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American National Standard for Telecommunications

Structure for the Representation of the Communications Industry Manufacturers, Suppliers, and Related Service Companies for Information Exchange

Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions

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American National Standards Institute, Inc.

Abstract

This standard provides the code and format structure for the representation of the names of communications industry manufacturers, suppliers, and related service companies for the purpose of efficient information exchange.

Foreword

The information contained in this foreword is not part of this American National Standard (ANS) and has not been processed in accordance with ANSI's requirements for an ANS. As such, Foreword may contain material that has not been subjected to public review or a consensus process. In addition, it does not contain requirements necessary for conformance to the standard.

The Alliance for Telecommunication Industry Solutions (ATIS) serves the public through improved understanding between providers, customers, and manufacturers. The Telecom Management and Operations Committee (TMOC) develops operations, administration, maintenance, and provisioning standards, and other documentation related to Operations Support System (OSS) and Network Element (NE) functions and interfaces for communications networks – with an emphasis on standards development related to U.S.A. communication networks in coordination with the development of international standards.

This document is entitled *Structure for the Representation of the Communications Industry Manufacturers, Suppliers, and Related Service Companies for Information Exchange*. This American National Standard provides for various coded representations necessary to identify manufacturers, suppliers, and related service companies that comprise the communications industry, for efficient information interchange for both data and non-data applications.

This standard was initially developed as a direct result of a contribution submitted by the Telecommunications Industry Forum (TCIF) to standardize the names of the telecommunications industry manufacturers, suppliers, and related service companies. The previous TCIF responsibilities currently are handled within the ATIS Automatic Identification and Data Capture Committee (AIDC) Committee. These codes are in widespread use as de facto standards in records for information interchange, covering procurement/ordering, equipment engineering, circuit identification, billing, and revenue distribution.

ANSI guidelines specify two categories of requirements: mandatory and recommendation. The mandatory requirements are designated by the word *shall* and recommendations by the word *should*. Where both a mandatory requirement and a recommendation are specified for the same criteria, the recommendation represents a goal currently identifiable as having distinct compatibility or performance advantages.

This standard contains four annexes that are for information only and are not considered part of the standard.

Requirements specify the minimum format and structure of codes required for information exchange between communications service providers.

Suggestions for improvement of this document are welcome. They should be sent to the Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions, TMOC, 1200 G Street NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20005.

At the time it approved this standard, TMOC, which is responsible for the development of this Standard, had the following leadership:

P. Galarza, TMOC Chair [iconectiv]

Trademark Acknowledgments

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American National Standard for Telecommunications –

Structure for the Representation of the Communications Industry Manufacturers, Suppliers, and Related Service Companies for Information Exchange

1 Scope & Purpose

This standard identifies the structure and the coded format structure for the identification of the manufacturers, suppliers, and related service companies that provide products to the communications industry.

The code formats defined in this standard are used to facilitate information exchange in the identification of these companies across various processes for both humans and machines as it relates to business supporting functions such as:

- Product identification and marking.
- Asset recording and financial management.
- Procurement.
- Inventory and spares management.
- Planning, forecasting, and reporting.
- Engineering and provisioning.
- Inter-carrier ordering.
- Trouble administration.

This standard also outlines the responsibilities of the maintenance agent.

2 Informative References

At the time of publication, the editions indicated were valid. All standards are subject to revision, and users of this document are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the standards indicated below.

ATIS-0300005, *Product Identification Coding Schemes*.¹

ATIS-0300006, *Implementation Guide for Package Labeling*.¹

ATIS-0300038, *Product Marking Implementation Guide*.¹

ATIS-0300078, *Serialization Guideline for Telecommunications Network Infrastructure Equipment*.¹

ATIS-0300091, *Serialization Standard for Telecommunications Network Infrastructure Equipment*.¹

¹ These documents are available from the Alliance of Telecommunications Industry Solutions (ATIS) at < <https://www.atis.org/docstore/> >.

ATIS-0300096, *RFID Guideline for Product, Product Package and Transport Unit Tagging*.¹

ETSI TS 102 359 V1.2.1, *Telecommunications and Internet converged Services and Protocols for Advanced Networking (TISPAN); Equipment Information in the Management Information Base (MIB)*.²

GR-209-CORE Issue 7, *Generic Requirements for Product Change Notices (PCNs)*.³

GR-383-CORE Issue 3.1, *Common Language® Equipment Codes (CLEI™ Codes) - Generic Requirements for Product Labels*.⁴

GR-485-CORE Issue 6, *Common Language® Equipment Codes (CLEI™ Codes) - Generic Requirements for Processes and Guidelines*.⁴

ISO-28219, *Packaging – Labelling and direct product marking with linear bar code and two-dimensional symbols*.⁵

3 Definitions

The following definitions establish understanding for the context of this standard.

2.1 Coded representation: The actual code(s) assigned to represent company name(s).

2.2 Data: A representation of facts, concepts, or instructions that are collected, organized, recorded, processed, and stored in a retrievable form suitable for communication, interpretation, or processing by human or automated means. (This definition refers to a group of facts taken as a unit; thus it is used with a singular verb.)

2.3 Data element: A single unit of data that in a certain context is considered indivisible. It cannot be decomposed into more fundamental segments of data that have useful meanings within the business.

2.4 Format structure: A combination of data elements grouped in a prescribed sequence.

2.5 Mnemonic: A code designed to be easily remembered.

2.6 Related service companies: Companies that maintain, refurbish, and/or repair Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) equipment and may or may not be the original equipment manufacturer.

4 General

Each data element shall consist of sequences of characters, each being either an alphabetic (A-Z) or numeric (0-9). In the data element and format structure of clause 5, character positions that require either alphabetic or numeric characters are represented by "A/N". The alphabetic characters shall be considered as case insensitive; that is, there shall be no distinction made between upper and lowercase letters. However, it is recommended that the code be represented with uppercase letters.

² This document is available from the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) at < <http://www.etsi.org> >.

³ This document was prepared by Network Infrastructure Solutions (NIS) group, a division of Ericsson Inc. and is available from Ericsson at < <https://telecom-info.njdepot.ericsson.net/site-cgi/ido/docs2.pl?ID=146171127&page=home> >.

⁴ These documents are available from iconectiv, LLC at < <http://www.commonlanguage.com> >.

⁵ This document is available from the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) at < <http://www.iso.org> >.

5 Data Element & Format Structure

5.1 Manufacturer Codes (MFR Code)

A unique four-character alphabetic code (AAAA) that identifies the legal company name shall be assigned as appropriate to represent each company that manufacture equipment, software or provide supplies and/or services to the communications industry.

One code per legal company name shall be assigned in the event of a new code creation. Legal documentation is required to substantiate the existence and identity of the legal company name.

Table 5.1 - Code Format Structure

	Code
Character Positions	1 - 4
Character Set	Alphabetic
Data Unit Use	Required

6 Code Assignment Process

The legal entity to which a code is to be assigned shall notify the maintenance agent and provide sufficient legal documentation in a timely manner, per maintenance agent procedures, in order for the maintenance agent to perform their duties. Others – aside from the legal entity being represented – may request code assignments for the legal entity, provided that legal documentation is submitted to the maintenance agents. Additional documentation may be requested by the maintenance agent to authorize the request.

A unique code shall be assigned to each manufacturer, supplier, and related service company.

Codes shall be mnemonic to the legal entity name, when at all possible.

The set of code values shall be restricted to those assigned by the maintenance agents. Locally assigned code shall not be utilized. The assignment of all code values shall exclusively reside with the maintenance agent identified in Annex B. Any other codes are invalid and shall not be utilized.

6.1 Initial Request

In order for a code to be assigned to a legal entity, that legal entity shall request a code or codes of the relevant maintenance agent, as identified in Annex B.

6.2 Name Change

In the event of a name change of an existing legal entity with assigned code(s) that entity shall notify the maintenance agent and provide sufficient documentation in a timely manner for the maintenance agent to make the necessary change(s).

The new legal entity name shall be associated with the existing MFR Code and the previous legal entity names shall be captured as a historical cross reference.

6.3 Mergers

In the event of a merger of two or more existing legal entities, the surviving legal entity shall notify the maintenance agent and provide sufficient documentation in a timely manner for the maintenance agent to make the necessary administrative change(s).

- a) The MFR Codes originally assigned to the surviving legal entity shall be retained.
- b) The MFR Codes originally assigned to the non-surviving legal entity(ies) may, at the discretion of the surviving legal entity, be retained in a manner that is consistent with the code structure requirements identified in clause 6 of this standard. Such codes shall be identified distinctly from the MFR Code originally assigned to the surviving legal entity.

6.4 Bankruptcy Process

- a) In the event of bankruptcy-related proceedings that have an impact on the codes, the company(s) involved with the bankruptcy shall notify the affected maintenance agents and provide sufficient documentation in a timely manner for the maintenance agent to make any necessary change(s).
- b) Due to the complexities of bankruptcy-related proceedings, the surviving legal entities or involved companies shall coordinate with their trading partners as well as the maintenance agents for the best solution. Any solution should take into account ancillary data for which the MFR Codes are attributes as well as the impacts to all affected business (e.g., billing, trouble reporting, regulatory reporting, etc.).

6.5 Reassignment

Codes no longer utilized shall not be reassigned unless required to prevent code exhaustion.

7 Responsibilities of a Code Requestor

A code requestor shall obtain, modify, and use codes in a manner that is consistent with this standard and with maintenance agent procedures. A code requestor shall supply accurate and complete supporting information. The Maintenance Agent is not responsible, nor accountable, for information provided by a requestor seeking code assignments.

It should be noted that data is shared between companies, and a change with one company may drastically impact other companies' operations. The surviving legal entity shall be responsible for cross-company coordination due to name changes, mergers, bankruptcy-related proceedings, etc., to ensure that the surviving legal entity and associated records do not create problems for the ICT Industry. Likewise, in the case of a spin-off, the newly formed company must comply with clause 6.1.

Timely notification will help avoid operational difficulties for the company whose name has been changed.

A code requestor who cannot do business with code sets maintained in accordance with this ANS should contact ATIS for information on how to resolve the issue(s) within the scope of standards development and management.

8 Duties of Maintenance Agent⁶

The maintenance agent shall be the custodian of the code values and related information and will be responsible for the following duties:

- a) Provide an industry procedure for the assignment, definition, and administration of the code values;
- b) Develop, maintain, and publish directories of codes and their legal entity names, and historical names;
- c) Provide an industry procedure for obtaining directories of assigned values;
- d) Provide services and materials under reasonable and non-discriminatory terms; and
- e) Notify the developer of this standard at least two years prior to any anticipated exhaustion of the code sets;
- f) Provide education, guidance, or assistance to the industry to prevent misuse of the codes in any manner.

⁶ iconectiv, LLC or its equivalent is such a maintenance agent. At the time of approval of this standard, ATIS and the responsible ATIS Forum/Committee that developed the standard were aware of only one maintenance agent, iconectiv, for this requirement (Annex B). If you are aware of an equivalent or an alternative maintenance agent, please provide this information to the ATIS General Counsel. Your comments will receive careful consideration at a meeting of the responsible Forum/Committee, which you may attend for the purpose of this consideration.

Annex A
(informative)

A Code Examples

Code	Company Name
CSCO	CISCO Systems, Inc.
FJTU	FUJITSU AMERICA, INC.

Annex B
(informative)

B Maintenance Agent

The maintenance agent for this standard is:

iconectiv, LLC Common Language® Customer Support Center
100 Somerset Corporate Boulevard
Bridgewater, NJ 08807+1 (732) 699-5577
Email: < clcsc@iconectiv.com >
Website: < <http://www.commonlanguage.com/> >

Annex D
(informative)

C Recognition of Other Company Identity Issuing Agencies

This annex is included to provide additional information only and is not essential for the completion of the requirements as defined in this standard.

ISO/IEC 15459, *Information technology – Automatic identification and data capture techniques – Unique identification*, refers to the unique identification of identity issuers, items, units, packages, etc., throughout the supply chain (i.e., to enable individual data capturing from transport units, returnable transport items, products, packages, as well as groupings).

To ensure a globally unique Manufacturer Identification segment, the ISO/IEC 15459 standard includes an Issuing Agency Code (IAC) per ISO/IEC 15459-2, and the Issuing Agency assigned Company Identifying Number (CIN) for manufacturers/suppliers/companies per this standard. This is the standard approach as specified in ISO/IEC 15459, parts 1, 4, 5, 6; and ANS MH10.8.7 standards.

For more detailed information on possible use cases see ATIS-0300091, *Serialization Standard for Telecommunication Network Infrastructure Equipment*.

ISO/IEC Standards are available from available from ANSI, 25 West 43rd Street (between 5th and 6th Avenues), 4th floor, New York, NY 10036, Telephone: (212) 642-4900, Telefax: (212) 398-0023, Web site: < <https://webstore.ansi.org/> >.

NOTE: Websites are constantly involving entities; please note the links above may change. If a link is no longer valid, it may be useful to proceed to the root website of the link in order to start a search (e.g., < <http://www.ansi.org> >).