



WHY REGISTER WITH B.I.C.?

1. ISO - STANDARD 6346-1995

The ISO Standard 6346-1995 nominates B.I.C. as the exclusive Registrar for registering and protecting the alpha-codes for all ISO containers in International Trade.

2. WCO – Istanbul Convention

In its 2010 revision, the Istanbul Convention was modified in the same way that the Customs Convention for Containers.

Thereby, they both make now reference to the ISO Standard 6346, which nominates B.I.C. as the exclusive Registrar for the owners or principal operators' containers identification prefixes ; thus requiring the registration of container BIC-code mandatory.

Registration with BIC will ensure hassle-free movement of containers in International Trade.

3. RATIONALE

All containers used in international trade must have a 4-letter alpha code ending with "U", and that they must be registered with B.I.C.

In general, any container carrying a CSC plate (Convention for Safe Container – 1972) is likely to be used in international trade, and therefore must have a BIC registered alpha code ending with U.

All Carriers are required to report to Customs administrations, and other appropriate authorities, where applicable, the identification of the containers –including SOC (Shipper Owned Containers) - they are transporting. This is included with the advanced cargo declarations under the national cargo risk assessment programs, pursuant to the World Customs Organization's SAFE Framework of Standards. Each Carrier must rely on what is physically marked on the container, its alpha code and unit number when taking its custody.

Units operating exclusively in domestic traffic may also be registered with BIC codes ending in U, regardless of whether or not they carry CSC plates. However, they may also be required to be numbered in accordance with existing regional/national protocol, standard or regulation.

The World Customs Organizations (WCO) relies on B.I.C. to check that codes provided are unique and that the code holders are legitimate organizations.

The pressure from the Customs Administrations on security in container trade will increase steadily over the coming months; any container not marked with a registered BIC code would likely to be subjected to increased checks and inspections, resulting in delays.

Not registering container code with B.I.C. will inevitably put the operator at risk, even if containers are operated domestically only.

Besides these security issues, if an operator uses a code that may have been registered to someone else, the depot operations, equipment control, billing, storage, handling will all be jeopardized – plus, the possibility of one using someone else's containers.

It is just common sense (and good business practice) to register your containers with B.I.C.