

An ILU-Code for all European loading units

UIC railway undertakings and UIRR operators have agreed that from 1 July 2014 only those loading units bearing an ILU-Code or a BIC-Code will be accepted for Combined Transport. From 1 July 2019 all loading units must also be equipped with the new codification plate.

The ILU-Code

The ILU-Code is a new owner-identifier for European intermodal loading units. Its structure is similar to the worldwide renowned BIC-Code used to identify millions of maritime containers:



- CT operators and railway undertakings should include in their general terms the launch date and consequently modify the instructions to CT terminals.
- Railway undertakings should update the UIC leaflets with respect to the codification of loading units.

Establish an implementation plan for their own terminal(s)

- Adjust IT-systems to include the ILU-Code encoding.
- Adapt the general terms and conditions of exploitation: «as from 1 July 2014, we will only accept loading units featuring an ILU-Code or a BIC-Code» and if need be inform the authorities.
- Check the setting up of a OCR (Optical Character Recognition) system.

How to proceed?

Terminals should inform clients - Combined Transport operators (CT), railway undertakings, forwarders - about the implementation plan and remind them of their tasks, among which:

- Owners of loading units should reserve their ILU-Code Owner-key and, before July 2014, mark their loading units accordingly.

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More information about ILU-Code and the new codification plates can be found here:
www.ilu-code.eu

► Questions?
www.ilu-code.eu

Advantages of the ILU-Code

- Every actor of the intermodal transport-chain (railway undertakings, customs, terminal and port managers, etc.) can easily trace the owner of a loading unit through the Internet-based Register and also via smartphone.
- Owners receive reliable tracking and tracing information. No more expensive and time consuming search for “lost” units due to inaccurate data transmission.
- The check-digit reveals 95% of data entry errors. It relieves the burden of most costly corrections due to inaccurate transport documents and invoices.
- The software used to process the BIC-Code for maritime containers is suitable for the technically compatible ILU-Code.
- The ILU- or BIC-Codes are suitable for optical character recognition (OCR). ILU-Code equipped loading units can rapidly be processed at terminals, ports and by big shippers.
- Quick and easy compliance with high-level security requirements at ports and EU external borders, allowing customs and official authorities to identify the owner any time; access to “priority/fast lanes”.
- No need for a new codification with additional costs when selling or purchasing used loading units.
- No more confusion as the codification numbers and the vehicle's license number are not used in parallel to the owner identification anymore.

New Codification plates according to EN13044 parts 2 and 3

Left: Swap-bodies
Right: Semi-trailers
(Plates can also be vertical)

