

Company Identifiers

Ticker Symbol

A stock symbol or ticker symbol is a mnemonic used to uniquely identify publicly-traded shares of a corporation on a particular stock market. A stock symbol may consist of letters, numbers or a combination of both. The word "ticker" used to mean "ticker symbol" is specific to U.S. stock symbols.

U.S stock symbol history

In the United States, modern letter-only ticker symbols were developed by Standard & Poor's (S&P) to bring a national standard to investing. Previously, a single company could have many different ticker symbols as they varied between the dozens of individual stock markets. The term ticker refers to the noise made by the ticker tape machines once widely used by stock exchanges. The S&P system was later standardized by the securities industry and modified as years passed. Stock symbols for preferred stock have not been standardized.

United Kingdom

In the United Kingdom, prior to 1996, stock codes were known as EPICs, named after the London Stock Exchange's Exchange Price Information Computer (e.g.: "MKS" for Marks and Spencer). Following the introduction of the Sequence trading platform in 1996 EPICs were renamed Tradable Instrument Display Mnemonics (TIDM), but they are still widely referred to as EPICs. Stocks can also be identified using their Stock Exchange Daily Official List (SEDOL) number.

Source URL: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ticker_symbol

NSIN

A National Securities Identifying Number or NSIN is a generic nine digit number which identifies a fungible security. The NSIN is issued by a national numbering agency (NNA) designated for that country. Regional substitute NNAs have been allocated the task of functioning as NNAs in those countries where NNAs have not yet been established. NSINs are used as part of the makeup of a product's ISIN.

Source URL: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NSIN>

International Securities Identifying Number

An International Securities Identifying Number (ISIN) uniquely identifies a security. Its structure is defined in ISO 6166. Securities for which ISINs are issued include bonds, commercial paper, equities and warrants. The ISIN code is a 12-character alpha-numerical code that does not contain information characterizing financial instruments but serves for uniform identification of a security at trading and settlement.



Securities with which ISINs can be used include debt securities, shares, options, derivatives and futures. The ISIN identifies the security, not the exchange (if any) on which it trades; it is not a ticker symbol. For instance, DaimlerChrysler stock trades on twenty-two different stock exchanges worldwide, and is priced in five different currencies; it has the same ISIN on each, though not the same ticker symbol. ISIN cannot specify a particular trade in this case, and another identifier, typically the three-letter exchange code, will have to be specified in addition to the ISIN. The SEDOL board of the London Stock Exchange is currently revising their own standards to address this issue.

ISINs consist of three parts: a two letter country code, a nine character alpha-numeric national security identifier, and a single check digit. The country code is the ISO 3166-1 alpha-2 code for the country of issue, which is not necessarily the country in which the issuing company is domiciled. International securities cleared through Clearstream or Euroclear, which are Europe-wide, use "XS" as the country code.

Description:

The nine-digit security identifier is the National Securities Identifying Number, or NSIN, assigned by governing bodies in each country, known as the national numbering agency (NNA). In North America the NNA is the CUSIP organization, meaning that CUSIPs can easily be converted into ISINs by adding the US or CA country code to the beginning of the existing CUSIP code and adding an additional check digit at the end. In the United Kingdom and Ireland the NNA is the London Stock Exchange and the NSIN is the SEDOL, converted in a similar fashion after padding the SEDOL number out with leading zeros. Most other countries use similar conversions, but if no country NNA exists then regional NNAs are used instead.

ISIN check digits are based on the same "Modulus 10 Double Add Double" technique used in CUSIPs. To calculate the check digit, first convert any letters to numbers by adding their ordinal position in the alphabet to 9, such that A = 10 and M = 22. Starting with the right most digit, every other digit is multiplied by two. The resulting string of digits (numbers greater than 9 becoming two separate digits) are added up. Subtract this sum from the smallest number ending with zero that is greater than or equal to it: this gives the check digit which is also known as the ten's complement of the sum modulo 10.

ISINs are slowly being introduced worldwide. At present, many countries have adopted ISINs as a secondary measure of identifying securities, but as of yet only some of those countries have moved to using ISINs as their primary means of identifying securities.

Source URL: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Securities_Identifying_Number

Central Index Key

A Central Index Key or CIK number is a number given to a company by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission. The number is used to identify the filings of the company in several online databases, including EDGAR. The numbers are ten digits in length.

Source URL: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_Index_Key



CUSIP

The acronym CUSIP typically refers to both the Committee on Uniform Security Identification Procedures and the 9-character alphanumeric security identifiers that they distribute for all North American securities for the purposes of facilitating clearing and settlement of trades. The CUSIP distribution system is owned by the American Bankers Association and is operated by Standard & Poor's. The CUSIP Services Bureau acts as the National Numbering Association (NNA) for North America, and the CUSIP serves as the National Securities Identification Number for products issued from both the United States and Canada.

In the 1980s there was an attempt to expand the CUSIP system for international securities as well. The resulting CINS (CUSIP International Numbering System) has seen little use as it was introduced at about the same time as the truly international ISIN system. CINS identifiers do appear in the ISIDPlus directory, however.

CINS adds a single country code letter to be the beginning of an otherwise similar CUSIP. These are not standard country codes, for instance Norway is "R". A table of the country codes appears on the CUSIP web site.

Source URL: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CUSIP>

SEDOL

SEDOL stands for Stock Exchange Daily Official List, a list of security identifiers used in the United Kingdom and Ireland for clearing purposes. The numbers are assigned by the London Stock Exchange, on request by the security issuer. SEDOLs serve as the NSIN for all securities issued in the United Kingdom and are therefore part of the security's ISIN as well.

Description:

SEDOLs consist of two parts, a six-place alphanumeric code and a trailing check digit. Sedols issued prior to January 26, 2004 were comprised only of numbers. For those older SEDOLs, those from Asia & Africa typically begin with 6, those from the UK & Ireland (until Ireland joined the EU) typically begin with 0 or 3 those from Europe typically began with 4, 5 or 7 and those from the America's began with 2. Ranges beginning with 1 and 9 were reserved for end user allocation.

Because older sedols may begin with a leading zero, when importing a raw file containing sedols into Excel, care must be taken to import that sedol column as text, so that the leading zeros are not dropped.

Source URL: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SEDOL>

More on Company Identifiers:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Security_identifier_types

