

1000 ILU-Code users: a European intermodal success story

For more than 7 years now the ILU-Code has been used to identify intermodal loading units throughout Europe. The number of active ILU-Code owner-keys has reached the symbolic threshold of 1,000 on the European continent. Thanks to the trust of the sector and the revision of the European standard EN 13044 more than 350,000 European loading units marked with an ILU-Code identifier are used every day on road, rail, inland waterways and in short sea shipping. Today almost all bookings for unaccompanied Combined Transport consignments are based on the ILU- and BIC-Codes.

The ILU-Code is a digitalization enabler

- It is a prerequisite of paperless booking in Combined Transport.
- It is a uniform, mode-neutral identifier, compatible to be used by rail, inland waterways and in short sea shipping, as well as on the road.
- It is fully compatible with the BIC-Code used for identifying the ISO containers on transcontinental relations, both codes are identically structured and allow easy ICT integration.
- It is backed up by a stable system allowing real-time validation and control guaranteeing the quality of the data standards.

The ILU-Code is required by law

Ongoing legislation should mandate the use of the ILU-Code in all forms of unaccompanied intermodal transport.

- The **Modernised EU Customs Code**: from 2020 ILU- or BIC-Code identification will become mandatory in case of unaccompanied intermodal transport operations leaving or entering the European Union.
- The **Combined Transport Directive**: the amendment of the European Directive 92/106/EEC will be an important step forward towards making ILU-Code compulsory for all unaccompanied intermodal transport operations - expected from 2021 onwards - within the European Union.

The ILU-Code is one standard for every logistics operation

In the age of digitalization, operators of intermodal loading unit fleets in Europe have come to the realization that a standardized identifier is needed in order to reap the productivity benefits offered by information technology. Although the ILU-Code was initially designed for intermodal transport, today a growing number of road hauliers decide to mark their road-only semi-trailers with an ILU-Code as well.

The ILU-Code has new functionalities and will be extended

The constant growth of ILU-Code users obliges to look into a future development with a view to respond to user needs. UIRR is planning to release in 2019 a new online ILU-Code web-platform with the following new developments:



Ralf-Charley Schultze

Statement

"Thanks to the implementation of the ILU-Code, the competitiveness of Combined Transport has been enhanced through a more efficient and simple booking process, an improved data exchange between CT stakeholders and a more reliable tracking and tracing. The entire CT transport chain benefits from the simplification and rationalization enabled by this standardised identifier, which is an important step towards digitalisation of Combined Transport." - noted UIRR President Ralf-Charley Schultze.

Who is UIRR?

Founded in 1970, the **International Union for Road-Rail Combined Transport (UIRR)** represents the interests of European road-rail Combined Transport Operators and Transhipment Terminal Managers.

Road-Rail Combined Transport (CT) is a system of freight forwarding which is based on efficiently and economically inserting electric rail into long-distance (road) transport-chains through the use of intermodal loading units (ILU).

- An advanced interface and improved functionalities for carriers, terminals and enforcement authorities allowing easy validation of ownership from anywhere using mobile devices and advanced web-services
- A Register of every intermodal loading unit based on its unique ILU-Code identifier and featuring the codification data of all units to be used by load planners of freight trains and maritime vessels.

With the continuous extension of the Combined Transport network to the Far East, the acceptance of the ILU-Code outside the European Union is an important topic for the further evolution and use of the standard in the wider European area.

The revision of ILU-Code standard EN13044 will start in 2019

The current European standard EN13044 was released in December 2000 and amended for the first time in 2011. In response to the market needs and development of technologies, a revision process allowing digital adaptations of all parts of EN13044 will be initiated under CEN/CENELEC in 2019 with UIRR as the project leader.

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