



The European B2B Forum for the Electronics Industry

EDIFICE Guideline

Global Unique Identification

of

COMPANIES (GUIC)

ORGANISATIONAL (SUB-) UNITS (GUIO)

LOCATIONS (GUIL)

PRODUCTS (GUIP)

SERIAL NUMBERS (GUIS)

TRACEABILITY NUMBERS (GUIT)

RETURNABLE TRANSPORT ITEMS (GUIR)

Issue 2

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EDIFICE

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Comparison to previous issue

Changes compared to Issue 1 endorsed on 26 May 2004 are :

- Document Title extended to include the Returnable Transport Items covered by the revised ISO/IEC 15459.
- References to ISO/IEC 15459 Standard Part 1 – Part 5
- Addition of ‘Returnable Transport Unit’ in sections:
 - 2. Definitions
 - 3. Data Element Structure
 - 4. Machine readable representation
- Update of the NEN list of Issuing Agencies.

1 Introduction

In business processes between trading partners (i.e. B2B processes), the exchange of various information prior to, accompanying and following the physical flow of goods has become more and more important. This information may be exchanged electronically and/or via documents and labels.

The information that is exchanged includes, but is not limited to, information about products, parties and locations.

To efficiently handle these processes electronically, there is a need for unique identification of the different data elements. This especially applies to product and party identification, as these are key data elements in trade, logistics and manufacturing processes.

1.1 Purpose

The EDIFICE guideline for the *Global Unique Identification* scheme defines the entities, the structure and the syntax rules that have to be applied to create globally unique numbers for these entities.

The method applied is based upon the International Standard ISO/IEC 15459 series for *“Information Technology – Unique Identifiers”* that specifies unique identifiers for supply chain management, such as transport units, (known as the License Plate number), serialised items, lot/batch numbers or returnable transport items.

1.2 Scope

This guideline describes the structure and application for the unique identification of the following entities:

- Companies
- Organisational (sub-)units of companies
- Locations (defined by companies)
- Products
- Returnable transport items
- Serial numbers
- Traceability (i.e. batch / lot) numbers

As many of these data elements are shown on labels and are bar/2-D coded, appropriate bar code data identifiers have been defined.

1.3 Benefits

In business practice a lot of different numbering schemes are frequently in use for identification of suppliers, customers, articles, locations, serial- and traceability numbers. Assignments of such numbers are made by suppliers as well as the different customers in the supply chain or even by carriers. This requires huge parallel administration effort of several identification numbers for the same entity without added value.

In fact there are organisations that provide worldwide unique identifier number systems (UCC/EAN, DUNS numbers, CLEI, IATA, . . .).

However, all of them have the disadvantage to be designed for and used in a special sector or area only. This diversity and inconsistency is inefficient and costly.

Thus there is a need for a flexible identification system which is applicable and practical for all potential trading partners world wide.

The prefix structure of ISO/IEC 15459 provides the appropriate basis.

The benefits and advantages of this identification system are:

- world wide and unique identification
- each entity identifier is assigned at the origin (e.g. supplier, manufacturer, etc...)
- this unique identification can be used by all partners in the supply chain.
- companies can continue to use their existing internal numbering system
- the use of alphanumeric characters creates more information capacity with less characters
- applicable for all industrial sectors with the respective governing organisations being the Issuing Agency
- world wide ruled but managed decentralised
- IACs (Issuing Agency Codes) and CINs(Company Identification Numbers) are available on the internet – IACs are listed at the NEN web site, CINs are listed at the respective IAC's site
See IAC list at NEN:
<http://www2.nen.nl/nen/servlet/dispatcher.Dispatcher?id=167677>
See the EDIFICE CIN list at : <http://www.edifice.org/htm/licenseplate/lp.htm>
Based on this information, users are able to identify the source of the coded information.

2 Definitions

COMPANY

A company is a 'party to a transaction', meaning a trading partner in a B2B relationship.

ORGANISATIONAL (SUB-)UNIT

An organisational (sub-)unit may be a legal entity (i.e. a subsidiary), a division, a department or any other organisational unit uniquely identified and defined within a company.

LOCATION

A location may be any physical facility such as a manufacturing plant, branch office, building or even a single room or loading dock, that is uniquely identified and defined within a company.

PRODUCTS

A product may be a single part, component, assembly or any other finished good, regardless of its value and stage in the supply chain.

A product identification is a unique code assigned to a product by its manufacturer.

SERIAL NUMBERS

A serial number is a unique code assigned to a product by its manufacturer for traceability purposes.

TRACEABILITY NUMBER

A traceability number is a unique code identifying a lot number, a batch number or another number under which a group of entities/products is traceable in the manufacturer's computer system. The traceability number is assigned by the manufacturer.

RETURNABLE TRANSPORT ITEM (RTI)

A returnable transport item (RTI) may be any type of reusable packaging such as a pallet, skid, box or crate which is used to facilitate handling of products. RTIs are designed and built so they can be reused several times for transport purposes.

3 Data Element structure

This section defines the general structure of the unique identification and the different data elements that it is applied to.

It consists of 3 segments :

LE YYY ZZZZZZZZZZ

- 3. Unique identification number assigned to the entity and controlled by the issuer
- 2. Unique Company Identification Number (CIN), assigned and controlled by the Issuing Agency
- 1. Unique Issuing Agency Code (IAC) assigned and controlled by the Registration Authority – NEN. The letters 'LE' are assigned to EDIFICE

1. The first segment is the Issuing Agency Code (IAC). The IAC is a unique code assigned and controlled by the NEN (Nederlands Normalisatie Instituut) in accordance with ISO/IEC 15459. The IAC is a 1 to 3 digit code. The list of NEN assigned IACs can be found at <http://www2.nen.nl/nen/servlet/dispatcher.Dispatcher?id=167677>
2. The second segment is a unique Company Identification Number (CIN) assigned to a company by the Issuing Agency (IA). Each company implementing this unique numbering system, will register at the IA of its preference and will be assigned one or more CINs depending on the company's requirements.

Each IA has established own rules for the assignment and format of their CINs. For EDIFICE rules see section 6.2.

3. The third segment contains the company's respective, internal identification number assigned to the entity. This may be the proprietary, legacy number and is controlled by the company itself.

Note: For the GUIC (Global Unique Identification of a Company) code this 3rd segment is not applicable.

3.1 Global Unique Identification of a Company - GUIC

The GUIC uniquely identifies a company. A company is a 'party to a transaction', meaning a trading partner in a B2B relationship.

The GUIC consist of 2 segments, namely the IAC and the CIN.

As the IAC is a unique code assigned by the NEN, and the CIN is a unique code assigned by the IA, the combination of both codes forms an identifier that is globally unique.

3.2 Global Unique Identification of an Organisational (sub) Unit - GUIO

The GUIO uniquely identifies organisational sub-units of a company. A sub-unit may be a legal entity (i.e. subsidiary), a division, a department or any other organisational unit defined within a company.

This data element is comprised of the GUIC as described in section 3.1 followed by the company's internal code assigned to identify the sub-unit.

3.3 Global Unique Identification of a Location – GUIL

The GUIL uniquely identifies physical locations of a company. A location may be any physical facility such as a manufacturing plant, branch office, building or even a single room or dock, that is uniquely defined within a company.

This data element is comprised of the GUIC as described in section 3.1 followed by the company's internal code assigned to identify the physical location.

3.4 Global Unique Identification of a Product – GUIP

The GUIP uniquely identifies a company's product. A product for this definition may be a single part, component, assembly or any other finished good, regardless of its value and stage in the supply chain.

This data element is comprised of the GUIC as described in section 3.1 followed by the company's internal code assigned to identify the product

3.5 Global Unique Identification of a Serial Number – GUIS

The GUIS uniquely identifies the serial number of a serialised product.

This data element is comprised of the manufacturer's GUIC as described in section 3.1 followed by the serial number assigned to the product by the manufacturer.

3.6 Global Unique Identification of a Traceability Number – GUIT

The GUIT uniquely identifies the traceability number for a product. This data element is comprised of the manufacturer's GUIC as described in section 3.1 followed by the traceability number assigned by the manufacturer.

The traceability number uniquely assigned by the manufacturer, can be a lot number, a batch number or another number, under which a group of entities / products is traceable in the manufacturer's computer system.

3.7 Global Unique Identification of Returnable Transport Items – GUIR

The GUIR uniquely identifies a returnable transport item (RTI) such as a skid, box pallet, wooden crate, or the like (see definition in section 2).

This data element is comprised of the manufacturer's GUIC as described in section 3.1 followed by a serial number assigned to the RTI by the manufacturer. Part of this identifier may also indicate the type of packaging and additional information.

4 Machine readable representation

4.1 Structure

(XXX) LE YY ZZZZZZZZZZ

└─ Data Identifier used with bar or 2-D code as defined by ANS MH10.8.2

4.2 Data Identifiers

ISO/IEC 15459 and ISO 22742 standards require that data encoded in a bar or 2-D code must be preceded by data identifiers that conform to ISO/IEC 15418 (see References). ISO/IEC 15418 refers to ANS MH 10.8.2, which provides the detailed definitions of Data Identifiers.

A Data Identifier is a specified character, or string of characters, that denotes the intended use of the data that follows.

The data identifier immediately precedes the data in the bar code. The data identifier can be a single alphabetic character, or one to three numeric digits followed by a single alphabetic character. In other words, the first alphabetic character of the scanned data element is always the last - or only - character of the data identifier.

The following table shows the data identifiers to be used in a bar or 2-D code:

ANS MH10.8.2. Data Identifier	Data Element
18V	GUIC - Global Unique Identification of a Company
21V	GUIO - Global Unique Identification of an Organizational (Sub-)Unit
25L	GUIL - Global Unique Identification of a Location
25P	GUIP - Global Unique Identification of a Product
25S	GUIS - Global Unique Identification of a Serial Number
25T	GUIT - Global Unique Identification of a Traceability Number
25B	GUIR - Global Unique Identification of a Returnable Transport Item

4.3 Format

Any GUIx number shall contain only numeric and upper case alphabetic characters. No lower case characters or punctuation marks shall be used. It shall not contain more than 35 characters, excluding the Data Identifier. This is in coordination with the EDIFACT rules.

The following table shows the format of the different data elements following EDIFICE recommendation:

Data Element	GUIx			
	Data Identifier	IAC	CIN *)	Global Unique Identification Number assigned by the company*)
GUIC	18V	LE	an 3	-
GUIO	21V	LE	an 3	an...15
GUIL	25L	LE	an 3	an...15
GUIP	25P	LE	an 3	an...20
GUIS	25S	LE	an 3	an...20
GUIT	25T	LE	an 3	an...20
GUIR	25B	LE	an 3	an...20

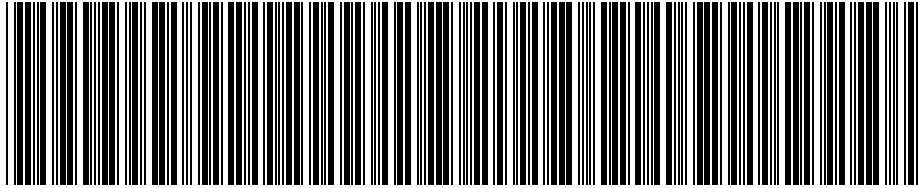
*) in these columns, 'an' denotes alphanumeric data, followed by a character count. This is either a fixed value, or variable up to the indicated limit. This takes into account technical restrictions of the bar code reading equipment.

The length limitations are illustrated in the examples below. The same GUIP is bar coded in Code 39 and Code 128.

Code 39 Bar Code.

Parameters: Ratio = 3:1 X-dimension = 0,20

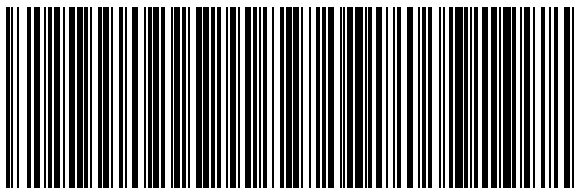
GUIP: (25P) LEXYZPRODUCT1234567890123



Code 128 Bar Code.

Parameters: X-dimension = 0,20

GUIP: (25P) LEXYZPRODUCT1234567890123





5 Examples

5.1 Use of GUIx in EDIFACT messages

UNH+1+ORDERS:D:97A:UN:EDPO04'
BGM+220+PO11223+9'
DTM+137:931014:101'
RFF+CT:9999'

NAD+BY+**UN123456789**::16' GUIC: UN123456789 is the Buyers ID (Issuing Agency = Dun & Bradstreet)

RFF+VA:12121'
CTA+PD+:RICHARD JOHNSON'
COM+327369:TE'

NAD+SE+**LEMFT**::8' GUIC: LEMFT is the Sellers ID (Issuing Agency = EDIFICE)

NAD+DP+**LEDEL**::8' GUIC: LEDEL is the Delivery Party ID (Issuing Agency = EDIFICE)

CUX+2:USD:9'

LIN+1++**LEMFTPRODABC**:MF::90' GUIP: number assigned by the Manufacturer 'LEMFT'

QTY+21:3000:PCE'
PRI+AAA:5.50:CT::1:PCE'
RFF+LI::37'
SCC+1'
QTY+21:2000'
DTM+2:940204:101'
SCC+1'
QTY+21:1000'
DTM+2:940304:101'
UNS+S'
UNT+24+1'

5.2 Use of GUIx in XML

RosettaNet Partner Interface Process™ extracts of PIP® 3A4 Purchase Order version 1.0

GlobalBusinessIdentifier – GUIC

```
<toRole>
<PartnerRoleDescription>
<GlobalPartnerRoleClassificationCode>Seller</GlobalPartnerRoleClassificationCode>
<PartnerDescription>
<GlobalPartnerClassificationCode>Manufacturer</GlobalPartnerClassificationCode>
<BusinessDescription> <GlobalBusinessIdentifier>LEMFT</GlobalBusinessIdentifier>
<GlobalSupplyChainCode>Electronic Components</GlobalSupplyChainCode>
</BusinessDescription>
</PartnerDescription>
</PartnerRoleDescription>
</toRole>
```

LE: Issuing Agency Code for EDIFICE

MFT : Company identification number for : Manufacturer of EC devices

GlobalLocationIdentifier – GUIL

```
<shipFrom>
<GlobalLocationIdentifier>LEMFTPLANT1</GlobalLocationIdentifier>
</shipFrom>
```

LE: Issuing Agency Code for EDIFICE

MFT : Company identification number for : Manufacturer of EC devices

PLANT1 : Manufacturer of EC devices – Plant 1 – assigned by company MFT

GlobalProductIdentifier – GUIP

```
<ProductDescription>
<GlobalProductIdentifier>LEMFTPRODABC</GlobalProductIdentifier>
</ProductDescription>
```

LE: Issuing Agency Code for EDIFICE

MFT : Company identification number for : Manufacturer of EC devices

PRODABC: Unique product identification number assigned by company MFT







5.3 Use in bar or 2-D coded labels

Shipment Label

Ship from <i>Manufacturer of EC Devices Plant 1 Denmark</i>	Ship to <i>Fine Computers Limited 521 Megabyte Drive Graphtown 7R3BY1 UK</i>
Weight/Volume 17 kg	
(K) Order Number: G90K7-M-C501-292027 (Q) Quantity: 250 (25P) Part Number: LEMFTPRODABC	
(J) LEMFT12345678904 (K) G90K7-M-C501-292027 (Q) 250 (7Q) 17KG (25P) LEMFTPRODABC	SPLRCUST  <small>Data Matrix: ECC200 Data syntax according to ISO/IEC 15484</small>
(J) License plate: LEMFT12345678904 	

*The Content of the 2-D symbol used in this example is not authentic.

Product Package Label

<p>(25P) Supplier Part No.: LEMFTPRODABC </p> <p>(25L) Supplier Div.: LEMFTPLANT1 </p> <p>(25T) Lot No.: LEMFTLOT123 </p> <p>(4L) C.o.O.: FR </p> <p>(2P) EC Level: C5K </p>	<p>(Q) Quantity: 250 </p> <div data-bbox="837 611 1348 728" style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"><p>Fixed Metal Glaze Chip Resistor</p></div> <hr/> <p>Manufacturer of EC Devices - Plant 1 -</p> <p>Made in Denmark Date: 2001-08-31</p>
---	---

6 How to request a Company Identification Number (CIN)

A company requesting one or more CINs, should consult the Issuing Agency (IA) list on the web site of the NEN and get in touch with the IA of its preference.

<http://www2.nen.nl/nen/servlet/dispatcher.Dispatcher?id=167677>

The following chapters describe the request procedure at EDIFICE.

6.1 Issuing Agency EDIFICE – assignment of CIN

- Companies can apply for as many CINs as they wish, for example to identify legal entities in different countries. Whenever possible consecutive CINs will be allocated to the same company. See Annex 1 for the EDIFICE CIN request form.
- Although primarily intended for the Electronics Industry and its partners, CINs can also be assigned to companies from other industries. EDIFICE however reserves the right to refuse the request for a CIN.
- EDIFICE members receive the first CIN free of charge. Consecutive requests or requests by non EDIFICE members will be charged a one-time registration fee of 300 EUR per CIN.
- Verification procedure: once a year EDIFICE takes the initiative to verify the stored information.

6.2 Structure of the CIN assigned by EDIFICE

The Company Identification Numbers assigned by EDIFICE are guaranteed to be unique.

To guarantee uniqueness, CINs issued by EDIFICE conform to the following rules:

- a CIN consists of 3 characters fixed length
- the CIN's characters are alphanumeric
- renounced CINs will not be re-assigned for a period of 5 years

6.3 Publication

A register of all companies who applied for an EDIFICE Company Identification Number (CIN) can be viewed on the EDIFICE Web Site :

<http://repository.edifice.org/cin.htm>



Annex 1 - EDIFICE CIN Request Form

<http://forms.edifice.org/cinreq.htm>

REQUEST FORM for an EDIFICE COMPANY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER

Company/Subsidiary for which the CIN is being requested

COMPANY : -----

Main Business area : -----

DEPARTMENT: -----

ADDRESS: -----

CITY & ZIP: -----

COUNTRY : -----

PROPOSED CIN (3 character alpha-numeric) :

EDIFICE holds the right to change the proposed CIN depending on availability.

Do you agree to publish your company's CIN on the Public EDIFICE Web Site? YES/NO

Contact Person :

NAME: ----- FIRST NAME: -----

FUNCTION: -----

PHONE: ----- FAX: -----

E-MAIL: -----

Bill-To Address

COMPANY: -----

DEPT: -----

ADDRESS: -----

CITY & ZIP: -----

COUNTRY: -----

VAT: -----

A company Identification Number (CIN) will be assigned to you within 10 working days after receipt of your payment. Each request is charged 300 EUR. EDIFICE member companies receive the first CIN free of charge.

Refer to the EDIFICE License Plate Guideline for Transport Units at: <http://repository.edifice.org/>

DateSignature -----

Please return this form to : EDIFICE secretariat; Fax: +32 16 76 53 58 <http://forms.edifice.org/cinreq.htm>

Annex 2 - Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are used in this guideline - please also refer to the glossary of terms in Annex 4 for explanations of the most important technical terms.

ANS	American National Standard
CEN	Comité Européen de Normalisation - European Committee for Standardisation
CIN	Company Identification Number
EN	European Norm
GUIx	Global Unique Identification number x = C for Company = O for Organisational sub-unit = L for Location = P for Product = S for Serial number = T for Traceability number = R for Returnable Transport Items
IAC	Issuing Agency Code
NEN	Nederlands Normalisatie Instituut - Dutch National Standards Institute (formerly NNI)
UN/EDIFACT	Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport

Annex 3 - Glossary of Terms

BAR CODE	The predetermined pattern of bars and spaces which represents numeric or alphanumeric information in machine readable form.
COMPANY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER	A number assigned by the Issuing Agency uniquely identifying the requesting company. The number must conform to the format defined by the Issuing Agency - see Annex 1.
DATA IDENTIFIER	A character or string of characters used in a prefix position to uniquely identify the data that follows.
ISSUING AGENCY	Issuing Agencies shall authorise any organisation who wishes to allocate License Plates and shall define rules which ensure that all License Plate shall be unique and shall conform to the License Plate standard.
LICENSE PLATE	A unique number, regardless of its use, specified by the label issuer and applied to a transport unit to provide access to traceability data, regardless of content and destination and valid for its lifetime.
REGISTRATION AUTHORITY	A registration authority shall register Issuing Agencies and shall allocate to each of them a prefix string of characters which are globally unique.

Annex 4 – Register of Issuing Agency Codes for ISO/IEC 15459

<http://www2.nen.nl/nen/servlet/dispatcher.Dispatcher?id=167677>

Dated 7 April 2006 – for latest version refer to URL above

1. Register ordered by Issuing Agency Name		
CEPI Confederation of European Paper Industries	PA	CEPI 250 Avenue Louise B-1050 BRUSSELS BELGIUM
CEPIC European Chemical Industry Council	QC	CEPIC Avenue E.van Nieuwenhuysen 4-1 B-1160 BRUSSELS BELGIUM
DHL Freight GmbH	ND	DHL Freight GmbH Kennedydamm 15 40476 DUSSELDORF GERMANY
DOD-DLIS Department of Defense - Defence Logistics Information Service	LD	Defence Logistics Information Service 74 Washigton Ave N. STE 7 BATTLE CREEK, MI 49017-3084 USA
Dun & Bradstreet	UN	Dun & Bradstreet 3 Sylvan Way PARSIPPANY NJ 07054 USA
GS1 (European Article Numbering Association)	0 thru 9	GS1 Blue Tower Avenue Louise 326, bte 10 B-1050 BRUSSELS BELGIUM
ECRI	VEC	ECRI 5200 Butler Pike Plymouth Meeting PA 19462-1298 USA
EDIFICE Electronic Data Interchange for Companies with Interest in Computing and Electronics	LE	EDIFICE Rue du Rhône, 100 1204 GENEVA SWITZERLAND
EHIBCC European Health Industry Business Communications Council	LH	EHIBCC 100-102 Rue Theodore Decuyper 1200 WOLUWE St. LAMBERT BELGIUM
EUROFER European Confederation of Iron and Steel Industries	ST	EUROFER Rue du Noyer, 211 B-1000 BRUSSELS BELGIUM

EuroExpress Verein EuroExpress	UT	Verein EuroExpress 20, Place des Halles 67000 STRASBOURG FRANCE
FIATA International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations	LF	FIATA Baumackerstrasse 24, CH-8050 ZURICH SWITZERLAND
G.T.F. Group of Terrestrial Freight Forwarders	VGT	GTF 33 rue Galilée 75116 PARIS FRANCE
IBM International Business Machines	VIB	IBM Tour Descartes F92066 PARIS LA DEFENSE CEDEX FRANCE
JIPDEC/CII Japan Information processing Development Corporation / Electronic Commerce Promotion Center	LA	JIPDEC/CII 3-5-8 Shibakoen, Minato-ku TOKYO JAPAN
NATO AC/135	D	NATO AC/135 2 Rue de La Gare L-8302 CAPELLEN LUXEMBOURG
NorStella	KNO	NorStella Foundation for E-business and Trade procedures Postbox 2526 Solli N-0202 OSLO NORWAY
ODETTE EUROPE	OD	Odette Europe Forbes House Halkin Street LONDON SW1X 7DS UNITED KINGDOM
TPG POST	NL	TPG POST Prinses Beatrixlaan 23 2595 AK 's-GRAVENHAGE THE NETHERLANDS
SIEMENS	SI	Siemens AG D-80286 MUNICH GERMANY
Telcordia Technologies, Inc.	LB	Telcordia Technologies, Inc. 45 Knightsbridgeroad Room PY5 5D-219 PISCATAWAY, NJ 08854-3923 USA
Teikoku Databank Ltd.	VTD	Teikoku Databank Ltd 2-5-20 Minami Aoyama Minatoku Tokyo JAPAN
Universal Postal Union	J	Universal Postal Union

		Case Postale 3000 BERNE 15 SWITZERLAND
van Gend & Loos	VGL	van Gend & Loos Odijkerweg 19 3972 NE DRIEBERGEN-RYSENBURG THE NETHERLANDS
Xifrat Daten A.G.	RG	Xifrat Daten A.G. Alpenstrasse 15 CH-6304 ZUG SWITZERLAND