Bureau International des Containers

Facility Code API Update
UNCEFACT 36th Virtual Forum
28 April 2021
About the BIC

- Non-profit NGO, founded in 1933 under auspices of the ICC
- 2100+ members in over 120 countries
- Promoting safety, security, standardization, and efficiency
- Official NGO Observer status at IMO and WCO, ECOSOC
- Active at ISO, CEN and UNECE
- Based in Paris

www.bic-boxtech.org
BIC Facility Code
BIC Facility Code: Background

- BIC first nominated as official register in ISO 9897
- BIC facility code becomes **UN/LOCODE child code** in 2020
- Historically, has been general adherence to 9-character format in industry
- **But poor record of registration, avoidance of duplicates, proper adherence to standard**

“ITGOAVTRA”
No common language = Inefficiency

With no common language inefficiencies prevail, including wasted time, data re-entry, systems programming, depot changes and new depots, e-mail and phone calls, uncertainty and more. This system (or lack thereof) is also not future-ready!
Ultimate Goal: 1 facility, 1 code

With a common Location Code Database (BIC’s LoCode Database) the same code will be used by all parties, saving everyone time and providing certainty that allows for future growth opportunities.
BIC and SMDG provide complementary coded locations for container facilities and terminals, both are recognised as child codes of the UN/LOCODE under UN/CEFACT. These unique codes can be used in existing and future messages throughout a supply chain across multiple parties.
BIC Facility Code – Harmonization Project & joint BIC-SMDG API launch
Nov 2020: BIC Facility Code Harmonization Project in collaboration with DCSA

Data Input
Combined total of over 35,000 Container Facilities were provided by 7 major carriers, 3 major lessors, multiple other service providers.

Machine learning tools allowed verification of addresses, Lat/Long coordinates and harmonization of the lists

Result
Over 16,000 facilities in 188 countries now have a harmonized code, enhanced address and Lat/Long coordinates

* Enhanced = Enhanced address, and GPS coordinates added.
North America Harmonization Project in collaboration with IANA

Data Input
1300 depots, CYs, Rail ramps, etc.

Machine learning tools allowed verification of addresses, Lat/Long coordinates and harmonization of the lists

Result
All 1300 facilities in IANA’s Intermodal Directory now have an assigned BIC Facility Code, address and GPS coordinates

The BIC Facility Code Database now contains over 5,000 facilities in North America.

* Enhanced = Enhanced address, and GPS coordinates added.
API is live

- All facility codes Harmonised
- Serves both BIC and SMDG codes
- 17,000+ unique facilities now in the dataset
- Facilities have been enhanced with address detail, latitude and longitude
Facility Codes API - Examples

Carriers
- dcsa
  - Tracking API (BIC, SMDG)
  - Vessel Schedules (SMDG)

Lessors
- TRITON
  - Depot Lifecycle API (BIC)
- seaco
- Touax

Software Providers
- avantiDA
- Change
- EOS

Regional and Port Community
- IANA
  - Intermodal Adapts — Celebrating 30 years
- IPCSA
  - International Port Community Systems Association

100+ other companies
Future of Facility Codes – Geographical Features
Geographical Features

- Lat/Long
- Circles
- Polygons

Potential to **crowdsource** and overlay collectively to support smart assets and automation.

**Example Mapping**
Summing up

• API is live and providing BIC and SMDG codes
• Growing Industry Adoption of Facility Codes
• Register for access at https://www.bic-code.org/api-information-page/
• Interested in Geofencing? Let us know, planning a pilot project
To Find Out More

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