



## NATIONAL NUMBERING AGENCY FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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### 1. What is the ISIN code?

It is an international code which univocally identifies securities and financial instruments. The ISIN code (International Securities Identification Number) is developed in the standard ISO 6166.

## **2. What is the purpose of the ISIN code?**

The ISIN code is the only internationally recognised standard for the unique identification of securities and financial instruments. It is mainly used in the clearing, settlement and custody processes, both at a local and international level. It is also accepted by many regulators as a financial instrument identifier in the transaction reporting for the entities obliged to submit this type of information to the supervisor.

## **3. Who allocates an ISIN code?**

The National Numbering Agencies (NNAs) are in charge of allocating the ISIN codes. All NNAs are part of [ANNA](#) (Association of National Numbering Agencies). In Spain, the Comisión Nacional del Mercado de Valores has, among others, the function of the Spanish National Numbering Agency (ANCV).

## **4. What is the structure of an ISIN code?**

The ISIN code consists of 12 alphanumeric characters with the following structure:

- The first two characters are the alpha-2 country code, in accordance with the international standard ISO 3166, of the NNA that assigns the code.
- The next nine characters are the basic number, which may include the national number. The structure and size of this number is established by each NNA.
- The last character is a check digit.

The structure of the basic number allocated by the ANCV is described in the [Norma técnica 1/2010, de 28 de julio, de la CNMV](#).

## **5. What is the scope of the numbering?**

The ISIN is assigned for identifying and standardization purposes only. It does not represent any recommendation about the financial instrument in terms of its nature, mechanism of movement, or legality of the issue as it is established in the 4<sup>th</sup> Norm of the [Circular 2/2010, de 28 de julio, de la CNMV](#).

## **6. Are all securities assigned an ISIN code?**

In Spain all the securities and financial instruments traded on regulated markets must have an ISIN code. It is not compulsory for the rest of issues.

## **7. How does the ISIN allocation procedure work?**

The party applying for an ISIN code must complete the application form provided by the ANCV and enclose the necessary documentation that is considered to be essential for allocating the ISIN code. For further information about this procedure, please visit the following section [ISIN application procedure](#).

## **8. What is the cost of an ISIN code assignment?**

In Spain the assignment of an ISIN code is a free service.

## **9. What is the turnaround time on a request for allocation of an ISIN code?**

Once the corresponding documentation is revised and its adequacy checked, the ISIN code is assigned and communicated to the party applying within the following 24 working hours.

## **10. How can I obtain information on an ISIN code?**

Through the disseminating systems offered online by the ANCV:

- The [ISIN code search](#) on the CNMV web which allows you to get information on the active ISIN codes allocated to securities or financial instruments by the ANCV (ES prefix) and those assigned by other National Numbering Agencies that are traded on Spanish regulated markets.
- By downloading the [half-yearly publication](#) available on the CNMV website that lists all the ISINs of securities traded on Spain's official markets and mutual funds.
- The [derivatives Web service](#) which allows users to access to a limited number of ISIN codes per visit.

By contacting the [public information service](#) of the ANCV which attends, free of charge, the specific queries<sup>1</sup> that any user requires on a Spanish or foreign ISIN code.

<sup>(1)</sup> Requests for listings of securities ISIN codes will be made through the CNMV General Secretariat, which will provide an estimate of the cost of their preparation.

## **11. How can I access a prospectus in the CNMV Official Registers using the ISIN code?**

Through the [ISIN code search](#) website section of the ANCV you can access the information available on its prospectus in the corresponding area *Registration files* of the CNMV website. This access is only for queries for those ISIN codes where prospectus information is available on the CNMV website.

## **12. Who allocates the ISIN code beginning with XS?**

According to the current version of the standard ISO 6166, the ISIN codes beginning with XS are allocated by the International Central Securities Depositories: Clearstream and Euroclear. Both depositories are also numbering agency members of ANNA.

## **13. Can an ISIN code be reused?**

As a general rule, ISINs should never be reused. Where this is unavoidable, such a reuse shall not occur before expiration of a 10-year period following the inactivation of the ISIN (e.g. after the maturity date of bonds, or the bankruptcy date of the issuer, in the case of shares for instance). This rule applies to all kinds of financial instruments, except for options, futures and other short term money market instruments for which the re-use may occur one year after the expiration date.

## **14. What is the CFI code?**

The [CFI code](#) (Classification of Financial Instruments) is a classification code for securities and financial instruments. The CFI consists of six alphabetical characters and developed in accordance with ISO standard 10962. The assignment of the CFI code is associated with the allocation of the ISIN code as stipulated in the standard ISO 10962.

## **15. What is the ANNA Service Bureau?**

The [ANNA Service Bureau \(ASB\)](#) is envisioned as a central hub accessible by subscription to receive and consolidate ISIN data from National Numbering Agencies and assist in the dissemination of this information to the market. The ASB was created by ANNA to enable National Numbering Agencies and other users to access information about all ISIN codes assigned worldwide.