

# Energy Identification Coding (EIC)

## Short Guide & FAQ

### Definition

The Energy Identification Coding scheme (EIC), standardized and maintained by ENTSO-E, provides a unique identification of the market participants and other entities active within the Energy Internal European Market (IEM). It is widely used in the Electronic Document Interchange, as well as EU Regulations for transparency and integrity of Energy Market (EC 543/2013, EC1227/2011 etc.)

For more information, please download the EIC Reference Manual, which can be found under

<http://www.eiccodes.eu>

The EIC is **only** a coding scheme and **it is not a right or authorization to trade energy**.

Over and above Market Participants (Parties - object type "X"), the EIC also covers other entities by allocating a unique code to the following object types:

- Areas – object type "Y", Areas for inter System Operator data interchange
- Measuring Points – object type "Z", Energy Metering points
- Resource objects – object type "W", such as Production plants, consumption units, etc.
- Tie-lines – object type "T", International tie lines between areas
- Location – object type "V", Physical or logical place where a market participant or IT system is located
- Substations – object type "A".

The EIC is based on fixed length alphanumeric codes which can be broken down as follows:

- A 2-character number identifying the Issuing Office assigned by ENTSO-E.
- One Character identifying the object type that the code represents.
- 12 digits, uppercase characters or minus signs allocated by the issuing office
- 1 check character to ensure the code validity.

Valid characters of an EIC code are A-Z, 0-9 and "-".

### Administration of EIC codes

EIC codes are supplied and administered either by Local Issuing Offices or by the Central Issuing Office.

Central Issuing Office (CIO) – The CIO supplies and administers EIC codes for Local Issuing Offices, areas, interconnectors and electricity system operators. It also maintains the Central EIC repository (EIC codes used within the Internal European Market) and secures that no duplicate entries exist.

Local Issuing Office (LIO) – A LIO is authorized by ENTSO-E to supply and administer EIC codes to any market participant within either the Energy Internal European Market or a local/county market and the resource object (area, measuring points, lines, location, substation, resource objects). It respects a number of well defined rules to ensure homogeneous code allocation and maintains a list of locally issued EIC codes.

The list of the web sites of the CIO and registered LIOs is to be found at the following URL:

<https://www.entsoe.eu/data/energy-identification-codes-eic/eic-lio-websites/Pages/default.aspx>

### Allocation of an EIC code to a market participant

The allocation process can be broken down to three main stages:

- Submission by the market participant: A market participant applies to the LIO for a Local or International EIC code.

- 46 • Validation, verification and allocation: The LIO validates the credentials of the market participant.
- 47 Subsequently, the LIO verifies by querying the market participants' information that an EIC code does
- 48 not exist already in the LIO's database and on the CIO's database/website. Finally the LIO allocates
- 49 the code.
- 50 • Integration and publication: The LIO publishes the allocated EIC code on its LIO web page. In case of
- 51 an International EIC code, the CIO ensures required EIC consistency, integrates the EIC code into the
- 52 Central Repository and finally publishes on a weekly basis.

53 The same process steps are followed in the case of deactivation of an EIC code or modification of EIC code's  
 54 supporting attributes (Display Name, etc...).

## 56 Status of EIC codes

57 The status of an EIC code can be either active or inactive.

- 58 • **Active:** The code is valid and can be used in European documents or platforms.
- 59 • **Inactive:** The code is no longer being used in the Energy Internal European Market and is placed in a
- 60 list of deactivated codes shared with the LIOs.

## 62 Q&A on EIC codes:

- 63 1. Q: A market participant already possesses an international EIC code allocated by its national LIO. If  
 64 this market participant wants to participate in another market area should it apply for a new EIC code?  
 65 Can a single market participant have different EIC codes for different roles (Balance Responsible  
 66 Party, Capacity Trader, etc.)?  
 67 A: *No, **a unique and single International EIC code is enough** to participate within the Energy  
 68 Internal European Market. No, the EIC code is to be used to identify a market participant independently  
 69 of its role (there is a different attribute to handle the role in the XML document).*
- 70 2. Q: Where should a new market participant apply for an EIC code?  
 71 A: *It is strongly recommended that a new market participant applies for an EIC code in the nearest LIO  
 72 available. An EIC Participant should apply for an EIC code in the LIO of the country where this EIC  
 73 participant is registered. If the EIC participant wants an EIC code for one of its assets (e.g. generation  
 74 unit, power plant etc.) then he should request from the LIO of the country where this asset is located.  
 75 If the scope of company's operations is limited to one area only, they should apply for a local code. In  
 76 any other case they should apply for an International EIC code. They may also apply to the EFET LIO  
 77 for traders or ENTSOG LIO for the gas sector. As concern assets, their codes are for the time being  
 78 only local codes.*
- 79 3. Q: A market participant operates in both the electricity and gas markets, how many EIC codes should it  
 80 have?  
 81 A: *There shall be **only one EIC code per market participant** regardless of whether it participates in  
 82 one or both energy markets.*
- 83 4. Q: A market participant company has operations in many countries. How should those operations be  
 84 addressed via the EIC coding scheme?  
 85 A: *Object type "V" identifies a specific organizational unit or IT system within a company. Thus a  
 86 company identified with a unique "X" type code, may have multiple "V" type codes.*
- 87 5. Q: If a market participant alters the name of the company, should the EIC code also change?  
 88 A: *No, the EIC code should not change, though the Display Name and the EIC name of the company  
 89 will change.*
- 90 6. Q: Can a participant request a specific EIC code, which represents the name of the company?

- 91 A: As per ENTSO-E's Market Committee's decision in 2010, it is strongly recommended that EIC codes  
 92 should be non-significant alphanumeric codes. This maintains the uniqueness of the code and stability  
 93 of the coding system, e.g. 10X1001A1001A248 is the EIC code of the Danish TSO.
- 94 7. Q: What is the relationship between a market participant's company, its corresponding EIC (X-code)  
 95 and its VAT?  
 96 A: It is strongly recommended that there is a one to one relationship between a market participants'  
 97 company, its corresponding EIC and its VAT in the context of REMIT. National legislative and  
 98 regulatory aspects that might hinder the above are to be taken into account.
- 99 8. Q: Where can information regarding EIC codes be found?  
 100 A: Every LIO has a service for providing information on EIC codes which are generated by this LIO. For  
 101 international EIC codes refer to <http://www.eiccodes.eu/> for the list of EIC codes for Parties (X codes),  
 102 Areas (Y codes), etc.
- 103 9. Q: Where can more information concerning the governance of EIC codes be found?  
 104 A: The EIC standard is maintained by ENTSO-E and can be downloaded by choosing "EIC Reference  
 105 Manual" on the page of the following URL: <http://www.eiccodes.eu/>
- 106 10. Q: What is the process for deactivating an EIC code?  
 107 A: The market participant sends the request to the LIO that has issued the code. For international EIC  
 108 codes, the LIO then relays this information to the CIO. The specific EIC code enters the deactivation  
 109 list (local or international) for a two month period. The international deactivation list is regularly  
 110 forwarded to all LIOs. If the code is not reported as used after the two month period it is then  
 111 deactivated.
- 112 11. Q: How to know which LIO has issued my EIC code?  
 113 A: The two first characters of the EIC code identify the LIO that has issued the EIC code and who is in  
 114 charge of maintaining it, i.e. "12" is the Swiss Local Issuing Office. The list of all the LIO is to be found  
 115 at <https://www.entsoe.eu/data/energy-identification-codes-eic/eic-lio-websites/Pages/default.aspx> with  
 116 the web site address and the e-mail address of the service to contact in case of any questions.
- 117 12. Q: Who is in charge of updating the information on my EIC code?  
 118 A: The LIO having issued the EIC code is in charge of maintaining it. However, it is the responsibility of  
 119 the market participant to ensure accuracy of the data (Name, Display Name, VAT code, contact  
 120 person, etc.).
- 121 13. Q: I want to trade with another market participant, how to find its EIC code?  
 122 A: As stated, EIC code is only a code. To trade with a counterpart, you have to enter within a  
 123 contractual relation; and it is there that the parties shall provide the EIC codes to be used. You can  
 124 assess the correctness of the delivered EIC code as stated in question 11.
- 125 14. Q: A market participant provides me with its EIC code, but it is not listed on the LIO web site?  
 126 A: Only published EIC codes in the LIO web sites referenced by ENTSO-E are valid EIC codes.
- 127 15. Q: Is a border area defined by an EIC code an oriented border area?  
 128 A: No a border is not oriented, it defines only an area. In the XML document, the attributes "InArea"  
 129 and "OutArea" provide the orientation of the flow. The EIC code, 10YDOM-1001A0036, identifies only  
 130 the Border Area Italy Slovenia and does not provide any information on the flow either from Italy to  
 131 Slovenia or from Slovenia to Italy.