characters?

If yes, the next characters make a new, separate word, whether the first sub-field ended in a blank or not.

If no, the next characters are joined to those ending the previous sub-field. However, a word is never cut.

---

**Note** Tab delimited text files do not contain consecutive blanks at the end of a sub-field, they do not contain filler fields. For physical address fields, filler blanks in these fields are reduced to one blank.

This definition is derived from the BIC Directory. Due to the different input file definition, the organisation into sub-fields is not always respected in BICPlusIBAN.

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## 5.8 BICPlusIBAN Directory Updates Caused by Updates to the BIC Directory

### 5.8.1 Changes, Mergers, and Deletions of BIC Codes in the BIC Directory

Changes in BIC Directory	Impact on BICPlusIBAN Directory
BIC deletions	<p>For all entries corresponding to a BIC that is deleted from the BIC Directory:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When the record containing the deleted BIC had no data matched to other identifiers (such as IBAN NATIONAL ID or CHIPS UID), the record is deleted in the BICPlusIBAN Directory and marked with modification flag 'D'. The RECORD KEY is deleted.</li> <li>When the record containing the deleted BIC had data matched to other identifiers (such as IBAN NATIONAL ID or CHIPS UID), the record is modified in the BICPlusIBAN Directory and marked with modification flag 'M'. The RECORD KEY remains.</li> </ul>
BIC changes	<p>The old BIC code of all entries in the directory are replaced with the new BIC code in the BICPlusIBAN Directory. All records in which the BIC has been replaced are marked with modification flag 'M'.</p>
New BIC codes	<p>For all entries corresponding to a BIC that is added in the BIC Directory:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When the record containing the added BIC had no data matched to other identifiers (such as IBAN NATIONAL ID or CHIPS UID), the record is added in the BICPlusIBAN Directory and marked with modification flag 'A'. A new RECORD KEY is created.</li> <li>When the record containing the added BIC has data matched to other identifiers (such as IBAN NATIONAL ID or CHIPS UID) present in previous publication, the record is modified in the BICPlusIBAN Directory and marked with modification flag 'M'. The RECORD KEY remains.</li> </ul>

### 5.8.2 Updates To Other Fields in the BIC Directory

The data contained in the BIC Directory get the priority on other data sources See "Data Sources" for feeding data in the BICPlusIBAN Directory.

Examples:

- If a record in BICPlusIBAN Directory has a BIC CODE, the data is extracted from the BIC Directory at each publication cycle. If the BIC Directory can not provide the data (such as Address), then the other data sources are used.
- When a BIC is deleted in the BIC Directory but the record remains in the BICPlusIBAN, the data are the ones provided by the data source.

## 6 Cross-references between EPC and SWIFT Field Names

The following table contains the cross-reference between field names assigned by the EPC (According to EPC148/06: "Statement of Principles and functional requirements for an IBAN / BIC database") and field names used in the BICPlusIBAN data file.

Field name in BICPlusIBAN	Description by the EPC
MODIFICATION FLAG	Code
NATIONAL ID EXPIRY DATE	Validity date
IBAN National ID	Local bank identifier
IBAN BIC CODE IBAN BRANCH CODE	BIC 1
ROUTING BIC CODE ROUTING BRANCH CODE	BIC 2
INSTITUTION NAME	Name
CITY HEADING	City
IBAN COUNTRY CODE	Country

# 7 Data Dictionary

## 7.1 Terms and Acronyms Used

Term/Acronym	Description
<b>Bank identifier</b>	See National Bank identifier
<b>BIC</b>	Bank Identifier Code
<b>BIC1</b>	See Non-connected BIC
<b>Branch identifier</b>	See National Branch identifier
<b>IBAN</b>	International Bank Account Number
<b>National Bank identifier</b>	National code that identifies the bank at institution level. For example: in Italy the code ABI, in France the code bancaire
<b>National Branch identifier</b>	National code that identifies the bank up to branch level. For example: in Italy the code CAB, in France the code guichet
<b>National code</b>	See NATIONAL ID
<b>NATIONAL ID</b>	Term used in the SWIFT Directories to represent the national codes (also called sort codes or national clearing codes). It consists of the bank identifier and the branch identifier as given by the national provider. See Note below.
<b>National provider</b>	Central banks, banking associations and automated clearing houses that provide SWIFT with lists of National IDs of financial institutions.
<b>Non-connected BIC</b>	BIC that identifies a financial institution not connected to the SWIFT network. It has the location code ending with the digit "1", for example KESADEF1. Such BIC is also called a non-SWIFT BIC or a BIC1.
<b>SEPA</b>	Single Euro Payment Area
<b>STP</b>	Straight-through processing

**Note** For some countries (for example Belgium), there is no distinction between the bank identifier and the branch identifier, it is a single number for the national code.

For some countries (for example France), SWIFT is not authorised to publish the branch identifier so that only the bank identifier is present in the NATIONAL ID field.

For some countries (for example Finland), SWIFT does not receive the entire bank identifier code but only the significant part of it which is sufficient to identify the institution (but not the branch).

## 7.2 Differences Between Fields and Which to Use

### 7.2.1 BIC CODE, UNIQUE BIC CODE, IBAN BIC CODE, and ROUTING BIC CODE

#### Difference between BIC CODE, UNIQUE BIC CODE, IBAN BIC CODE, and ROUTING BIC CODE

BIC CODE is the BIC associated through the name and address (that is, physical association) to the NATIONAL ID. However, financial institutions often issue the IBAN together with the BIC of their headquarters / processing centre to their customers rather than the BIC corresponding to its location. It is the IBAN BIC CODE, collected by SWIFT to provide a better match in the scope of SEPA, because using correct IBAN and BIC codes (that is, the IBAN BIC CODES) offers a considerable reduction in cross-border transaction charges in SEPA.

UNIQUE BIC CODE is the same as the BIC CODE, but is used for search purposes. Indeed several National IDs with a different value may be matched to the same BIC. If a bank wants to convert such a BIC into a national code, they are not able to do so as they would get several values. This is why we have set the UNIQUE BIC CODE, to be able to return a single value of national code (a kind of "primary" national code).

ROUTING BIC CODE is meant for SWIFT messaging purposes. When the IBAN BIC CODE is a non-connected BIC (also called a BIC1), the ROUTING BIC CODE is filled to provide an addressable code on the SWIFT network.

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**Note** For SEPA payments, that is, pacs messages, lookup the IBAN BIC (found in the BICPlusIBAN Directory) in the [SEPA ROUTING Directory](#). The SEPA Routing Directory allows you to validate that the BIC is ready for either SCT (SEPA Credit Transfer) or SDD (SEPA Direct Debit). If the validation fails, consider sending the payment as a FIN message to the IBAN BIC, or to the routing BIC (that is, SWIFT BIC) if the IBAN BIC is an unconnected BIC (that is, a BIC1).

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### 7.2.2 National ID, Unique National ID, IBAN National ID, and Unique National ID

#### Difference between NATIONAL ID, UNIQUE NATIONAL ID, IBAN NATIONAL ID, and UNIQUE IBAN NATIONAL ID

National ID is the value provided by the national provider (central bank or national banking association) to identify a bank on the domestic market. However, for some countries, the value used in the IBAN can be different (for example, in SWEDEN, the national code is 4 characters but they only use the first 3 characters in the IBAN), hence the IBAN NATIONAL ID field. This is used to validate an IBAN (see "Validate the IBAN/BIC Combination") and to derive a BIC from an IBAN (see "Retrieve the Country Code and the National Code from the IBAN").

The field UNIQUE (IBAN) NATIONAL ID is used for search purposes when there are duplicate values. This field must always be checked in combination of the right (IBAN) COUNTRY CODE.

### 7.2.3 Which fields define the actual IBAN Code?

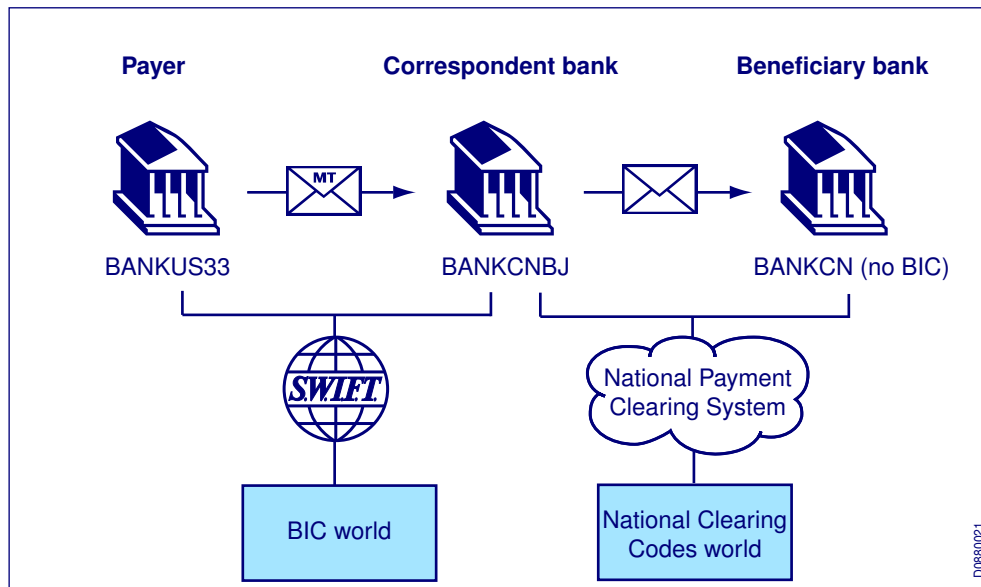
We do not define the full IBAN code. However, by using the IS (IBAN Structure) file together with the BI file, you have the right information to derive a BIC from an IBAN (see "Retrieve the Country Code and the National Code from the IBAN") or validate combinations IBAN-BIC (see "Validate the IBAN/BIC Combination").

# 8 BICPlusIBAN Directory

## 8.1 In Which Business Context to Use the BICPlusIBAN Directory?

### National and international payments

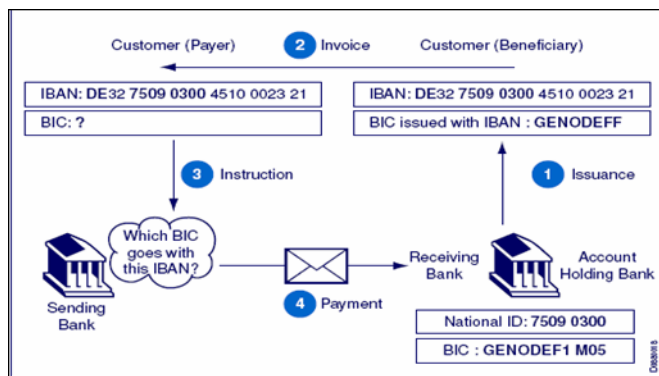
In the correspondent banking world, two bank identifiers co-exist: the BIC and the national code. The BIC remains the prime identification method for international payments, but the national codes listed in the BICPlusIBAN Directory identify banks and branches with a much higher granularity, suitable for domestic processing.



When your institution sends a payment to a beneficiary whose bank has no BIC, BICPlusIBAN gives you the national clearing code of that beneficiary's bank.

### SEPA payments

When your institution sends a payment to a beneficiary, it is mandatory to specify the BIC that goes with the IBAN.



Number	Explanation
<b>(1) - Issuance</b>	Financial institutions often issue to their customers the IBAN together with the BIC of their headquarters/processing centre rather than the BIC corresponding to its location.
<b>(2) - Invoice</b>	The beneficiary provides his IBAN to the payer (sometimes without the related BIC).
<b>(3) - Instruction</b>	<p>The payer instructs its bank to pay the beneficiary :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Using the BICPlusIBAN Directory, the payer easily derives the BIC issued with this IBAN and provides both pieces of information to its bank.</li> <li>b. The payer fails to provide the BIC to its bank (they only provide the IBAN) or they provide an incorrect BIC.</li> </ol>
<b>(4) - Payment</b>	<p>The payer's bank sends a payment message to the BIC issued with the IBAN of the beneficiary's bank (GENODEFF in the above example) or its related agent.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The payment reaches the right beneficiary and the number of rejects reduces.</li> <li>b. The customer may contractually ask its bank to complete its instruction or to check it. The payer's bank will repair the missing/incorrect information by using the BICPlusIBAN Directory. The payment reaches then the right beneficiary.</li> </ol>

## 8.2 Examples of Using the BICPlusIBAN Directory

### How to use it?

SWIFT suggests a number of ways to use the data of the BICPlusIBAN directory. However, these only are suggestions and it is up to the Customer to select those, or invent additional ones, that are relevant to its business practices.

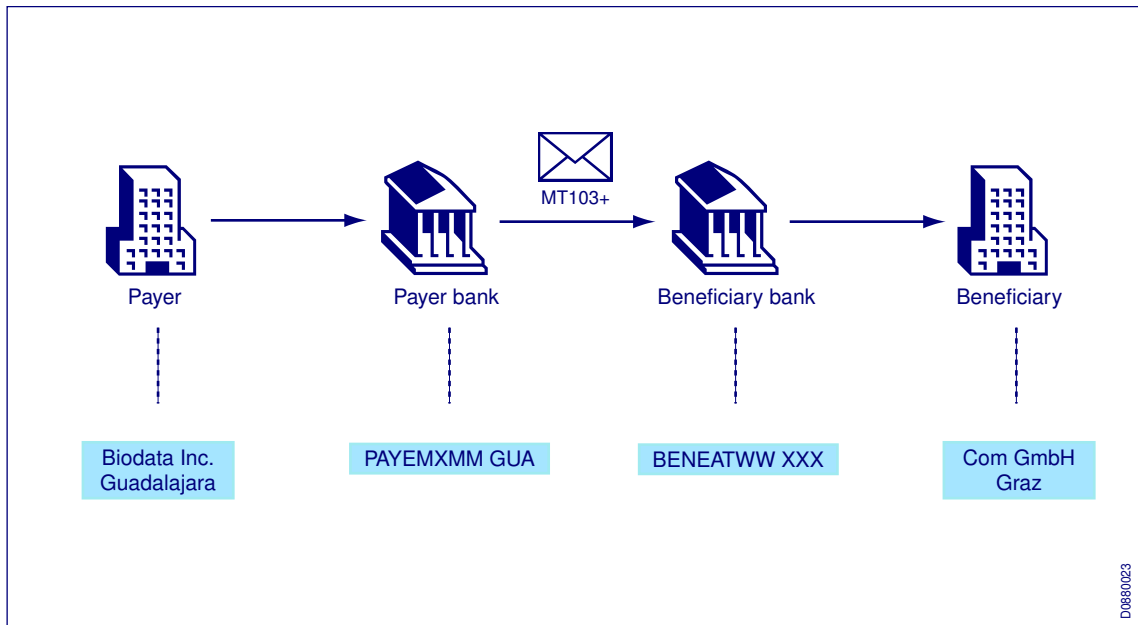
### 8.2.1 Look Up the Bank Details

#### Use

To create or validate international payment messages (for example, MT 103, MT 103+, MT 202).

**Narrative**

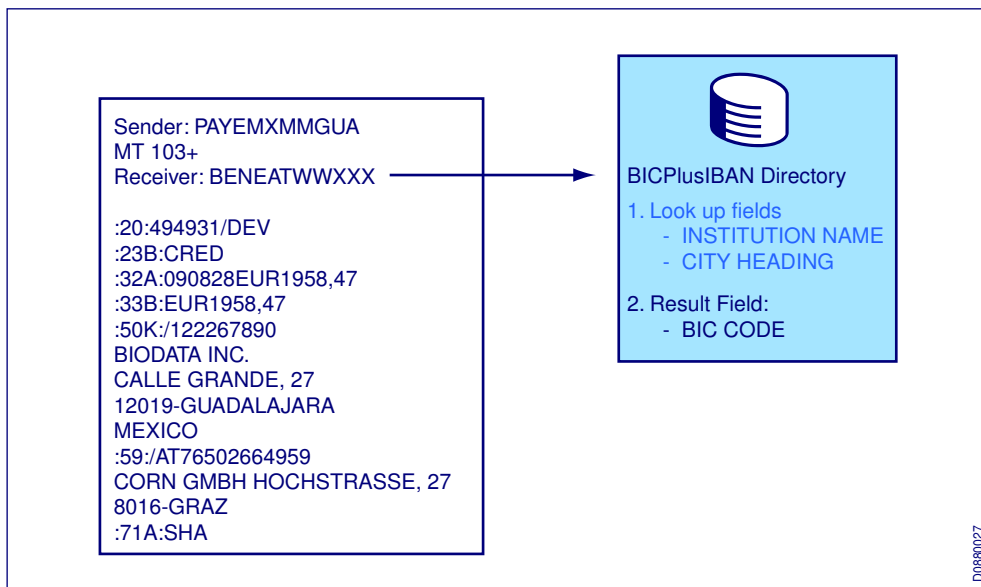
Biodata Inc., Guadalajara orders Payer bank to pay euro 1,958.47 to Beneficiary bank, Vienna, for the account of Corn GmbH.



Payer bank must find out the BIC of Beneficiary bank, Vienna to send an MT 103+ message.

In the BICPlusIBAN Directory, using the BET or any look up tool, you can type the bank's name and city and the BIC rolls out.

**MT 103+**



## 8.2.2 Look Up the National Code (National ID) of a Bank and Clearing System Used to Reach the Beneficiary

### Introduction

To look up the national code (National ID) of a bank and the clearing system (Service code) used by your correspondent to reach the beneficiary.

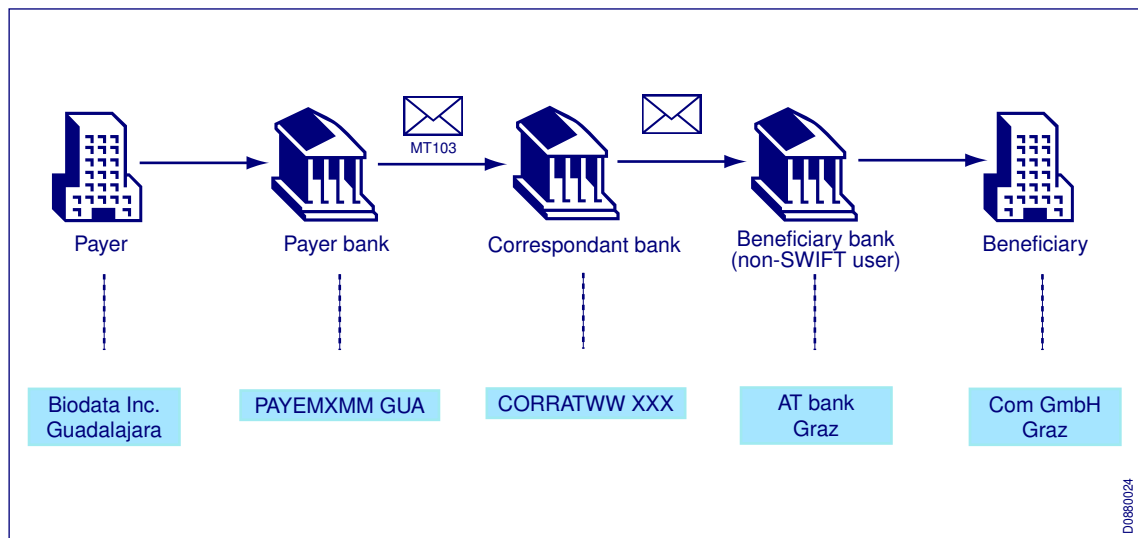
### Use

To create messages, to validate messages, to translate national code into BIC and vice-versa.

### Narrative

Biodata Inc., Guadalajara orders Payer bank to pay euro 1,958.47 to AT Bank, Graz, for the account of Com GmbH.

AT Bank is not connected to SWIFT, but is identified with the national code 12345 on the Austrian Payment Clearing System.



When your institution sends an MT 103 for a beneficiary whose bank has no BIC, BICPlusIBAN gives you the national code of the beneficiary's bank.

A national code has a fixed format depending on the clearing system. To enable the receiver of your MT 103 to exploit the national code fully, enter it on the first line of the field 57C. The MT 103 sent by your institution is processed automatically by your correspondent bank, thanks to the clearing code found in 57C (see further). It may also be used to indicate a national clearing system code as the BICPlusIBAN gives the Financial Institutions' participation in payment systems.

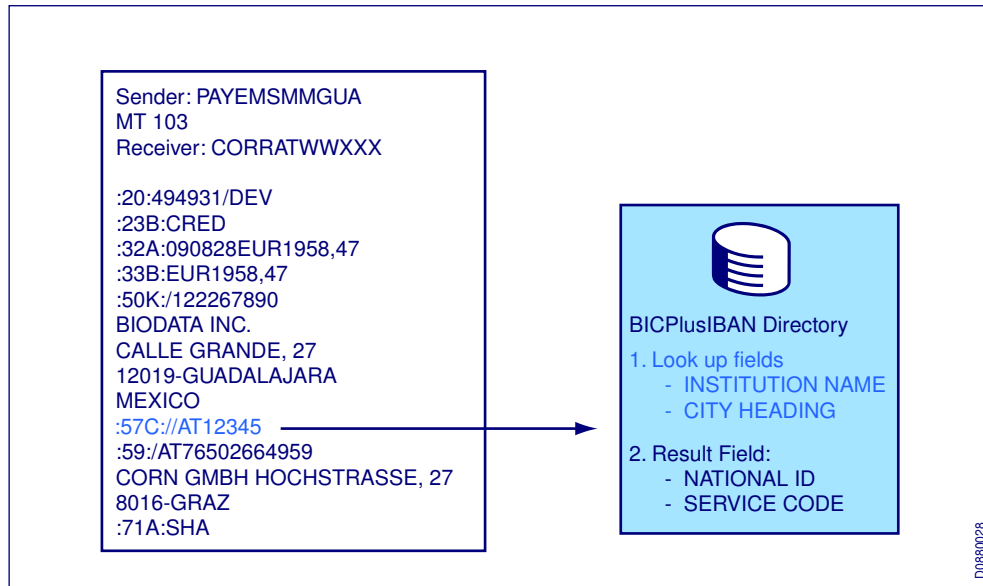
### Field 57C

To identify this beneficiary bank, different options (which data is available in the BICPlusIBAN Directory) exist:

- **Option A:** BIC
- **Option B:** Location
- **Option C:** National code
- **Option D:** Name and address

The BIC remains the prime identification method, but the national codes of the BICPlusIBAN Directory mean that you can identify more branches and more institutions. It increases STP and lowers processing costs of the financial institutions.

### MT 103

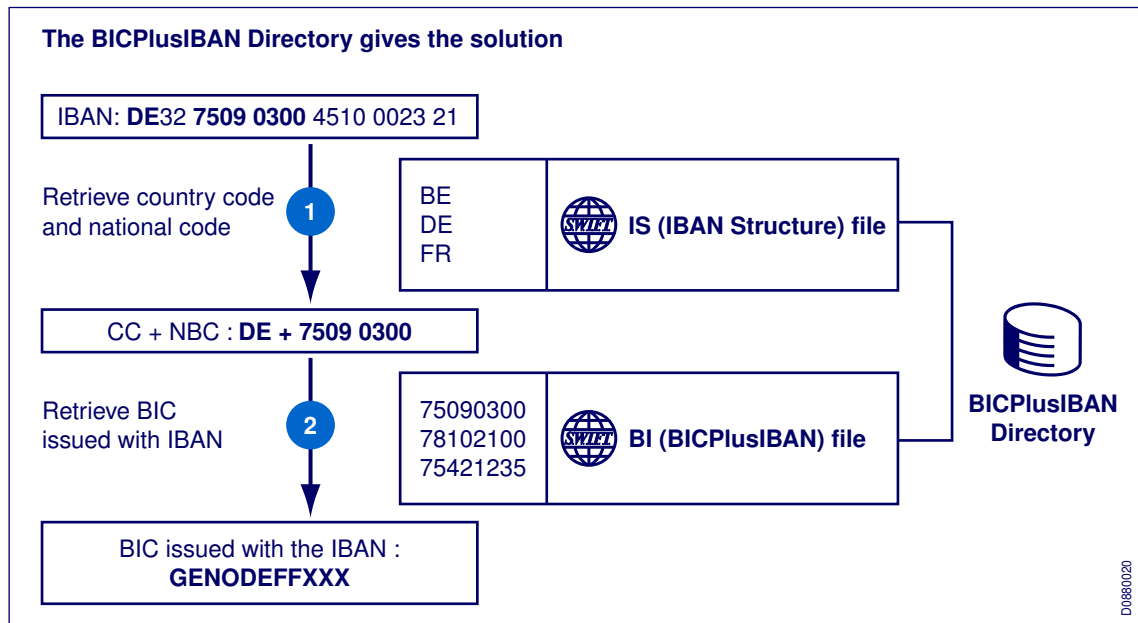


## 8.2.3 Translate IBAN Into BIC for SEPA Payments or Other Cross-border Payments

### Use

To create SEPA messages, to validate SEPA messages, or messages to any country that has a registered ISO IBAN structure (for example, San Marino, Turkey, Tunisia).

The BICPlusIBAN Directory enables banks or corporates to automatically derive the beneficiary's Bank Identification Code (BIC) from the International Bank Account Number (IBAN). This is useful in situations where the IBAN is present but the BIC of the beneficiary is missing or incorrect.



### 8.2.3.1 Retrieve the Country Code and the National Code from the IBAN

#### Introduction

The directory contains a machine-readable file (IS file) that enables the user's application to deconstruct any IBAN and retrieve the necessary data elements to look up the BIC issued with the IBAN.

#### Procedure

1. From the relevant IBAN, retrieve the country code (1st two characters of the IBAN).
2. In the IS file, find the record with the corresponding IBAN COUNTRY CODE.
3. Use the fields BANK IDENTIFIER POSITION and IBAN NATIONAL ID LENGTH to find the start position and the length of the data to extract within the IBAN.
4. Apply these parameters to the IBAN to retrieve the IBAN NATIONAL ID.

### 8.2.3.2 Retrieve the BIC Issued with the IBAN

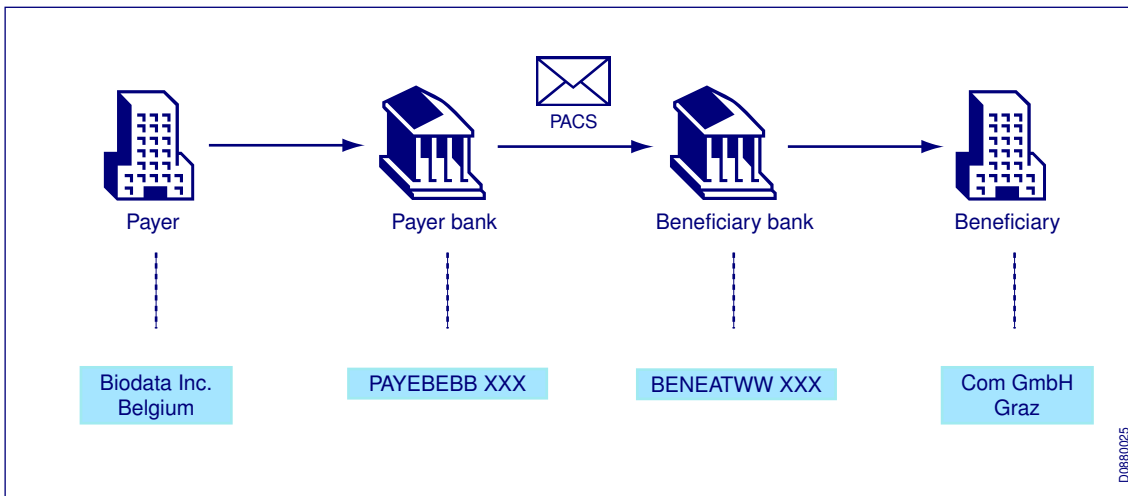
#### Procedure

1. In the BI file, look up the record by using in the search key the data elements retrieved from "Retrieve the Country Code and the National Code from the IBAN".
2. Search on the fields **IBAN COUNTRY CODE** and **UNIQUE IBAN NATIONAL ID** containing values obtained from "Retrieve the Country Code and the National Code from the IBAN".
3. In the retrieved record the fields **IBAN BIC CODE** and **IBAN BRANCH CODE** provide the BIC to be used together with the IBAN.

### 8.2.3.3 SEPA Payments

#### Narrative

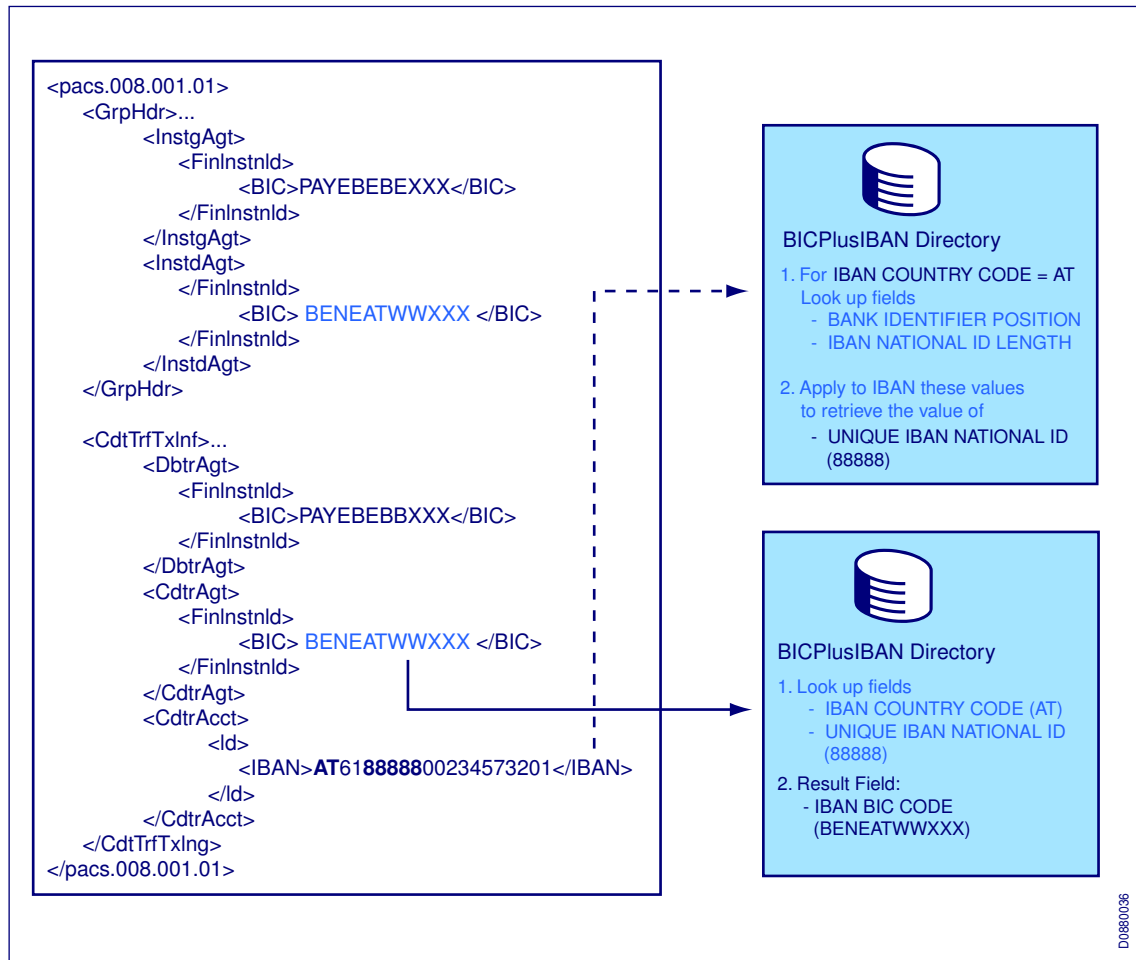
Biodata Inc., Belgium orders Payer bank to pay euro 1,958.47 to Beneficiary bank, Vienna, for the account of Com GmbH with IBAN **AT618888800234573201**.



Either Biodata Inc. or Payer bank must now derive the right BIC from the IBAN.

The beneficiary provides the payer with its IBAN. The payer provides the payer bank with the received IBAN and must also provide the BIC of the beneficiary bank. If payer does not provide the BIC, the Payer bank should do it.

## SEPA CT (PACS 008) message



In the pacs message terminology and for this example, the Payer bank is the debtor agent and also the instructing agent, the Beneficiary bank is the creditor agent and also the instructed agent.

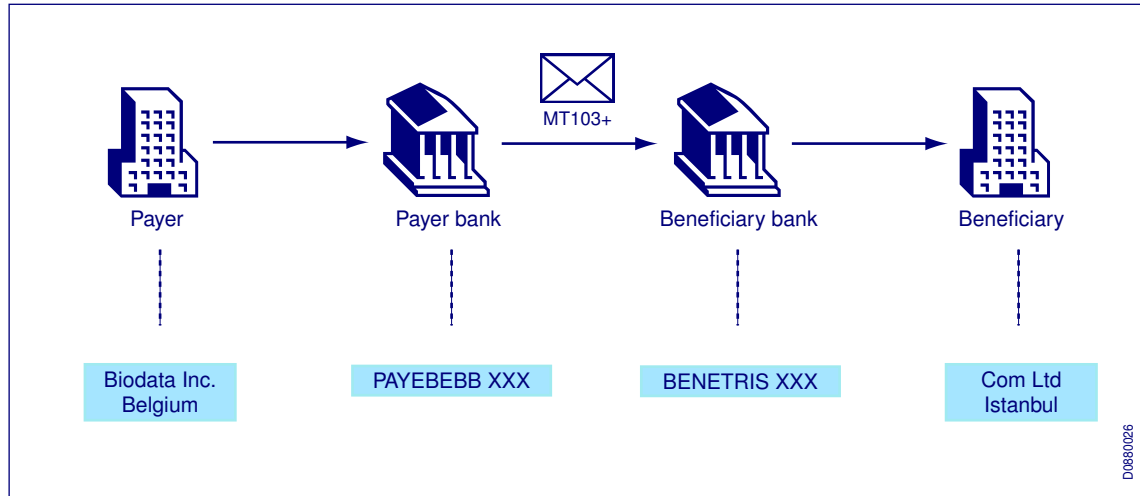
**Note** The sample message given in this example is not complete. It is not the purpose here to provide the full message. For more information about this message type, see the *User Handbook*.

**Note** For SEPA payments that is, pacs messages, lookup the IBAN BIC (found in the BICPlusIBAN Directory) in the SEPA Routing Directory. The SEPA Routing Directory allows you to validate that the BIC is ready for either SCT (SEPA Credit Transfer) or SDD (SEPA Direct Debit). If the validation fails, consider sending the payment as a FIN message to the IBAN BIC, or to the routing BIC (that is, SWIFT BIC) if the IBAN BIC is an unconnected BIC (that is, a BIC1). For more information, see "Cross-border Payment" on page 40 and "Look Up BIC Connected to SWIFT for a Non-connected BIC " on page 41.

### 8.2.3.4 Cross-border Payment

#### Narrative

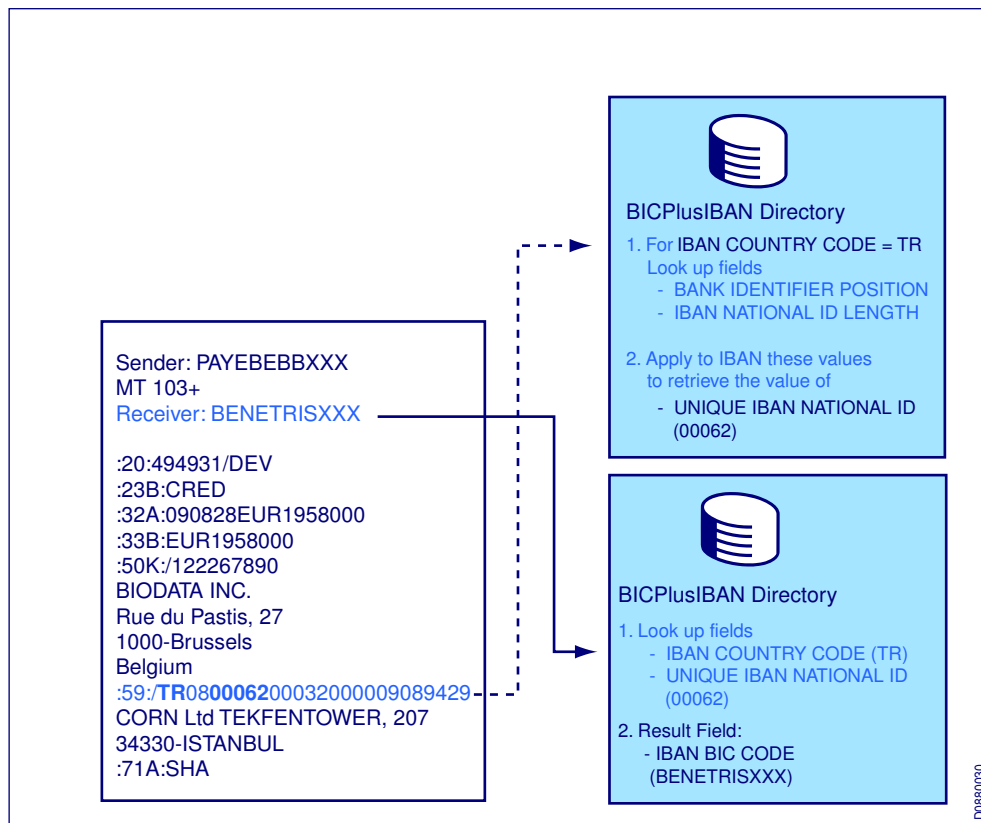
Biodata Inc., Belgium orders Payer bank to pay euro 1,958,000 to Beneficiary bank, Istanbul, for the account of Corn Ltd with IBAN **TR080006200032000009089429**.



Either Biodata Inc. or Payer bank must now derive the right BIC from the IBAN.

The beneficiary provides the payer with its IBAN. The payer provides the Payer bank with the received IBAN and should also provide the BIC of the beneficiary bank. If payer does not provide the BIC, then the Payer bank should do it.

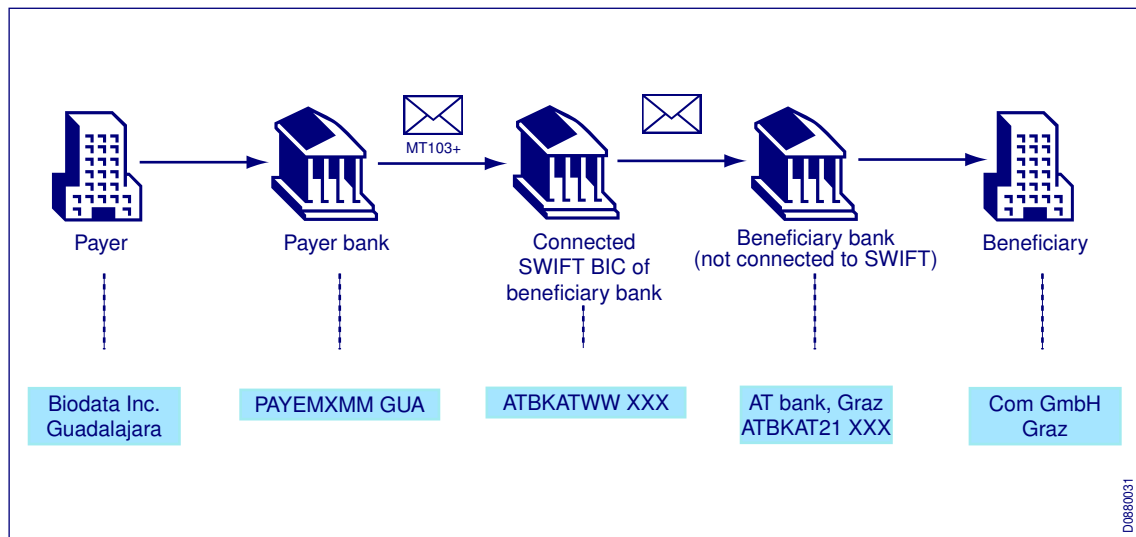
#### MT 103+ (non-SCT)



## 8.2.4 Look Up BIC Connected to SWIFT for a Non-connected BIC

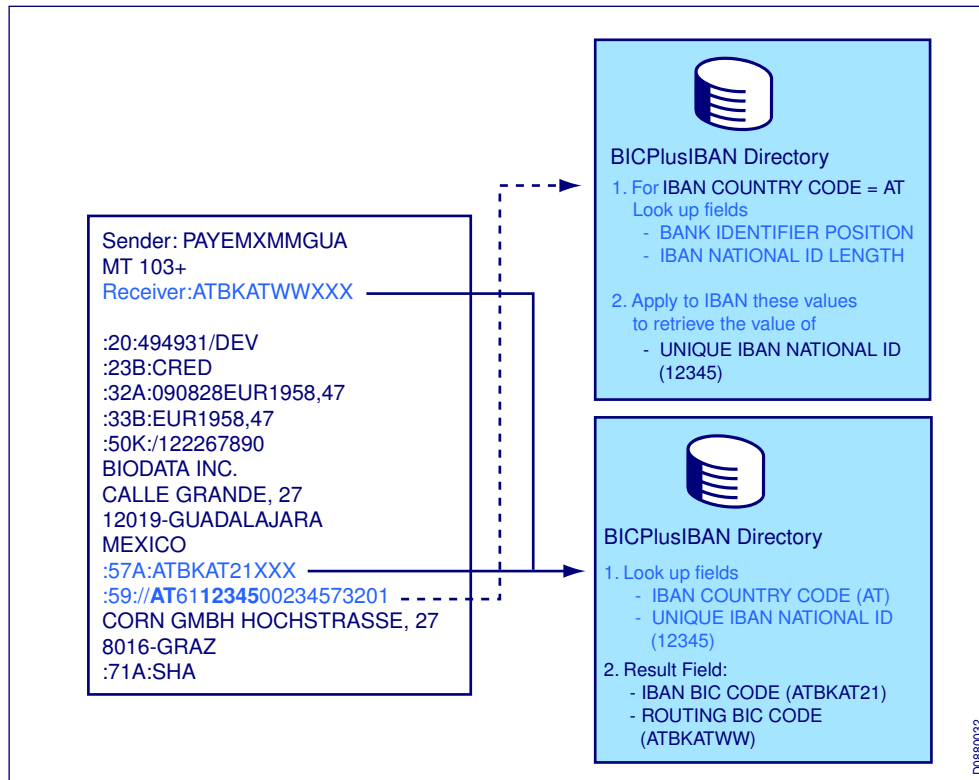
### Narrative

Biodata Inc., Guadalajara orders Payer bank to pay euro 1,958.47 to AT Bank, Graz, for the account of Com GmbH with IBAN **AT611234500234573201**.



Either Biodata Inc. or Payer bank must now derive the right BIC from the IBAN. The result gives a non-connected BIC: ATBKAT21. In this case, the BICPlusIBAN Directory provides not only the BICs issued with the IBANs but also the corresponding connected BICs of these banks or branches not connected to SWIFT.

## MT 103+



## 8.2.5 Corporates that Construct an IBAN from an Account Number and Derive the BIC

### Use

#### Use

For corporates, the challenge relates to BICs and IBANs. Corporates must convert their clients account numbers and bank names into IBANs and BICs. One way to do this is to ask all the clients, or their banks, to provide their IBANs and BICs.

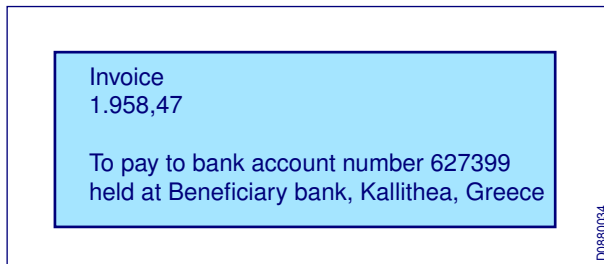
For large corporates with millions of clients and geographical disparity, asking all their clients for the IBANs and BICs is not feasible.

The BICPlusIBAN Directory is the most accurate and efficient source for large corporates to convert the bank account data from their clients. Anyway, for some countries, it remains impossible to construct the IBAN from an account number.

**Important** SWIFT does not recommend that corporates generate IBANs out of the account numbers. But if corporates do this at their own risk, SWIFT recommends validating at least such IBANs, BICs, and their combination against the BICPlusIBAN Directory.

## Narrative

Biodata Inc., Belgium receive an invoice from Corn SA in Greece with the following information:



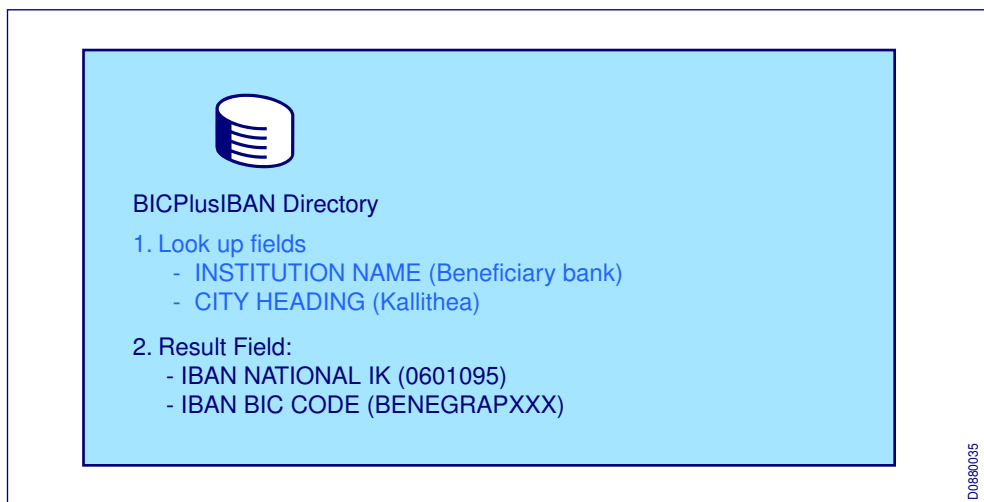
Biodata Inc. must now build the IBAN of Corn SA and find out the BIC issued with this IBAN.

## Solution

1. In the IS file, look-up IBAN structure for GR:



2. In the BI file, look-up the national code of the bank and the BIC to be used with the IBAN:



3. Construct the BBAN (basic bank account number): 0601095 + 000000000627399
4. Construct the IBAN by adding the country and check digits (modulo 97): GR + 45 + 06010950000000000627399

## 5. Result:

IBAN = GR4506010950000000000627399  
BIC issued with IBAN = BENEGRAPXXX

## 8.2.6 Validate a National Code

### Use and Logic

#### Use

To validate that the national code contained in an IBAN is a valid national code. This can be useful in situations where the ordering customer has constructed the IBAN. However, the validation does not guarantee that the IBAN itself is valid.

#### Logic

The user's application must implement the following logic:

1. Extract the country code (the 1st two characters) from the IBAN.
2. Extract the **UNIQUE IBAN NATIONAL ID** from the IBAN using the IS file. For more information about how to extract this data, see "Retrieve the Country Code and the National Code from the IBAN".
3. In the BI file, look up the row using in the search key the **IBAN COUNTRY CODE** and the **UNIQUE IBAN NATIONAL ID**.
4. If the row exists, then the national code is a valid national code.

## 8.2.7 Validate the BIC

### Use

To validate that the BIC is a valid BIC. This can for example be useful in situations when the ordering customer attempted to derive the BIC itself from financial institution's name and address. Same as "Look Up the Bank Details".

### Logic

The user's application must implement the following logic:

1. Split the BIC into a BIC Code (containing the first eight characters) and a Branch Code (characters 9 to 11).
2. In the BI file, look up the BIC CODE and the BRANCH CODE in the data file.
3. If a record is found, then the BIC is a valid BIC.

## 8.2.8 Validate the IBAN/BIC Combination

### Use and Logic

To validate that the BIC and the IBAN belong to one and the same institution. The user's application must implement the following logic:

1. Find the **PARENT BANK CODE** from the IBAN
2. Find the **PARENT BANK CODE** from the BIC

3. Compare the **PARENT BANK CODE** found in the first two steps.

### 8.2.8.1 Find the **PARENT BANK CODE** from the IBAN

#### Procedure

1. Extract the country code from the IBAN (the 1st two characters).
2. Extract the UNIQUE IBAN NATIONAL ID from the IBAN using the IS file. For more information about how to extract this data, see "Retrieve the Country Code and the National Code from the IBAN".
3. Look up the BI data file against the **IBAN COUNTRY CODE**, and the **UNIQUE IBAN NATIONAL ID**.
4. Extract the **PARENT BANK CODE** from the found row in file.

### 8.2.8.2 Find the **PARENT BANK CODE** from the BIC

#### Procedure

1. Split the BIC into a BIC Code (containing the first eight characters) and a Branch Code (characters 9 to 11). If the Branch Code is empty, then substitute it with "XXX".
2. In the BI file, look up the UNIQUE BIC CODE and the UNIQUE BRANCH CODE in the data file.
3. Extract the PARENT BANK CODE from the found row in file.

### 8.2.8.3 Compare the **PARENT BANK CODE**

#### Procedure

Compare the PARENT BANK CODE found in "Find the PARENT BANK CODE from the IBAN" and "Find the PARENT BANK CODE from the BIC".

- If the content of the PARENT BIC CODE is the same, then the BIC and the IBAN belong to the same institution.
- Not finding a corresponding record does not mean that the IBAN/BIC combination is invalid. Therefore Users should follow-up with manual investigation and should not automatically reject a payment instruction.

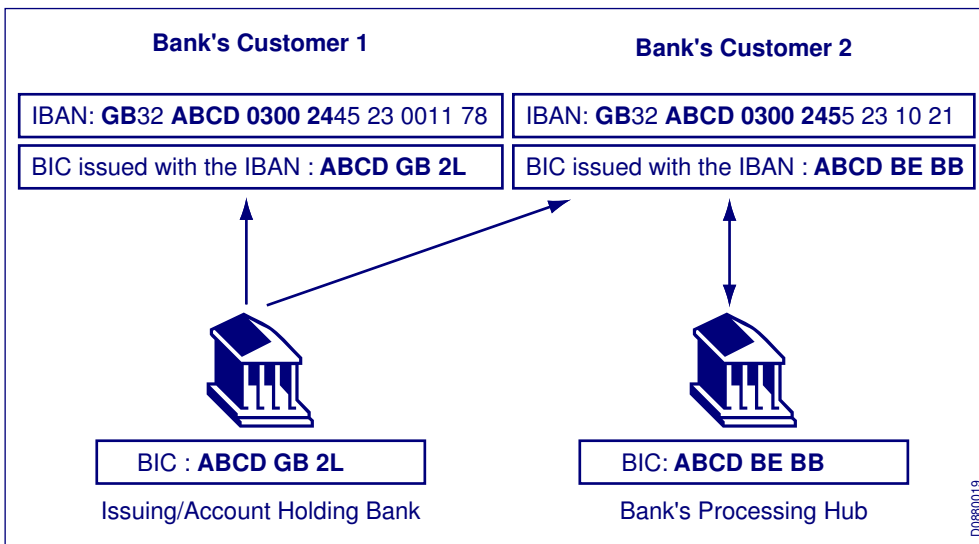
#### Not finding a corresponding record in the data file

Possible reasons:

- The account servicing institution issues IBANs to their clients together with the BIC of another institution.
- The account servicing institution has multiple BIC codes containing different Bank Codes (the 4 first characters). This can be due to mergers and takeovers. The future releases will be able to take this into account. Users can further investigate such cases manually.
- The IBAN and BIC indeed do not correspond.

# 9 Known Limitations

The BIC cannot be derived from the IBAN if Bank issues different BICs to its clients but it issues them IBANs containing one and the same National ID.



# 10 Examples of Record Changes between Publications

## About this section

This section shows how the record keys move around in the database. It is impossible to make deductions about data from the modification flags as these only relates to the RECORD KEYS. A RECORD KEY is a purely conceptual attribute for database maintenance.

## Principles:

1. Oldest piece of data (NAT ID or BIC or CHIPS code) in SWIFT internal database owns the record key.
2. The address registered in the BIC Directory gets the priority on the address published in the national provider's file for the records with UNIQUE BIC CODE value not empty.

## Example 1

Case 1:

- National ID 22222222 with address A existed previous to release n-2.
- BIC ANYBBBCC with Address B is added at Release n-1 and merges with National ID 22222222.
- National ID 22222222 is deleted at Release n.
- The status remains unchanged at Release n+1.

Release	MODIF FLAG	RECORD KEY	NATIONAL ID	UNIQUE NATIONAL ID	BIC	UNIQUE BIC	ADDRESS
n-2	U	BB000001	22222222	22222222			A
n-1	M	BB000001	22222222	22222222	ANYBBBCC	ANYBBBCC	B
n	D	BB000001	22222222	22222222	ANYBBBCC	ANYBBBCC	B
n	A	BB000001			ANYBBBCC	ANYBBBCC	B
n+1	U	BB000001			ANYBBBCC	ANYBBBCC	B

Case 2:

- BIC ANYBBBCC with Address B existed previous to release n-2.
- National ID 22222222 with address A is added at Release n-1 and merges with BIC ANYBBBCC.
- National ID 22222222 is deleted at Release n.
- The status remains unchanged at Release n+1.

Release	MODIF FLAG	RECORD KEY	NATIONAL ID	UNIQUE NATIONAL ID	BIC CODE	UNIQUE BIC CODE	ADDRESS
n-2	U	BB000001			ANYBBBCC	ANYBBBCC	B
n-1	M	BB000001	22222222	22222222	ANYBBBCC	ANYBBBCC	B

Release	MODIF FLAG	RECORD KEY	NATIONAL ID	UNIQUE NATIONAL ID	BIC CODE	UNIQUE BIC CODE	ADDRESS
n	M	BB000001			ANYBBBCC	ANYBBBCC	B
n+1	U	BB000001			ANYBBBCC	ANYBBBCC	B

Case 3:

- BIC ANYBBBCC with Address B existed previous to release n-2.
- National ID 22222222 with address A is added at Release n-1 and merges with BIC
- BIC ANYBBBCC is deleted at Release n.
- The status remains unchanged at Release n+1.

Release	MODIF FLAG	RECORD KEY	NATIONAL ID	UNIQUE NATIONAL ID	BIC	UNIQUE BIC	ADDRESS
n-2	U	BB000001			ANYBBBCC	ANYBBBCC	B
n-1	M	BB000001	22222222	22222222	ANYBBBCC	ANYBBBCC	B
n	D	BB000001	22222222	22222222	ANYBBBCC	ANYBBBCC	B
n	A	BB000002	22222222	22222222			A
n+1	U	BB000002	22222222	22222222			A

### Example 2

- National ID 22222222 with address A existed previous to release n-2.
- BIC ANYBBBCC with Address B is added at Release n-1 and merges with National ID 22222222.
- National ID 22222222 is deleted at Release n, National ID 33333333 is added and BIC ANYBBBCC merges with it.
- The status remains unchanged at Release n+1.

Release	MODIF FLAG	RECORD KEY	NATIONAL ID	UNIQUE NATIONAL ID	BIC	UNIQUE BIC	ADDRESS
n-2	U	BB000001	22222222	22222222			A
n-1	M	BB000001	22222222	22222222	ANYBBBCC	ANYBBBCC	B
n	D	BB000001	22222222	22222222	ANYBBBCC	ANYBBBCC	B
n	A	BB000002	33333333	33333333	ANYBBBCC	ANYBBBCC	B
n+1	U	BB000002	33333333	33333333	ANYBBBCC	ANYBBBCC	B

### Example 3

- National ID 22222222 with address A & 33333333 with address A' existed previous to release n-2.
- BIC ANYBBBCC with address B is added at Release n-1 and merges with National ID 22222222 & 33333333.

- National ID 22222222 is deleted at Release n, National ID 44444444 with address A" is added and BIC merges with it. The customer requires that "UNIQUE" value is set to 33333333.
- The status remains unchanged at Release n+1.

Release	MODIF FLAG	RECORD KEY	NATIONAL ID	UNIQUE NATIONAL ID	BIC	UNIQUE BIC	ADDRESS
n-2	U	BB000001	22222222	22222222			A
	U	BB000002	33333333	33333333			A'
n-1	M	BB000001	22222222	22222222	ANYBBBCC	ANYBBBCC	B
	M	BB000002	33333333	33333333	ANYBBBCC		A'
n	D	BB000001	22222222	22222222	ANYBBBCC	ANYBBBCC	B
	M	BB000002	33333333	33333333	ANYBBBCC	ANYBBBCC	B
	A	BB000003	44444444	44444444	ANYBBBCC		A"
n+1	U	BB000002	33333333	33333333	ANYBBBCC	ANYBBBCC	A
	U	BB000003	44444444	44444444	ANYBBBCC		A"

**Note** Address A , A' & A" are similar enough to propose a merge with ANYBBBCC (which has the Address B) but could be not perfectly equal (for example, the street is equal but not the building number).

#### Example 4

- National ID 22222222 with address A & 33333333 with address A' existed previous to release n-2.
- BIC ANYBBBCC with address B is added at Release n-1 and merges with National ID 22222222 & 33333333.
- The customer requires that "UNIQUE" value is set to 33333333 at Release n.
- The status remains unchanged at Release n+1.

Release	MODIF FLAG	RECORD KEY	NATIONAL ID	UNIQUE NATIONAL ID	BIC	UNIQUE BIC	ADDRESS
n-2	U	BB000001	22222222	22222222			A
	U	BB000002	33333333	33333333			A'
n-1	M	BB000001	22222222	22222222	ANYBBBCC	ANYBBBCC	B
	M	BB000002	33333333	33333333	ANYBBBCC		A'
n	M	BB000001	22222222	22222222	ANYBBBCC		A
	M	BB000002	33333333	33333333	ANYBBBCC	ANYBBBCC	B
n+1	U	BB000001	22222222	22222222	ANYBBBCC		A
	U	BB000002	33333333	33333333	ANYBBBCC	ANYBBBCC	B

**Example 5**

- National ID 22222222 with address A existed previous to release n-2.
- Several BICs are added at Release n-1 and merge with National ID 22222222.
- ANYBBBGG is deleted at Release n.
- The status remains unchanged at Release n+1.

Release	MODIF FLAG	RECORD KEY	NATIONAL ID	UNIQUE NATIONAL ID	BIC	UNIQUE BIC	ADDRESS
n-2	U	BB000001	22222222	22222222			A
n-1	M	BB000001	22222222	22222222	ANYBBBCC	ANYBBBCC	B
	A	BB000002	22222222		ANYBBBEE	ANYBBBEE	B
	A	BB000003	22222222		ANYBBBGG	ANYBBBGG	B
n	U	BB000001	22222222	22222222	ANYBBBCC	ANYBBBCC	A
	U	BB000002	22222222		ANYBBBEE	ANYBBBEE	A
	D	BB000003	22222222		ANYBBBGG	ANYBBBGG	A
n+1	U	BB000001	22222222	22222222	ANYBBBCC	ANYBBBCC	A
	U	BB000002	22222222		ANYBBBEE	ANYBBBEE	A

**Example 6**

- National ID 22222222 with address A existed previous to release n-2.
- Several BICs are added at Release n-1 and merge with National ID 22222222.
- ANYBBBCC is deleted at Release n.
- The status remains unchanged at Release n+1.

Case 1:

Release	MODIF FLAG	RECORD KEY	NATIONAL ID	UNIQUE NATIONAL ID	BIC	UNIQUE BIC	ADDRESS
n-2	U	BB000001	22222222	22222222			A
n-1	M	BB000001	22222222	22222222	ANYBBBCC	ANYBBBCC	B
	A	BB000002	22222222		ANYBBBEE	ANYBBBEE	B
	A	BB000003	22222222		ANYBBBGG	ANYBBBGG	B
n	D	BB000001	22222222	22222222	ANYBBBCC	ANYBBBCC	B
	U	BB000002	22222222		ANYBBBEE	ANYBBBEE	B
	M	BB000003	22222222	22222222	ANYBBBGG	ANYBBBGG	B
n+1	U	BB000002	22222222		ANYBBBEE	ANYBBBEE	B
	U	BB000003	22222222	22222222	ANYBBBGG	ANYBBBGG	B

## Case 2:

Release	MODIF FLAG	RECORD KEY	NATIONAL ID	UNIQUE NATIONAL ID	BIC	UNIQUE BIC	ADDRESS
n-2	U	BB000001	22222222	22222222			A
n-1	M	BB000001	22222222	22222222	ANYBBBCC	ANYBBBCC	B
	A	BB000002	22222222		ANYBBBEE	ANYBBBEE	B
	A	BB000003	22222222		ANYBBBGG	ANYBBBGG	B
n	M	BB000001	22222222	22222222	ANYBBBGG	ANYBBBGG	B
	U	BB000002	22222222		ANYBBBEE	ANYBBBEE	B
	D	BB000003	22222222		ANYBBBGG	ANYBBBGG	B
n+1	U	BB000001	22222222	22222222	ANYBBBGG	ANYBBBGG	B
	U	BB000002	22222222		ANYBBBEE	ANYBBBEE	B

**Example 7**

- ANYBBBCC, ANYBBBEE, and ANYBBBGG existed previous to release n-2
- National ID 22222222 is added at Release n-1 and merges with these BICs.
- ANYBBBCC is deleted at Release n (and unique value is set to ANYBBBEE)
- The status remains unchanged at Release n+1.

Release	MODIF FLAG	RECORD KEY	NATIONAL ID	UNIQUE NATIONAL ID	BIC	UNIQUE BIC	ADDRESS
n-2	U	BB000001			ANYBBBCC	ANYBBBCC	B
	U	BB000002			ANYBBBEE	ANYBBBEE	B
	U	BB000003			ANYBBBGG	ANYBBBGG	B
n-1	M	BB000001	22222222	22222222	ANYBBBCC	ANYBBBCC	B
	M	BB000002	22222222		ANYBBBEE	ANYBBBEE	B
	M	BB000003	22222222		ANYBBBGG	ANYBBBGG	B
n	D	BB000001	22222222	22222222	ANYBBBCC	ANYBBBCC	B
	M	BB000002	22222222	22222222	ANYBBBEE	ANYBBBEE	B
	U	BB000003	22222222		ANYBBBGG	ANYBBBGG	B
n+1	U	BB000002	22222222	22222222	ANYBBBEE	ANYBBBEE	B
	U	BB000003	22222222		ANYBBBGG	ANYBBBGG	B

# 11 Frequently Asked Questions about Modification Flags

- An active record is a record that has not the modification flag "D" (Deleted)
- BPI is the BICPlusIBAN Directory

## Why may a BIC move to another record in BPI?

The BIC is a data field in BPI, other data such as National ID (new, changed or deleted) may affect the existing match or change the UNIQUE BIC selection. These are normal behaviours.

## How to read the modification flags in the BPI?

The modification flag relates to the RECORD KEY only, not to the data! They must be used for record maintenance in a database, not for data maintenance.

## Example

MODIF FLAG	RECORD KEY	NATIONAL ID	UNIQUE NATIONAL ID	BIC	UNIQUE BIC	ADDRESS
M	RC1	10	10	X	X	A
A	RC2	11	11	X		A
D	RC3	12	12	X	X	A

## Records

Record RC1 :

- Record RC1 is modified (M) because it becomes the UNIQUE BIC CODE (reference for search purpose). This kind of move may be due to a better match with the record or for other reasons (for example, on customer's request).

Record RC2 :

- Record RC2 is added (A) because a new NATIONAL ID 11 was created this month and the matching engine managed to match it with BIC X.

Record RC3:

- Record RC3 is deleted (D) because NATIONAL ID 12 has become obsolete. The modification flag D applies to RC3, it means that the record is deleted. It does not necessarily mean that the data related to the record is deleted. For example, the BIC X is not deleted, while the NATIONAL ID 12 is deleted. You will only consider the data as deleted when it does not appear in any field (of active records) anymore.

## Will a record containing a deleted BIC always have a Modification flag "D"?

No. Only the BIC Directory provides modification flags related to the BIC itself. In the BPI, a BIC could be deleted while the record will have a modification flag "M" (Modified) because the remaining data of the record are still valid.

**Examples**

**Publication in the month N**

MODIF FLAG	RECORD KEY	NATIONAL ID	UNIQUE NATIONAL ID	BIC	UNIQUE BIC	ADDRESS
U	RC1	10	10	ABCDLLCC	ABCDLLCC	A

**Publication in the month N+1**

MODIF FLAG	RECORD KEY	NATIONAL ID	UNIQUE NATIONAL ID	BIC	UNIQUE BIC	ADDRESS
M	RC1	10	10			A

**Tip** As a workaround, the customers can always download the free of charge "PDF Monthly update" from link [http://www.swift.com/biconline/index.cfm?fuseaction=display\\_newdownload](http://www.swift.com/biconline/index.cfm?fuseaction=display_newdownload) (see 7: PDF update). Deleted BICs appear in this document.

**Why are there deleted records with a certain BIC together with active records that have the same BIC?**

In the BPI the BICs are used in several data fields. A BIC may appear in some records and/or disappear from a record without affecting the record existence.

**Example**

NATIONAL ID 10 is deleted from the national provider's file. The BPI will show:

MODIF FLAG	RECORD KEY	NATIONAL ID	UNIQUE NATIONAL ID	BIC	UNIQUE BIC	ADDRESS
D	RC1	10	10	ABCDLLCC	ABCDLLCC	A
M	RC2	11	11	ABCDLLCC	ABCDLLCC	A
U	RC3	12	12	ABCDLLCC		C

Record RC1 is deleted. It does not mean that the BIC ABCDLLCC is deleted. The modification flag "D" in BPI, shows only the records to delete from previous version, not the data to delete. Record RC2 inherits now the value for UNIQUE BIC CODE, hence the modification flag "M". Record RC3 is not affected (modification flag "U").

**May a deleted BIC appear in an active record in BPI?**

No. When a BIC is deleted it does not appear at all in any field of any active record.

### How to check if a BIC is valid / invalid (deleted) in BPI?

A BIC is valid:

- A BIC is valid if and only if a search on the UNIQUE BIC CODE field returns a record for which the modification flag is "U", "A", or "M". All records with modification flag "D" are irrelevant for the validation, they must be ignored.

A BIC is invalid:

- A BIC is invalid (deleted) if and only if a search on the UNIQUE BIC CODE field does not return a record for which the modification flag is "U", "A", or "M".

### How to check if a BIC is added in BPI?

There is no way to find if a new BIC is added in BPI. Indeed BIC is a data field in BPI and it may appear in an existent record which contains National ID data. Only a comparison with previous version search could show it.

### Example

#### Publication in the month N

MODIF FLAG	RECORD KEY	NATIONAL ID	UNIQUE NATIONAL ID	BIC	UNIQUE BIC	ADDRESS
U	RC1	10	10			A

#### Publication in the month N+1

MODIF FLAG	RECORD KEY	NATIONAL ID	UNIQUE NATIONAL ID	BIC	UNIQUE BIC	ADDRESS
U	RC1	10	10	ABCDLLCC	ABCDLLCC	A

#### Tip

As a workaround, the customers can always download the free of charge "PDF Monthly update" from link [http://www.swift.com/biconline/index.cfm?fuseaction=display\\_newdownload](http://www.swift.com/biconline/index.cfm?fuseaction=display_newdownload) (see 7: PDF update). Added BICs appear in this document.

### BICPlusIBAN FAQ

For more questions, see the [BICPlusIBAN FAQ](#). This document answers the most frequent questions raised by users.

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